



## TERRACORPS

**TerraCorps**, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to forty-eight full-time AmeriCorps Members, serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Collaboration Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Urban Agriculture Coordinator (UAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019-July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

Sudbury Valley Trustees will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2019-20 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

### **2019 Land Stewardship Coordinator with Sudbury Valley Trustees**

#### **Sudbury Valley Trustees**

18 Wolbach Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
svtweb.org

Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) is a regional land trust that conserves land and protects wildlife habitat in the Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury river basin for the benefit of present and future generations. We care for some of this region's most important forests, wetlands, and grasslands—natural areas that support wildlife habitat, working farms, and recreational trails. As of 2018, SVT cares for more than 4,800 acres on 89 reservations and 75 Conservation Restrictions and maintains more than 55 miles of trails. We collaborate with numerous partner organizations, and our work is supported by 2,900 members and 200 volunteers.

Our headquarters is located in an old farmhouse on a lovely 53-acre property with views of field and forests. Our service area transitions from the more urban/suburban Metropolitan Boston fringes to the more rural/suburban central Massachusetts area. In spite of being located near a major metropolitan center, we have an incredible abundance of open space and conservation lands, including two national wildlife refuges and a Wild & Scenic River corridor.

**Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC)** Build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resiliency and sustainable use of community lands. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape. LSCs spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. Sudbury Valley Trustees has proposed the following potential projects for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

SVT is increasing its support to local land trusts and municipal conservation committees to build regional capacity for and collaboration on land stewardship. The LSC will serve with SVT's Director of Land Stewardship and stewardship staff to assess community-level conservation land stewardship priorities and needs. The LSC will meet with and interview local land trust and municipal conservation representatives and /or boards. With this information, the LSC will develop training and service days to address those priorities and needs. We anticipate the stewardship issues will focus on invasive species, deer impacts and control, building climate resiliency, managing field and early successional habitats, and connecting trail networks. This initiative is part of continued development of the capacity of the Metrowest Conservation Alliance and the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, two regional conservation collaboratives.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

#### Required AmeriCorps Qualifications

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

#### Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills as well as presentation skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Comfort navigating computer software programs such as Microsoft Office and ArcGIS, and able to quickly learn new programs

- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Bachelor's degree in natural sciences, natural resources management or related field
- Knowledge of New England natural communities, plants and wildlife as well as experience with plant identification and some knowledge of invasive plant control
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units, in a range of weather conditions and over uneven terrain off-trail

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year's TerraCorps members will serve from August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019-July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 38 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

### **Member Compensation and Benefits**

- TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of up to \$14,600 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$608.33 (pre-tax) per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a taxable \$6,095 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See [nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward](http://nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward) for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

**Note:** TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

## **How to Apply**

2019-2020 Service Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at [terracorps.org](https://terracorps.org).

A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at <https://terracorps.org/become-a-member/>.

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our service sites. Do not send applications directly to a service site.

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by late June, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process. Email [admin@terracorps.org](mailto:admin@terracorps.org) or call 978-364-9770 x2.

## **Additional Information About this Program**

**TerraCorps** We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: [terracorps.org](https://terracorps.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [americorps.gov](https://americorps.gov).

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

**The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, [mass-service.org](https://mass-service.org))** is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.