AmeriCorps Service Member Position with TerraCorps & Kestrel Land Trust

TerraCorps cultivates an ecosystem of people and organizations that center community land ownership, access, and stewardship to support a diversity of interests that benefit human health and environmental sustainability. We value the power of local nonprofits to best understand and serve their communities. Our goal is to help them succeed by providing them access to the AmeriCorps national service model to build organizational capacity.

TerraCorps partners with a network of 40+ nonprofits in Massachusetts and Rhode Island focused on community needs related to local land conservation and sustainable agriculture. These partners act as service sites for a new cohort of up to 60 AmeriCorps service members annually. Service members are paired with a site supervisor who provides guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects over an 11-month, 1700-hour service term from August 28, 2023 to July 26, 2024.

Kestrel Land Trust is interviewing candidates for a Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC) and a Youth Education Coordinator (YEC).

The **Land Stewardship Coordinator** will engage with the Stewardship Director to manage volunteers on community service projects, educate or train individuals in environmental stewardship or environmentally conscious practices, and complete three capacity building projects. Potential projects include:

1. **Volunteer Trainings & Events:** Our LSC plays a key role in sustaining and growing a program that offers six types of volunteer positions for our stewardship activities. A highlight of the LSC’s service year is KLT’s annual spring volunteer events. The LSC updates previously developed materials to coordinate several season kick-off events, including a two-part training for property monitors; learning opportunities for trail stewards; and KLT’s volunteer appreciation gathering. Related activities carried on throughout the service year include:
   a. monitoring KLT lands using Landscape Conservation software and phone app, gaining experience to share with volunteers;
   b. volunteer recruitment and communications;
   c. receiving and responding to reports from trail stewards and Robert Frost Trail Adopters;
   d. volunteer coordination for outdoor field projects.
Outdoor field projects will be led by KLT’s Land Steward, and the LSC will receive general and technical assistance with all activities from KLT staff.

2. **Accessibility Assessments:** The LSC will build on a project initiated by KLT’s 2022-23 LSC to improve KLT’s communication about trail conditions and challenge levels to users of all abilities. Providing this information enables KLT to take a big step forward in serving the broadest possible range of potential visitors to our nature retreats. The project consists of assessing KLT-managed trails and assembling descriptive material that can be shared with the public on KLT’s website via a GIS Storymap and PDF maps. Drawing on existing examples and materials, KLT’s 2023-24 LSC will conduct additional trail assessments, collect GPS data, photos, and notes, then assemble that information in a Storymap for each trail. General guidance and technical assistance will be provided by KLT staff.

The **Youth Education Coordinator** will serve with the Community Engagement Manager to manage volunteers on community service projects, educate or train individuals in environmental stewardship or environmentally conscious practices, and complete three capacity building projects. Potential projects include the following:

1. **Collaborative Youth Programming:** The YEC will create nature-based events or programs for youth of various ages in partnership with social service nonprofits to provide positive, safe experiences in nature. Programs may involve natural history, mindfulness, the arts, food/farms, or creating place-based educational materials such as nature guides and interpretive signs. The YEC will work with our current partners including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hampshire County, Eagle Eye Institute, and Northampton Parents Center, or other organizations as opportunities arise.
2. **Coordinate Kestrel’s Community Crew:** Manage Kestrel’s volunteer group to support our public events, and to increase awareness of the benefits of public lands that volunteers can then share as “ambassadors.” Build individual relationships and provide training to volunteers.
3. **Young Adult Outreach:** Expand Kestrel’s visibility among young adults by supporting student groups or interns from area colleges, or creating events to attract the millennial generation. If desired, assist with social media and video creation to engage new younger supporters and increase followers.

Applications for this position must be submitted via the TerraCorps online application. The application and detailed position descriptions for Kestrel’s Land Stewardship and Youth Education Coordinator positions can be found at [terracorps.org/available-member-positions](http://terracorps.org/available-member-positions).