



Education Award Program (EAP) Environmental Conservation Corps

Work Service Opportunity

The Sustainability Institute's Environmental Conservation Corps (ECC) program is an AmeriCorps-affiliated workforce development and service-learning program for young adults, which offers free job training and conservation work experiences for people seeking conservation and sustainability jobs.

Education Award Program (EAP) positions are 300-hour term lengths and are intended for students currently enrolled in **undergraduate and graduate** school.

These highly regarded positions offer:

- **Training:** Build knowledge and skills in a diversity of conservation and sustainability jobs
- **Certifications:** Receive free professional certifications (valued up to \$1,500 per Member)
- **Connections:** Meet a wide variety of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations
- **Teamwork:** Experience working in a team of peers and within a nonprofit organization
- **Leadership:** Help lead critically important conservation projects
- **Financial Award:** An end-of-service term Segal Education Award of \$1,374.60.

EAP Members report to The Sustainability Institute's Director of Conservation.

EAP Work: No experience is required, as this is a training program. Environmental Conservation Corps training and work includes:

Habitat Stewardship (approx. 95%):

- Work in outdoor settings, including public parks, forests, and waterways; bend, kneel and stand for extended periods; work in hot and cold conditions; operate tools, equipment, and machinery in a safe manner; use and properly maintain personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Perform wildlife habitat restoration work
- Construct and maintain rain gardens
- Plant native plants and trees in both urban and rural spaces
- Clean, process and construct oyster reefs
- Plant, cultivate, and harvest Spartina marsh plants
- Perform water quality testing and monitoring
- Design, construct, and maintain trails, bridges, and boardwalks

Energy and Water Efficiency Workshops (approx. 5%):

- Facilitate energy efficiency workshops in the local community



General Responsibilities:

- Adhere to rules of conduct and service expectations as detailed in Member Handbook
- Participate in required trainings, service days, and other responsibilities as directed by program staff
- Create reports detailing work schedule and completion of tasks
- Attend weekly/daily team meetings to discuss goals and progress of the ECC Program
- Help maintain the ECC van, trailer, and equipment to ensure they remain in good condition
- Participate in an individual research project
- Conduct surveys to obtain feedback from service partners
- Assist with upkeep of office crew area, storage, and supply areas
- Help maintain a positive and encouraging work environment

Training:

The ECC Program is committed to strong member development by providing valuable conservation-based training and certifications as well as 'soft-skill' training, such as financial literacy and resume building. This increased knowledge and skills propels AmeriCorps members forward in their environmental careers. The trainings and certifications have a value of up to \$1,500 per Member, paid for by The Sustainability Institute.

The ECC Program offers the following formal trainings through staff and/or partner agencies:

Habitat Restoration

- Living Shorelines
- Recreational Trail Program (RTP) training
- Adopt-A-Stream Freshwater and Tidal Saltwater monitoring
- Clemson Extension Master Rain Gardener Certification Track
- Wilderness First Aid
- GIS Mapping

Energy Efficiency

- Energy Efficiency Workshop Training

Worksite Safety

- CPR and First Aid
- Jobsite and Tool
- Chainsaw and Logging

Professional Development/Soft Skills

- Financial literacy
- Resume/Cover Letter
- GED

Further training/certification opportunities may be available to Members who wish to increase their skill sets.



EAP Program Requirements:

EAP Members **must be currently enrolled** in an undergraduate or graduate program.

Age: EAP Members must be at least 17 years of age at time of enrollment. Any member under age 18 at time of enrollment must receive legal parent/guardian consent, including signed forms provided by staff.

Service Hours: EAP Members will work **300 service hours**, 15–20 hours/week, during the academic semester. Each Member conducts service and attends training based on their available college course schedule and within The Sustainability Institute office hours of Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5pm and Friday 8:30am-1pm. The mandatory 30-minute lunch break does not count towards service hours.

Background Check: Program enrollment requires every member to successfully provide information to program staff for the completion of the CNCS (Corporation for National and Community Service) three-part criminal history check (NSOPW check, SC SLED check, and FBI fingerprint check). Members must sign the NCHSC (CNCS - National Criminal History Service Check) at the time of interview. CNCS has established requirements that may not allow a member to serve due to the member's previous criminal history.

Physical Requirements: (from Corps Member Handbook): Due to the conditions and scope of work performed by the ECC, members must be physically able to perform all program work. This includes, but is not limited to, climbing, heavy lifting, bending, working from one's knees or back, working in hot or cold conditions and/or other work components deemed necessary by program staff.

EAP Financial Award:

Successful completion of the 300 service hours will earn the Crew Member a Segal Education Award of **\$1,374.60** at the end of their service term.