



Position Description

United Communities AmeriCorps (UCA) members engage in meaningful service that meets critical community needs throughout Southwest Oregon. UCA projects improve access to social services by bridging barriers to educational opportunities, mentoring, job skills development, employment resources, family stability, and having healthy futures. Our members engage clients in their dedicated service project, and then use their experience to recruit, retain, and support community volunteers in their project and host site. Our positions are a dynamic combination of serving in a dedicated project (85%) and engaging in civic and professional development opportunities, alongside our AmeriCorps cohort (15%).

SERVICE TERM

August 29, 2024 – July 31, 2025 (Full-time; 11 months – 1700 hours)

MEMBER LIVING ALLOWANCE

\$20,400 living allowance paid over the 11-month service term

EDUCATION AWARD

\$7,395 Segal Education Award upon successful completion of the term of service

POSITION TITLE

Estuary Explorers Educator

PROJECT HOST SITE

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

PROJECT LOCATION

Charleston, Oregon

POSITION SUMMARY

Live, work and explore the towering coniferous forests and rugged coastline iconic to the central Oregon coast. The Estuary Explorers Educator designs and implements after school activities that immerse K-8 students in engaging science, technology, engineering, art & math (STEAM) activities. Teaching topics are focused on estuaries, watersheds, and local culture. The Educator will work with guidance from the experienced Reserve education team, following a framework developed by previous members. The Educator recruits and trains high school student interns and adult volunteers to assist with delivery of science and exploration activities. The Educator will maintain and build relationships with local schools and other partners in the community to continue to bring these valuable programs to the students who need them most. The Educator will work to identify community partnerships that can help strengthen afterschool programs. The Educator will also support and learn from other Reserve education programs and research projects, incorporating that knowledge into the afterschool lessons. Outside of the school season, the Educator will assist with summer science camps for kids ages 5-18, as well as community education programs for all ages of learners.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (to include, but not limited to)

- Pursue additional school sites to expand the program reach to more local students, more days a week.
- Recruit and retain volunteers from the local community to deliver activities.
- Modify, create and deliver engaging STEAM activities for K-8 students.
- Continue working with the local high schools and Oregon Coast STEM Hub to recruit high school interns.

- Conduct evaluations and assessments based on student, teacher and volunteer feedback to inform success and long-term sustainability for the program.
- Assist with other Reserve education programs in schools and the community.
- Collaborate with other education providers to enhance programming.
- Complete all state and federal trainings by required deadlines. Implement and/or develop systems to inform Volunteer Management Goals.
- Complete and submit all necessary UCA paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Attend and complete all UCA training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings, and National Days of Service (Make a Difference Day, MLK Jr. Day, and a June Service Event).
- Wear AmeriCorps apparel and/or appropriate identifiers while performing service or attending official events.

MARGINAL RESPONSIBILITIES (to include, but not limited to)

- Develop lessons and activities that contribute to Reserve education.
- Pursue methods to support participation from high school interns, such as transportation, school credit, etc.
- Identify other methods to provide estuary programming to audiences currently not participating.
- Assist with and teach about research, monitoring and stewardship work at the Reserve.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively at an 8th grade level or above.
- Willingness to work closely with children and adults, and speak in front of groups of various sizes.
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Creativity, flexibility and critical thinking skills.
- Current US Driver's license
- Leadership skills, or an interest and willingness to build those skills.
- 17 years of age or older, at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, U.S. national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
- Must successfully pass a National Service Criminal History Check provided through UCAN and/or Project Host Site.
- Regular and reliable attendance.
- Have not previously served four terms in an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members are only eligible for the equivalent of two full-time education awards in their lifetime.
- Applicants must disclose if they have ever been removed for cause from any national service program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- 4 years of study in environmental science, education, or related degree.
- Experience working with children, especially in outdoor settings
- Ability to walk unassisted up to 5 miles over uneven terrain such as unpaved trails, mudflats and marshes
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs
- Experience working with or coordinating volunteers
- Familiarity with computers, including Microsoft Office programs

SERVICE CONDITIONS

- Office, visitor center, schools or other community buildings
- Paved and unpaved trails of varying steepness
- Outdoor sites including forests, wetlands, tidflats and channels.

PHYSICAL & INTELLECTUAL DEMANDS

- Walking or standing for extended periods, sometimes on unstable surfaces
- Working outdoors in varying weather conditions
- Ability to work well independently and as part of a team

EQUIPMENT USED

- Computers and tablets, landline and cell phones, Microsoft Office Suite, Windows programs, cameras, microscopes, spotting scopes, binoculars, GPS unites, science field equipment, 12-passenger van, minivan, 4WD trucks

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

- Reserve vehicles are available for work-related activities.
- Personal vehicle is essential because there is no public transportation to the Reserve or onsite housing.

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE

- \$20,400 living allowance paid over the 11-month service term (approx. \$850 bi/weekly, before taxes).
- \$7,395 education award upon successful completion of the term of service which can be used to repay qualified student loans or for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used. Members that are 55 and older may transfer the award to one child or grandchild.
- May be eligible for Loan Forbearance & Interest Accrual Repayment on qualified loans (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
- SNAP benefits for those who qualify.
- Child care allowance for those who qualify.
- Outdoor education and teaching training opportunities with the Reserve and partners.
- Science and stewardship professional learning opportunities with the Reserve and natural resource partners.
- Shared housing is available within the Reserve property and free for members.

EQUITY & INCLUSION

UCA values diversity and seeks to provide an inclusive space that rejects intolerance. Qualified individuals with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. UCA is an AA/EEO employer. UCA provides reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals and conducts all activities in fully accessible settings.

HOW TO APPLY

Application Deadline: July 31, 2024

Interviews are conducted on a rolling basis as qualified candidates are identified, so early application is strongly encouraged as member selection may be made prior to the application deadline.

Apply to United Communities AmeriCorps:

Option 1:

- Visit <https://my.americorps.gov/> and select “apply to serve”
- Create a login and password
- Build your AmeriCorps profile and application to serve
- Click on “Advanced Opportunity Search” and search by Program Name: “UCA” and State: “OR”

Option 2:

- email the following documents to ucamericorps@ucancap.org
 - Resume
 - Cover Letter (1 page)
 - Contact information for two References (name, title, relationship, email, & phone)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS POSITION? CONTACT:

Jaime Belanger

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QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICORPS? CONTACT:

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