



The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow

2015 Service Learning 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 Service Learning 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 Service Learning 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.

Service Learning Coordinator

MassLIFT Service Learning Coordinators (SLCs) help communities connect youth with the natural world and encourage their civic engagement by building the capacity of regional land trusts and partnered organizations to: 1) work with educators and community volunteers to develop and deliver youth-focused service learning and experiential conservation education programs; 2) help local schools develop new curriculum and resources such as schoolyard nature trails, biodiversity inventories, and ecological monitoring programs; 3) plan service programs that develop job skills for college students related to careers in natural resources management, land conservation, and the environmental sciences; 4) identify and coordinate opportunities to partner with youth development programs on community service projects; and 5) organize conservation education workshops and events that engage families in the exploration of local natural history.

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 managing community volunteers. Wildlands Trust has proposed the following projects for their Service Learning Coordinator:

- 1) Coach a local Wildlands Trust-sponsored Envirothon Team.
- 2) Develop and lead an after-school program with local community partners such as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, or other similar organizations.
- 3) Promote, expand and lead the Wildlands Trust Green Team summer service learning program.
- 4) Develop an in-class visit program that connects local schools with local properties.
- 5) Develop standardized experiential education programs that Wildlands Trust can offer and promote (i.e. badge programs for Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts).

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:

- A BA/BS degree.

- Excellent public speaking/communication skills.
- A passion for conservation and working with youth.
- Strong writing, communication, and networking skills.
- Comfortable working with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Able to work both independently and as a member of a team
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office programs.
- Own vehicle and ability to attend night/weekend events as needed.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience recruiting, training, and managing volunteers.
- Experience working with young people.
- Experience leading outdoor programs.
- Experience developing educational programs.

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.