

Environmental Education & Stewardship Specialist

Middlebury Area Land Trust, Middlebury, VT



Join an active, exciting team in protecting the beautiful land of the Champlain Valley! A typical day at MALT is what many people dream of doing on the weekend. You'll maintain the 19-mile Trail Around Middlebury, surrounded by forest, pasture, and views of mountains in every direction, then hunt for mushrooms and engage youth in nature-based games outside all afternoon. Being a part of MALT means joining a strong Addison County community of like-minded nature lovers and protectors. Come to MALT to connect people to nature when they need it most!

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.

The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) works with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities. Based in Middlebury, VT and serving Addison County, this AmeriCorps Member position will maintain and protect 3,500 acres of conserved lands and 30 miles of public recreation trails. The member will inspire and foster a strong environmental ethic through nature science education for youth and responsible outdoor recreation programming.

Essential Functions:

- Teach environmental education programs for audiences ages 3 to adulthood;
- Co-develop and teach summer day camps for children ages 3-14, mentor and supervise teen counselors-in-training;
- Teach outreach programs for schools, camps, and other groups;
- Assist in routine trail maintenance as guided by the TAM Management Plan;
- Co-develop a citizen science monitoring program and invasives management plan on owned lands;
- Maintain performance measurement records for all education programs and develop systems for recording educational materials;
- Collaborate with the Programs Coordinator, Executive Director, ECO AmeriCorps member and seasonal interns to achieve outreach and education goals;
- 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.

Secondary Functions:

- Help publicize community events via social media, website, flyers, and blogs;



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- Assist with special events as an educator such as Middlebury Green Up Day, the TAM Trek (annual race around the Trail Around Middlebury), etc.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Education, or related field; 1-2 years of teaching experience, preferably in an outdoor or alternative education setting - can be substituted for formal education;
- A strong conservation and environmental ethic that can be communicated to the public through education, events, volunteer coordination, and land stewardship;
- Knowledge of or interest in learning basic nature-connection skills and pedagogy, such as nature art, sit spots, and story-telling
- Knowledge of or interest in learning the use of simple hand tools such as drills, hammers, weed whackers, etc.
- Experience developing and leading outdoor environmental education activities, as well as working with audiences of multiple ages;
- 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;
- 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, Instagram, Mailchimp, and Survey Monkey.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Access to a personal vehicle recommended, non-local mileage reimbursement provided;
- 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 a 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 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:

Service locations will vary but all will take place in the greater Middlebury area, within Addison County. Service will take place in indoor and outdoor settings and in all weather conditions. Outdoor settings include forests, fields, along rivers and streams, swamps, and grasslands. Service hours are generally 8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday but may vary and will include some weekends and evenings.



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Position begins February 15, 2021 and ends August 13, 2021

This position is **Half Time**: Requires 915 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 26 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$10,800 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$3,097.50 (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://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Caleb Basa, Programs Coordinator

caleb@maltvt.org

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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