



AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: Conservation Science Educator

Project Sponsor: Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute www.gorgeecology.org

NWSA Mission: This position is in partnership with the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA), an AmeriCorps program of ESD112. NWSA's mission is: To preserve and restore the natural environment, and to develop community leaders through service and community partnerships. www.nwserviceacademy.org

Project Location: The office is located at 203 Second St; Hood River, OR 97031. Much of time will be spent at field sites in the Gorge Region in Hood River, North Wasco, Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

Position Summary: The Conservation Science Educator will lead the implementation of the second year of the Columbia Gorge Science in Action program. Through this the member will provide coordination with middle school teachers and conservation partners, such as the Oregon Zoo, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and others in engaging students in meaningful and credible conservation science research projects. The member will also be a key team member in helping coordinate and deliver other environmental education programs with youth and adults, including Gorge Explorers afterschool/summer programs and Outdoor School sessions, as well as other community education programs.

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

- Serve as lead coordinator of Columbia Gorge Science in Action program: a consortium of middle school classes conducting local conservation research with partnering agencies and organizations. Provide assistance to students and teachers in developing, conducting and sharing research projects.
- Teach **SECRETS** school programs in approximately six local classrooms per term (spring, winter and fall). Each term includes (per classroom) eight one-hour classroom lessons, one family night event and one all day field trip.
- Assist Columbia Gorge National Scenic area with conservation stewardship and education programs, (may include western gray squirrel surveys, campfire programs, stream mapping, and salmon watch programs).
- Coordinate educational materials, programs and stewardship activities relating to At Risk Species conservation in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Oregon Zoo.
- Deliver educational programs at Columbia Gorge Outdoors Schools.
- Assist in coordination and delivery of afterschool and summer programs, community education programs and conferences.
- Assist with recruitment, training, coordination and supervision of community volunteers.
- Track program participation and evaluate program success.
- Collaborate with Executive Director, board and other staff to implement the classroom programs and other projects. Attend monthly board meetings, weekly staff meetings and periodic AmeriCorps Meetings.
- Complete and submit all necessary NWSA/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Work evenings and weekends on occasion, including participation in all national service days.
- Wear an NWSA uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements:

- Undergraduate degree or relevant work experience in environmental science, natural resources, ecology, biology or similar science-based field.
- Communicate and interact in a positive and professional manner with various populations such as community volunteers, teachers, rural and urban students

- Excellent coordination and organization skills.
- Effective written and verbal communication skills with all ages and diverse audiences.
- Ability to work in a productive and positive manner both independently and as part of a close-knit team.
- Physical fitness for outdoor stewardship, education and research work.
- Reliable vehicle for transportation to schools (mileage is reimbursed). *Please note that we have one shared vehicle which may not be available at all times.*
- 18 years of age or older, at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, 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 fingerprint criminal history background check provided through NWSA and/or Project Sponsor Agency.
- Regular and reliable attendance.
- Have not previously served two terms in an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members may serve up to three terms in a National Service Program, but only two terms may be within an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members are only eligible for an education award for their first two terms of service, regardless of the type of term (full or part-time) and regardless of the successful completion of that term.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Preferred applicants will have conducted some field research through either work or educational experience and can demonstrate knowledge of scientific methods to program participants.
- Interest in ecology and respect for nature.
- Desire to inspire interest in the natural world in others.
- Knowledge or interest in learning about forest and shrub-steppe ecology, native plants and natural history of the Columbia Gorge Region.
- Experience working with children and adults in the classroom and outdoors.
- Other useful skills include knowledge, and experience in: office administration, conversational Spanish, curriculum development, marketing, volunteer supervision, habitat restoration, Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.

Member Benefits Include:

- A taxable, monthly living allowance (before taxes, approximately \$1036).
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of \$4,725. The education award 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.
- Loan forbearance (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).
- Child care allowance for those who qualify.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.

Transportation Information:

- Member must have a valid driver's license.
- A shared pickup truck is available for use in traveling to programs. Member use of this vehicle is covered by CGEI Insurance policy. This vehicle will not be available at all times, so it is preferred that the member has other reliable vehicle for transportation when needed. All approved travel in member's personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the current mileage rate. Currently \$0.555/mile.
- For afterschool and summer programs, member may be required to drive a 10 passenger vehicle.

Application Deadline: On-going until filled.

Interviews: Starting July 15. Open until filled.

Service Dates: September 14, 2009 - August 17, 2010

NWSA Center: Lower Columbia Center

Type of Position: Individual Placement

Length of Term: 1700 hours (11 months)

How to apply:

Step 1 - Email résumé, cover letter and contact information for three references to the Project Sponsor for this position – Jamie Sheahan, at programs@gorgeecology.org. The Project Sponsor will conduct all initial interviews and recommend a candidate for this position. All recommended candidates will also interview with Northwest Service Academy.

Step 2 - Complete your application and submit following materials to Susan Navrotsky at susan.navrotsky@esd112.org.

Application materials can either be completed online at the [AmeriCorps website](#) or downloaded from the NWSA website [“How to Apply”](#) page and submitted via email (preferable), mail or fax. A complete Member application includes the following:

- **AmeriCorps Application**
- **Two Written References**
- **Certification Form** - This document must be mailed or faxed to the NWSA office with an original signature.

Questions about the position? Contact: Jamie Sheahan, CGEI Executive Director, at programs@gorgeecology.org or 541-387-2274

General questions about AmeriCorps, NWSA or our recruitment process? Contact:

Susan Navrotsky
Statewide Individual Placement Program Coordinator
NWSA Lower Columbia Center
55 SE Main Street
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 234-2383 ext 106
(503) 232-0166 (fax)
susan.navrotsky@esd112.org

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