

Summer Naturalist

Stowe Land Trust, Stowe, VT



This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps (VHCB AmeriCorps). The VHCB AmeriCorps program supports the innovative dual-goal approach to creating stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape. VHCB AmeriCorps is a national service program that places members with non-profit housing or land and energy conservation organizations around the state.

Stowe Land Trust (SLT) is a member-supported, non-profit 501(c)(3) land conservation organization that is dedicated to the conservation of scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest lands for the benefit of the greater Stowe community. The Summer Naturalist will focus on developing and delivering SLT's Naturalist Program, which provides learning and volunteer opportunities – especially for children - that inspire local citizens to engage with their natural world and foster a love and appreciation for the land. This position will also assist with volunteer coordination, outreach and events, land management, and easement stewardship.

Essential Functions:

- Manage and staff SLT's Naturalist Program. Develop and deliver education programs and service-learning opportunities to the public, school groups, day camps, and corporate groups.
- Teach naturalist programs on conserved lands for audiences ages 3 to adulthood.
- Cultivate relationships with local schools, day camps, businesses, and partner organizations.
- Recruit, coordinate, manage, and support volunteers to assist with completing stewardship projects and activities scheduled in SLT owned management plans including boundary, trail, and infrastructure maintenance; invasive species management; and tree planting/maintenance.
- Maintain stewardship and volunteer logs that track program numbers, outcomes, and stories.
- Create press releases, newsletter articles, and content for print, web, and social media.
- Represent SLT at various public outreach events, including the Stowe Farmer's Market and the SLT annual meeting.
- Write a final report describing and evaluating goals and accomplishments.
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participate in VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Marginal Functions:

- Assist with SLT's conservation easement monitoring program including completing annual monitoring visits and reports, creating stewardship maps, boundary monitoring, and communicating with landowners.
- Complete special projects as SLT needs and member interests dictate.



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Desired Qualifications:

- Have a BA/BS in natural sciences, environmental education, or a related field OR 3-4 years of teaching experience, preferably in an outdoor or alternative education setting can be substituted for formal education;
- A strong interest in and knowledge of conservation, Vermont natural history, and environmental pedagogy. These include core routines of nature connection (e.g., sit spot, journaling, mapping), and natural history topics (e.g., birding, environmental sciences, animal tracking, wilderness living, climate change science, animal behavior, botany, and geology);
- Strong group management skills; ability to guide a group of up to 30 children/adults;
- Love of outdoor exploration and questioning, ability to model curiosity and wonder about the natural world;
- Be able to work independently while maintaining excellent communication with supervisor;
- Have excellent people skills; be outgoing and tactful; have a positive and collaborative attitude;
- Be well-organized and detail-oriented;
- Be able to do light trail work and use hand tools;
- Be able to coordinate and direct adult and youth volunteers ;
- Be able to navigate through the woods off-trail using a map and compass; be able to read a survey;
- Have basic GIS mapping skills.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be US citizen or have permanent resident status;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation or 17 years of age with written parental permission that has been verified by phone;
- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards a GED as part of the service-term. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps.
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo an National Service Criminal History Check
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program's ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Valid driver's license with access to reliable transportation.

Additional Information:

The position involves both field and office work. Some weekend and evening work required, particularly during summer months. Position begins March 25th, 2019 and ends September 23rd, 2019 with an average of 35 hours per week for 6 months.



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This position is: **Half Time:** Requires 900 hours and serves approximately 35 hours per week for 6 months. Member will receive a living allowance of \$10,800 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$2,960 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.



This position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations (youth, persons over 60, individuals with disabilities).

To Apply: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=85702&fromSearch=true>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Elisabeth Fenn, Conservation Program Coordinator – (802)253-7221 – elisabeth@stowelandtrust.org

Application deadline: Once advertised, open until filled.

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at www.americorps.org.

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is sponsoring this AmeriCorps position through their AmeriCorps Program. VHCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.

Member Name: _____

Signature: _____

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