



Environmental Conservation Corps: Community Restoration AmeriCorps Member

Service Site Setting(s): The Sustainability Institute, Bucksport office

Service Site Location(s): Multiple (all service work to be completed in Bucksport and surrounding communities in Horry county but may travel to Beaufort County, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Colleton County, and/or Georgetown County for service projects)

Service Position Type: Three-quarter Time (1200 hours)

Term of Service: Term Start: March 2026 Term End: December 2026

Average Minimum Weekly Required Service Hours: Minimum of 28 hours weekly

Average Expected Weekly Service Hours: Average expectancy of 30 hours week

*30-minute lunch break will not count towards term of service hours counted for the education award

Living Stipend (paid bi-weekly, pre-tax): **\$14,400.00**

Segal Education Award (upon completion of successful term, pre-tax): **\$5,176.50**

This position is a collaboration between the Sustainability Institute, the Gullah Geechie Chamber of Commerce, and the Association for the Betterment of Bucksport. All three organizations are 501 (c) (3) organizations.

AmeriCorps Member Position Overview

Community Restoration Members engage in habitat restoration activities which may include activities such as restoring coastal wetland buffers (including some oyster beds), planting native plants and trees, performing water quality testing and monitoring, constructing historical nature trails, and constructing and maintaining rain gardens. Crew Members will also engage in weatherization activities, which may include directly installing energy conservation measures in homes, surveying households about their weatherization and repair needs, and supporting energy efficiency workshops throughout the community.

Impact to Community Served

AmeriCorps members serve with the Sustainability Institute to promote climate resilience, quality of life and sustainability in both protected places and urban environments within South Carolina's Lowcountry. Our projects provide meaningful opportunities for young people to develop personally and professionally while being of service to themselves, their communities, and the environment. Our goal is to create the next generation of conservation leaders in our region.

Impact to Member Who Serves

As a Community Restoration Member, you will participate in a diverse array of urgently needed and front-line conservation activities in communities and protected places throughout the Lowcountry and adjacent watersheds –all while learning new skills, building confidence and leadership, developing life-long relationships, and serving your community.

Through this program, Members gain:

- **Training:** Build knowledge and skills in a diversity of conservation and sustainability jobs
- **Certifications:** Receive free professional certifications relevant to the field
- **Compensation:** Earn a living stipend (pre-tax, paid bi-weekly), and an end-of-service Segal Education Award after successful completion of the term
- **Connections:** Meet and work with a wide variety of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations and reconnect with community members through an appreciation of a shared history, culture, and/or values
- **Teamwork:** Experience working in a team of peers and within a nonprofit organization
- **Leadership:** Help lead critically important conservation and community sustainability projects to increase the understanding of climate change, its effects, and ever-evolving solutions

Environmental and Community Stewardship Work:

- 1. Coastal wetland buffer restoration and associated data collection, monitoring, modeling and surveying activities that will inform future adaptive measures.**
 - a. Installation of vegetated buffers with native plants and trees
 - b. Creation and maintenance of stormwater parks
 - c. Marsh grass cultivation and planting and associated Living Shorelines techniques
- 2. Freshwater and tidal saltwater quality monitoring**
 - a. Work includes performing water sampling, testing, data collection, and reporting. Training is provided.
 - b. Dissemination of information, outreach, and training community members
 - c. Partners include, but are not limited to: Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw River Monitoring, Waccamaw Waterkeeper, Winyah Rivers Alliance - Waccamaw Riverkeepers, and Horry County
- 3. Creation and Maintenance of native rain gardens, pollinator gardens, and urban vegetable gardens**
 - a. Partners include but are not limited to: Clemson Extension Service, Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina Native Plant Society - Grand Strand Chapter
- 4. Community Outreach**
 - a. Participate and facilitate local community outreach and workshops.
- 5. Energy and Water Efficiency**
 - a. Support the direct installation of energy efficiency measures in homes, as well support community outreach, surveying, and workshop activities.

General Responsibilities

- Adhere to rules of conduct and service expectations as detailed in the Member Handbook
- Maintain familiarity with AmeriCorps operations and procedures (the Corps Network/CNCS)
- Follow and obey AmeriCorps prohibited activities as listed in the Member Service Agreement
- Participate in all required trainings, days of service, and responsibilities toward projects and functions as directed by SI Staff
- Report daily (on service days) to the SI Program Coordinator
- Be prepared to accept delegated tasks from SI Staff
- Assist with upkeep of office interior
- Maintain a positive and encouraging work environment for fellow Crew Members ● Represent self and program well in front of partners, community members, etc.

