

Restoration Nursery Grower



Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery

Join the Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery as a plant grower for the season and learn the basics of plant propagation and the uses of native plants for conservation purposes. Through this position, you will gain professional and field experience that translate well into the natural resources field. Skills gained include improved plant ID skills and knowledge about growing practices, restoration project implementation, staff management (volunteers and interns), and record keeping. By serving at the Nursery, you will be a part of and help support a growing network of plant suppliers for restoration and conservation practices across Vermont.

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 Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery (CVNPRN) is run by the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) with the mission of producing high quality bareroot and container-grown seedlings from local seed stock for restoration and buffer plantings in the Champlain Valley and beyond. The nursery allows PMNRCD easy access to native plants for their planting programs as well as an outdoor educational and public facing space for students and the community. The purpose of the Poultney Mettowee NRCD is to provide educational outreach, technical assistance, and financial support to communities and landowners to protect healthy soil and clean water and preserve the ecological integrity and economic vitality of communities.

Essential Functions:

- Assisting in the daily care and propagation of plants including sowing seed, caring for, and transplanting seedlings; weeding; fertilizing, and artfully organizing nursery stock
- Maintaining nursery grounds- mowing, clearing gravel, keeping space clean and organized.
- Coordinating and overseeing volunteers at the nursery
- Assisting in keeping nursery inventory up to date
- Educating community members who visit the nursery about the benefits of native plants and other conservation topics
- Maintaining the Nursery's educational gardens
- Connecting with other nurseries and state organizations for seed collection initiatives
- Collecting, cleaning, and processing seed of local native trees and shrubs
- Optionally participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participating in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engaging in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.



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Secondary Functions:

- Assisting on restoration site stewardship
- Assisting on small project implementation (rain gardens, shoreline buffers, infiltration steps)
- Attending and participating in Nursery community education outreach events.

Desired Qualifications:

- Ability to serve independently and take initiative while maintaining open communication with staff and supervisor
- Ability and willingness to do physical service on a daily basis in an outdoor setting
- A strong interest in restoration and the desire to learn how to propagate and grow native tree and shrub species
- Excellent attention to detail with the ability to perform repetitive tasks well and with care
- Ability to serve among a diversity of volunteers and community members

Minimum Qualifications:

- Able to perform physical activities outdoors
- 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, 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 will be based primarily outdoors at the nursery facility located in Poultney, VT with occasional time spent in the field at local project/restoration sites as needed. There is some flexibility in the schedule, but typical hours will be served during the weekday with occasional weekends. The position is fairly independent with a portion of the time serving alongside PMNRCD staff, interns, and volunteers.

Position begins May 15th 2023 and ends August 18th, 2023.

This position is **Quarter Time**: Requires 455 hours of service for an average of 40 hours per week for 13 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$6,750 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$1,718.25 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.



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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>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Hilary Solomon

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P.O. Box 209, Poultney VT 05764

Application deadline: May 1st, 2023

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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