

Community Conservation Coordinator

South Hero Land Trust, South Hero, VT



Looking for a place to build connections with the land and a unique Vermont community? Explore the worlds of community-driven land conservation in the Champlain Islands. As our Community Conservation Coordinator, you'll gain direct experience in the many roles a conservation organization can play, as well as skills in environmental education, trail building, gardening and food access, town planning, and more. Help protect the land and cultivate a culture of inclusion and environmental stewardship with South Hero Land Trust. Conservation experience not required, only a passion for learning and desire to get to know a small community first hand.

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.

South Hero Land Trust is dedicated to protecting the farmland, woodland, natural and recreational areas, and open spaces which help give South Hero its distinctive quality of life. We do this work through building strong community ties, forging partnerships with farmers, establishing critical links between consumers and farmers, getting kids and adults out onto the land, education about our natural world, school programs, and of course, land conservation. The goal of this position is to expand our capacity for offering educational and community programming as part of our Community Conservation initiatives, including: educational and community building programs in partnership with Folsom School, the Champlain Islands Parent Child Center, Worthen Library; trail building and volunteer work parties; gardening and food access programs; and programs for seniors in our community.

Essential Functions:

- Co-develop Winter Wednesday Community Conversations with SHLT Programs Director and Worthen Library, and take lead on managing event series.
- Develop and lead trail walks, birding events, and other outdoor activities for the community.
- Develop an outdoor recreation guide for Champlain Islands, focused on accessibility and inclusion.
- Develop annual trail and invasive species management plan for SHLT maintained trails and host volunteer work parties to do regular trail work.
- Co-lead after-school fall and spring Nature Clubs at Folsom School with SHLT Programs Director (with possibility of running a summer program as well)
- Provide garden programming at Folsom School and Champlain Islands Parent Child Center and maintain gardens at each site with community volunteers
- Develop new bird watching or other wildlife engagement program for childcare centers in GI County. Research and connect with potential partners and sites, develop proposal, work on finding funding. If successful, begin programming summer 2022.



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- Expand Grow for Your Neighbor program, including developing resources for home gardeners, serving with community volunteers and local farmers to plan/plant/maintain donation gardens at local farm, and partnering with the Healthy Roots Collaborative to distribute harvest and other resources to local food shelves.
- 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:

- Support SHLT in utilizing DEI best practices in all communications, including website, brochures, educational materials, etc.
- Participate in Smart Growth community planning, including projects like building a network of interconnected trails though South Hero, developing pocket parks with public art installations and gardens, and other community projects.
- Develop a proposal for a Little Free Garden Pantry, for distributing food grown in new Pocket Park Garden to folks in need through partners like CIDER, Champlain Islands Health Center, and Worthen Library. If viable, execute project in summer 2022.
- Participate in Folsom Farm to School program and program planning. Create a long term FTS strategy for Folsom that includes the garden, farm field trips/farmer classroom connections, building farm/curriculum/cafeteria connections. Create a method for tracking activities. Conduct Farm to School activities at Folsom School, like Harvest of the Month taste tests and other learning activities

Desired Qualifications:

- Interest in the outdoors and/or agriculture (required)
- Experience with school-age children (great to have)
- Ability to undertake physical service, including trail building and gardening (great to have)
- Experience with website design and maintenance (great to have)

Minimum Qualifications:

- Driver's license and reliable vehicle
- Some weekends/evenings required
- Able to speak in front of small groups (up 20 people of mixed ages)
- Able to make telephone calls and communicate via email with various organizational partners and community members
- 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;



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- 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 is a full-time (40 hour/week) position, with hours generally between 8 AM-5 PM Monday-Friday, with some flexibility. We host/attend events, programs, and meetings in the evenings or on weekends at least twice a month year round, more frequently in the summer months (when evening/weekend hours are required, weekday hours will be reduced). We have a shared, open floor plan office and staff of two. We are a collaborative organization, and staff works on planning, projects, and tasks together and with input from our board or directors, partners, and community members. Strong, positive relationships and partnerships are central to our work and culture. We see all of our projects as connected to each other and part of a greater mission to serve our community. We will provide an office space for the service member to serve from, there is the possibility of serving from home 1-2 days a week if that is desired by service member after they are trained. Service is based in South Hero, and will be a mix of office and field service, as well as a mix of independent and collaborative service. We have frequent interaction with community members of all ages and backgrounds. Field service is general outdoors, and takes place year round, in all weathers. It includes trail work, trail walks, events, school programs, etc... Travel within South Hero is required on a weekly basis, travel to other parts of the county happens occasionally.

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>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Emily Alger
PO Box 455, South Hero, VT 05486
802-372-3786
emily@shlt.org

Application deadline: August 24th, 2021

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



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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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