



The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow

2015 Land Stewardship Coordinator Position Opening with Wildlands Trust

The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) AmeriCorps program was initiated and is managed by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust as a collaborative effort of regional conservation organizations seeking to increase the pace of land protection across the Commonwealth. This year, 22 AmeriCorps members will serve in the MassLIFT program, helping their hosting organizations meet critical community needs for land protection, stewardship of protected lands, outreach to the broader community, and service learning opportunities to engage young people in conservation. To learn more about MassLIFT AmeriCorps visit masslift.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.

MassLIFT-AmeriCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation of 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) 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. MassLIFT is one of 22 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's MassLIFT program will run from September 8, 2015 through August 5, 2016. All MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven month term, and complete 1,700 hours of service. The 1,700 hours includes time spent in trainings and service with the full MassLIFT team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

Applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- a US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.

- at least 18-years-of-age
- 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
- if serving primarily with vulnerable populations such as youth and the elderly, also pass an FBI check. (This requirement applies to MassLIFT Service Learning Coordinators.)

AmeriCorps programs provide equal employment opportunities. MassLIFT 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:

- MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$12,530 over the 11 month term of service, or \$501.20 per 25 biweekly pay period.
- MassLIFT assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through healthcare.gov. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of the term of service, AmeriCorps members will receive a \$5,730 education award, which can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See edaward.org for more info.
- Individuals in approved AmeriCorps positions are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans.
- MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members gain skills in land conservation, attend a statewide conference, and participate in team trainings and other professional development opportunities.
- AmeriCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

Positions

The 2014 MassLIFT AmeriCorps program will support twenty-two full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: seven Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC), five Regional Conservation Coordinators (RCC), six Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC), and four Service Learning Coordinators (SLC). The positions differ in their emphasis on land protection, stewardship, community outreach, and youth or adult education. All positions involve recruiting, teaching, and training community volunteers, conservation staff, and others to participate in and implement AmeriCorps members' projects.

Wildlands Trust will be hosting a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2015-2016 service year. Information about MassLIFT positions hosted by other organizations is available on the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's "Join MassLIFT" website: masslift.org.

2015 Land Stewardship Coordinator Position Opening with Wildlands Trust

Wildlands Trust

675 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360
www.wildlandstrust.org

We are one of the largest and oldest regional land trusts in Massachusetts, and since our founding in 1973, we have helped to ensure the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands. We currently have 4 full-time and 4 part-time staff, as well as 3 MassLIFT AmeriCorps members carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Trust. We also have interns and volunteers who assist us on a regular basis. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 16 committed individuals from the communities we serve and we enjoy the support of nearly 1,200 members from around the region.

Land Stewardship Coordinator

MassLIFT Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSCs) help communities improve their stewardship of conservation lands by building the capacity of regional land trusts and partnered organizations to: 1) develop community outreach and volunteer programs for conservation properties; 2) improve existing conservation properties to better serve public access, recreational, or nature educational goals; and 3) improve the long term land stewardship practices of conservation organizations, volunteer land trusts, and town boards. Typical LSC activities include (1) developing baseline reports for conservation properties that document boundaries, vegetation, soils, wetlands, streams, wildlife, and teaching these skills to others (2) assessing biological threats to conservation properties from non-native invasive species and working with volunteers to address those threats; (3) conducting natural resource inventories to inform sustainable management of conservation properties; and (4) recruiting, training, and managing volunteers to perform basic stewardship responsibilities such as trail maintenance or monitoring properties protected through conservation restrictions.

MassLIFT AmeriCorps members work with their supervisors to develop and carry out six or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Many of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. Wildlands Trust has proposed the following projects for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

- 1) Enhance and expand Wildlands Trust's Adopt-A-Preserve volunteer program by coordinating trainings, outings, and work days.
- 2) Prepare baseline documentation reports for Wildlands Trust acquisitions.
- 3) Assist communities with updating their Open Space Plans.
- 4) Map walking/hiking trails on Wildlands Trust properties.
- 5) Assist with the development of management plans for fee properties.

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

Essential Qualifications:

- BA/BS/AS Technical or Vocational degree in natural resources, forestry, land use planning or other scientific related field. Experience may be

substituted for education.

- Knowledge and direct experience with ArcGIS mapping software
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Ability to read and interpret various maps such as surveys, aerial photos, and USGS topographical maps
- Experience working with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Comfortable working independently in both an office and field setting
- Able to walk 3-4 miles a day over uneven terrain in a range of weather conditions
- Comfortable utilizing computer programs such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint) and have the ability to quickly learn new programs
- Own vehicle and ability to attend night/weekend events as needed

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge of natural resource management
- Great communication skills, including the ability to write technical reports
- Experience giving presentations and/or trainings to a diverse audience
- Experience recruiting, training, and managing volunteers
- Passionate about land conservation

For questions about Wildlands Trust's service positions, contact Katie O'Donnell, Program Manager for Community Conservation, at kodonnell@wildlandstrust.org.

How to Apply

Hosting organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described in the *Join MassLIFT* section of the MassLIFT-AmeriCorps website: masslift.org.

The member application includes a completed application form, the names of three references, a resume, and a 1- 2 page cover letter. Download the application form from the *Join MassLIFT* website. Scan the completed form, resume, and cover letter into one PDF file and email this file to admin@masslift.org.

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

We strongly encourage applications to be submitted before interviews begin in late May. Position offers and acceptances will begin in early June. The program aims to fill all positions by late July, but host sites may continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, contact Sean Pollock, Program Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol, MA. w: 978-248-2043 x16; c: 413-522-3996 or email admin@masslift.org.