- Participate in community outreach events
- Uphold self-accountability by coming into the office prepared for the day
- AmeriCorps members do not perform prohibited activities as enumerated by the federal AmeriCorps agency in [45 CFR § 2520.65 \(LINK\)](#).
- AmeriCorps resources must not supplant, duplicate, nor displace. Restrictions are outlined in [45 CFR 2540.100 \(LINK\)](#).

Additional Responsibilities

Community Restoration Member member may – if and as needed – be additionally responsible for the following:

- Participate in outside service activities approved by the Lead Ecologist
- Contribute toward community preparedness and response to disaster situations.

Federal AmeriCorps Participant Minimum Eligibility Requirements

(a) **Eligibility.** An AmeriCorps participant must—

(1)

(i) Be at least 17 years of age at the commencement of service; or

(ii) Be an out-of-school youth 16 years of age at the commencement of service participating in a program described in [§ 2522.110\(b\)\(3\)](#) or [\(g\)](#);

(2)

(i) Have a high school diploma or its equivalent; or

(ii) Not have dropped out of elementary or secondary school to enroll as an AmeriCorps participant and must agree to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to using the education award; or (iii) Obtain a waiver from the Corporation of the requirements in [paragraphs \(a\)\(2\)\(i\)](#) and [\(a\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#) of this section based on an independent evaluation secured by the program demonstrating that the individual is not capable of obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent; or

(iv) Be enrolled in an institution of higher education on an ability to benefit basis and be considered eligible for funds under section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 1091](#));

(3) Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;

(4) Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria pursuant to [45 CFR 2540.202](#).

Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual Demands

Due to the conditions and scope of work performed by the Environmental Conservation Corps, members must be physically able to perform all program work, fully and equally, as other Corps Members. This includes but is not limited to,

- climbing,
- heavy lifting,
- bending,
- working from one's knees or back,
- working in excessive hot, cold, or rainy conditions,
- Exhibit cultural sensitivity, empathy, compassion, and the initiative to inspire others
- and/or other work components deemed necessary by SI staff

Evaluation and Reporting

The Sustainability Institute is committed to strong member development and includes in their plan a comprehensive set of resources offered to Members that are designed to ensure member retention, personal growth, and success. These include, but are not limited to, in-depth assessment of skills and interests upon arrival, a strong orientation, financial literacy training, cover letter/resume training, team-building activities, exposure to outside employment opportunities upon completion of service with the Program, and performance evaluations.

Performance evaluations are intended to be a mutual exchange of information that informs the program's service delivery and helps the member successfully complete the term of service. The program will conduct and keep a

record of at least a midterm and an end-of-term written evaluation of the member's performance. At a minimum, the following factors will be evaluated.

1. Whether the member has completed the required number of hours;
2. Whether the member has satisfactorily completed assignments; and;
3. Whether the member has met other performance criteria clearly articulated by the program at the start of the term; and;
4. Other factors including but not limited to: professionalism, representation of self and team, punctuality, productivity, time management, dependability, accountability, communication, and conflict management.

Reporting Requirements:

Each member is responsible for submitting their personalized timesheet to Program Staff at the end of every week. Please note: members cannot spend more than 20% of their time on indirect service activities such as education and/or training.

How to Apply

For more information about our program, visit our website at [Join AmeriCorps - The Sustainability Institute](#). From there, you can find a link to our Community Restoration Member application. A direct link to the online application is here, Resume and cover letter are required and references are optional.

Headquarters Program Coordinator Name and Title: Holly H. Blair, Lead Ecologist Community-Centered Conservation

Headquarters Program Coordinator Contact Information: holly@sustainabilityinstitutesc.org

On-Site Program Coordinator Name and Title: Rachel Bellamy, Bucksport Community Restoration Program Coordinator **On-Site**

Program Coordinator Information: Rachel@sustainabilityinstitutesc.org

Nondiscrimination

This program is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information, and military service. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

Benefits

AmeriCorps members accepted for this position may be eligible for the following, subject to federal and state law, governing grant terms and conditions, and program stipulated requirements. [Learn more about AmeriCorps member benefits here](#)

The AmeriCorps living allowance may be subject to special consideration for federal or federally-assisted programs based on need, noted in [42 U.S.C. § 12637\(d\) - Treatment of AmeriCorps Benefits](#)

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service are eligible for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, subject to specific terms and limitations. [Learn more about the AmeriCorps Segal Education Award Here](#)

IP Crew Member Program Candidate:

(sign) _____ (print)

(date) _____

The On-Site Program Coordinator:

(sign) _____ (print)

(date) _____

Headquarters Sustainability Institute Program Staff:

(sign) _____ (print)

(date) _____