

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Position: Education Specialist

Location: Travelers' Rest State Park - Lolo, Montana



Term of service: January 19, 2027 – November 19, 2027

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 40 hours per week with 60 hours of “Time Not Scheduled to Serve” to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:

The Bitterroot District spans the length of the Bitterroot Mountain Range and contains many different habitat types. It is home to a diverse world of recreation throughout every season. This district offers opportunity to learn about public land management, visitation patterns, and balancing the resource with the needs of the people. The heart of the Bitterroot District is Travelers' Rest State Park. Travelers' Rest State Park marks the intersection of cultural and natural history. The Park's 65 acres encompass the only archaeologically verified campsite of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, a gathering place used by the Bitterroot Salish and other tribes for millennia, and riparian habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals. Each year more than 33,000 visitors, including more than 2,000 school children from twenty communities, visit Travelers' Rest State Park to experience the stories of the people and creatures who have come before them. Place-based education and interpretation lie at the heart of Travelers' Rest State Park with standards-based field trip curricula related to the Corps of Discovery, Native American culture, and natural history. The education program is funded and administered by Travelers' Rest Connection (TRC), the nonprofit partner of the Park.

The AmeriCorps member selected for this position will work closely with the Park and TRC staff designing and delivering high-quality educational experiences for multiple generations, including field trips, camps, community events, and more. The member will engage with various audiences (volunteers, teachers, the general public, etc.) to promote awareness of the Park and its many activities. They will also help to improve the District through projects like trail development, native landscaping, and restoration within the riparian area.

The AmeriCorps member will also serve at Fort Owen State Park in Stevensville, MT. Fort Owen State Park preserves some of the earliest Euro-American histories in Montana. This small park is on the grounds of a trading post operated by John Owen from the 1850s-1870s. Originated by Jesuit missionaries, Fort Owen was the site of many historic “firsts” in Montana – the first grist mill, the first sawmill, the first water right, and the first permanent Euro-American settlement.



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Lastly, Painted Rocks State Park is a busy day-use and campground location on the Painted Rocks Reservoir and sees visitors from the Bitterroot Valley and beyond. Visitors enjoy day-use activities like picnicking, kayaking, paddleboarding, and boating as well as camping activities. AmeriCorps members in this position will assist in bringing educational and interpretive programming to Painted Rocks.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve FWP land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of Montana State Parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- **Improve FWP Land**
 - Work with FWP staff and other regional AmeriCorps members to develop and organize region wide service days that include trail maintenance and/or construction, weed control, habitat enhancement, stream bank stabilization and historic building preservation.
 - Contribute to park improvement projects including trail development, native landscaping, and stream bank restoration.
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
 - Administer field trip programs including communicating with teachers, scheduling field trips, coordinating volunteer educators, and teaching standards-based curricula to K-12 students.
 - Administer formal and informal interpretive programming at Travelers' Rest Fort Owen and Painted Rocks State Parks.
 - Oversee the Trekker Kids Program, with an emphasis on year-round activities designed to immerse children in the rich natural habitat of the Park.
 - Collaborate with TRC, Park staff and volunteers to establish an annual calendar of interpretive offerings and special events at Travelers' Rest, Fort Owen and Painted Rocks State Parks.
 - Contribute to planning and execution of annual public programs including Bear Aware, Corpse of Discovery Halloween Event, and more.
- **Increase volunteer capacity**

- Recruit and train at least 1 new volunteer educator at Travelers' Rest State Park to increase program capacity and provide training opportunities for existing volunteers to improve skills in classroom management, interpretation, and curriculum delivery.
- Working with the TRC executive director and Park staff, the member will identify opportunities to recognize volunteers and design cost effective and meaningful rewards for volunteer service.
- Work with teachers and education organizations to identify potential new sources for peak season volunteers.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of Montana State Parks**
 - Participate in the many farmers markets and expos, like the Clark Fork River Market and the Trails, Rivers and Forests Expo, across West-Central Montana to highlight upcoming park events, programs and activities.
 - Travelers' Rest State Park and TRC have strong partnerships with other community organizations which include reciprocal presentations at events and festivals. The member will develop and present adult and youth programming at these events and festivals.
 - The member will work with TRC on a variety of events related to nonprofit management, fundraising, and donor stewardship. This includes assisting with the annual fundraiser event, Taste of the 19th Century.

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's public lands.
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps 2027 Required Trainings and Events (subject to change):

- January 19: First Day of Service
- January 27-29: Member Orientation; Helena
- March 1-5: Certified Interpretive Guide Training; Montana Wild (Helena)
- March 17-19: Annual Serve Montana Symposium; Helena

- June 15-18: All Member Gathering
- July 16-19: Bannack Days; Bannack State Park
- September 3-5: Day of Honor; Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- November 18-19: Close of Service; Helena

Physical and Environmental Demands:

- Service is performed in both an indoor and outdoor environment.
- Frequently serves in adverse outdoor conditions including temperature extremes, snow and rain, dust, and mosquito infested areas.
- Serves with public and may inform public of site rules and regulations.
- May be required to lift over 25lbs across rugged terrain.
- The position may require some travel. The incumbent will be required to serve odd hours, weekends, and holidays.

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$512.00/week (taxed)
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$7,395.00 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Guaranteed health benefits and childcare assistance if qualified
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

To Apply:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all our 1715- hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by January 8, 2027, or until all positions are filled.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of Parks & Outdoor Recreation and the Communication/Education Divisions. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other

AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.