

Environmental and Outreach Educator

Audubon Vermont at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, Huntington



Spend your days outside, sharing the joys of the natural world with the community while serving at the National Audubon Society's Vermont office! As our Environmental and Outreach Educator you will be fully integrated into the Audubon Vermont team while you grow and learn about outdoor education, natural history, and conservation in Vermont. You'll have the opportunity to lead hundreds of students, ages 0-99 in place-based education all year long. Apply today!

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.

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Audubon's mission is engaging people in conservation on a hemispheric scale through science, policy, education, and on-the-ground conservation action. What defines Audubon's unique value is a powerful grassroots network of nearly 500 local chapters, 23 state offices, 34 Audubon Centers, Important Bird Area Programs in 46 states, and more than 600 staff across the country.

The Green Mountain Audubon Center (GMAC) in Huntington, VT hosts the state office of Audubon Vermont (AV). The Audubon Center's 255 acres of conserved land provides a unique setting to host natural science education programs for schools, families, adults, teachers, and the greater community. The Audubon Center's education programs reach upwards of 6,000 individuals on an annual basis, providing people with direct experiences in nature. Our traditional programs are outdoors, science- and conservation-based, interactive, and lead participants to take action to help protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been creating online content and looking for creative ways to engage the public either virtually or from a distance and the AmeriCorps Member will be integral in helping us continue this project. The Audubon Center also conducts scientific research in the form of avian monitoring and is a bird-friendly land management demonstration site for the public.

Essential Functions:

- Teach environmental education programs for audiences ages birth to adult year-round at the GMAC;
- Teach outreach programs for both adults and youth at their location for schools, camps, and other groups;
- Develop and deliver virtual programs through various online-based media, for users of all ages;
- Co-develop and teach summer day camps for children ages 3-14;
- Program development of our teen counselors-in-training program as part of Audubon's Youth Leadership Development. Member is additionally responsible for the advertising, recruitment, selection, mentorship, and supervision of the teens;



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- Collaborate with the Audubon Center Director, Education Manager, and Professional Teacher/Naturalists to achieve outreach and education goals;
- Build the Audubon Center's capacity for hosting service-learning programs for grades K-12 and maintain our community science initiatives as opportunities to educate the public;
- Engage new and diverse audiences in community science projects by engaging with existing programs at Audubon or new projects where you can take a lead organizing role. Current projects include Climate Watch, Adopt-a-Trail, and monitoring phenology via the US-National Phenology Network;
- Help to identify and build new strategic partnerships with other organizations;
- Improve volunteer management procedures, recruitment of volunteers, tracking of volunteer hours and services, and volunteer recognition;
- Join the education team in attending professional development opportunities geared towards improving the quality and reach of our programs and individual professional growth;
- With other education team members, explore opportunities to start university and college chapters around Vermont and assist in the attaining of other goals of the Youth Leadership Program;
- Learn with Audubon Vermont staff members how to create a more inclusive workplace as we tackle some potentially uncomfortable, self-reflective assignments and conversations with an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion consultant;
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participate in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Secondary Functions:

- Help to publicize events via social media, website, flyers, and blogs;
- Serve side-by-side with Audubon Interns;
- Learn from conservation biologist about their projects which could include days out in the field;
- Assist with special events as an educator (e.g., annual Sugar on Snow Party)
- Assist with general facility and trail maintenance directly connected to programming both at the Center and in Burlington supporting the Plants for Birds Initiative;
- Present at a conference with other education staff team members.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Education, or related field; 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 native plants, birds, conservation, 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);
- Experience developing and leading outdoor environmental education activities, as well as working with preschool-age (3 to 5), school-age (6 to 18), and adult audiences;
- Strong group management skills; ability to guide a group of up to 30 children/adults;
- Experience recruiting, organizing and managing volunteers.

Love of outdoor exploration and questioning, ability to model curiosity and wonder about the natural world;



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- Ability to serve independently as well as part of a team;
- Excellent organizational and communication skills, experience with marketing and social media tools such as Facebook, blogs, Mail Chimp, and Survey Monkey;
- A strong service ethic and desire to do meaningful and challenging service, to better a community.



Minimum Qualifications:

- Reliable transportation and able to travel to program locations that do not take place at the GMAC;
- Some weekends or evenings will be required for programs and events;
- Must be able to communicate clearly with people from various backgrounds;
- 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 verified parental permission;
- 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, appreciation of diversity, and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in all required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Available to regularly serve 40 hours per week

Additional Information:

This position requires service in both an office setting and leading education programs outdoors. We are continuing to monitor the changing regulations and best practices in the face of COVID-19, so serving from home a few days each week might be required. Outdoor conditions must be safe for students, but can still include rain, snow, below freezing temperatures, sun, and heat. The typical schedule is from 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday, but many public programs occur nights and weekends throughout the year. This position will also include travel around our immediate service area, to serve with groups that are interested in Audubon programming.

We have a tight-knit team and hope you will be the perfect fit!

Position begins September 8th, 2021 and ends August 12th, 2022

This position is **Full Time**: Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 48 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$20,400 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$6,345 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.

Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.

To Apply: <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>



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For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Debbie Archer, Education Program Manager

Audubon Vermont, 255 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462

802-434-3068 debbie.archer@audubon.org

Application deadline: July 16, 2021

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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