

AgCorps AmeriCorps Member Position Description

AgCorps Mission:



To serve Montana communities by providing Ag literacy and environmental stewardship education to create resilient, healthy, and engaged communities under the Big Sky.



Location	P.O. Box 395, Livingston MT 59047
Supervisor Information	Megan Randall, Garden Manager
Term of Service	Term of Service will be from January to November. Members are expected to serve 40 hours/week. Typical working times are Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

About AmeriCorps:

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps continuously tackles the nation's most pressing challenges by getting things done for America.

Purpose:

AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. AgCorps aims to improve the capacity of partner organizations to meet their mission, grow collaborations, provide effective programming, and create resilient, healthy, safe, and engaged communities in Montana. This program is also designed to serve rural and underfunded school districts in Montana that require more accessibility to Ag literacy materials.

Location:

Located just north of Yellowstone National Park, Livingston sits on the banks of the mighty Yellowstone River. The Yellowstone River is the longest free flowing river in the United States and is home to some of the best trout fishing in the world. The wide streets of the historic downtown harkens back to the days of Calamity Jane, a known resident of Livingston. Boutiques, cafes and art galleries featuring some of the countries most renown Western artists make a day of shopping a cultural surprise.

Service Position Summary:

At FSPC, we see a future where all Park County communities have a deep and meaningful connection to food and where it comes from. Our school-based programs have evolved and expanded to address specific needs within the community. Our initiatives include K-12 agriculture, nutrition, and cooking education, the establishment of community and school-based urban

agriculture for both educational and food production purposes, and active involvement in regional school food reform efforts. These endeavors are made possible through strong collaborations with Park County school nutrition professionals and local food producers. As an organization, FSPC is committed to fostering positive change by nourishing the minds and bodies of our community's youth, promoting sustainable practices, and addressing the unique challenges faced by an economically vulnerable and rural population.

An AgCorps member's role with Farm to School of Park County will focus on facilitating access to nutritious food resources through our programming. Responsibilities include engaging K-12 students through our K-12 Education programs, implementing lessons connecting children with local farmers, and caretaking our network of school and community farms and gardens that grow food for use in public school meal programs. The member will join Farm to School of Park County's efforts to address key community needs including: 1) preserving rural lifestyles by promoting local agriculture and connecting residents with their food sources, 2) building the next generation of farmers by engaging students in agricultural education, ensuring the continuation of sustainable practices, and 3) advancing the health and well-being of residents by increasing access to nutritious food options and implementing educational programs on healthy eating habits.

This county-wide position is based in Livingston and requires some travel between school and farm locations. The role involves spending 25% of the time on instructional activities, 25% on cultivating farms and gardens, 25% on assisting with school meal programs, and 25% on administrative tasks. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities, as well as per diem and hotel fees, will be provided as funding permits.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Implement lesson plans that connect schools and local farmers
- Assist with Farm to School and Ag in the Classroom activities through our K-12 education programs
- Assist with maintenance and caretaking of school gardens and community farms
- Assist with community events and summer camps when school is not in session
- Assist with implementing FSPC Strategic Communications Plan
- Assist in post-harvest handling of produce
- Participation in evaluation and reporting (monthly reporting, bi-weekly timesheet submission and monthly check-in calls)
- Attendance to mandatory trainings (Orientation, Symposium, mid-service training, and end of service training)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Ability to serve community members of different socioeconomic backgrounds
- Knowledge base of food systems and local agriculture is a plus
- Previous experience educating children and adults is a plus
- Positive attitude in all weather conditions
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to be part of a collaborative team
- Excellent time and project management skills and attention to detail

The Montana AgCorps Program, under the Montana Department of Agriculture, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other discrimination not based on merit or qualifications.

- Adhere to program policies and procedures
- Demonstrate the ability to balance service activities
- Demonstrate professional behavior and use of appropriate language
- Demonstrate the ability to be flexible and serve cooperatively
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and resolve conflicts

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive an education award based on the position's length
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A monthly housing allowance if eligible (must be renting or have a mortgage payment)
- Other benefits include being part of an incredible community, being surrounded by professionals in multiple fields, and job shadowing opportunities
- AmeriCorps alumni benefits include access to nationwide alumni network, many career resources, access to AmeriCorps alumni emails and updates

AmeriCorps Service minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18+ at the beginning of service
- High school graduate, GED recipient, working towards obtaining a high school diploma/ GED
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria

For more information, please Contact:

Amanda Coyle: AgCorps Program Coordinator
(406) 444-7819
Amanda.Coyle@mt.gov

To Apply

Visit <https://my.americorps.gov>

- * All positions are contingent upon a successful background check and continued CNCS grant funding.
- * Reasonable accommodations can be made for interviews and if selected, service activities

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