



Member Application

Vermont Community Stewardship Program ★



An AmeriCorps National Service Program of
the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

"It's been huge for
my personal and
professional
development."

"I feel it tied my whole
life together for me."

"I learned valuable
science and
stewardship tools."

"I have gained a
greater understanding
of the human
condition."

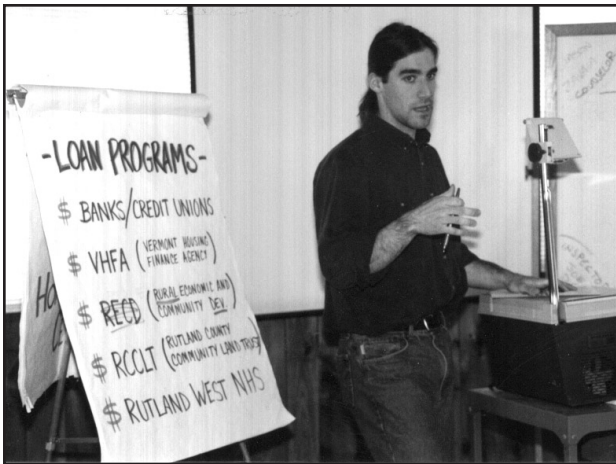
What is the Vermont Community Stewardship Program?

Now entering its 10th year, the Vermont Community Stewardship Program (VCSP) is a statewide AmeriCorps project of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). Through VCSP, 28 AmeriCorps Members will make an 11⁺ month commitment to work with one of 24 nonprofit housing and conservation organizations around the state. VCSP's dual goals are to create more stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape of Vermont by fostering a greater appreciation of and responsibility for the environment.

What do VCSP members do?

Housing Members

- Provide activities for youth residing in subsidized housing developments and create and provide programming for children and their families. Murals replace graffiti-laden walls, and kids experience cultural events, service opportunities, and field trips as well as literacy, lifeskills, safety, arts-based and recreational activities. Resource rooms, libraries, and computer labs are developed. Parents have opportunities to learn parenting and other lifeskills.
- Provide direct assistance to homeless individuals and families, helping them to find suitable housing, build lifeskills, develop résumés, and obtain services.
- Provide support to Vermont's HomeOwnership Centers, assisting first-time homebuyers through the process of obtaining affordable homes.



"I achieved a sense of accomplishment and strength. I gained leadership skills and mediating skills."

- Recruit community volunteers and provide community outreach through information distribution, referrals, direct services and technical assistance to Vermont residents.
- Educate tenants on issues of rights and responsibilities, helping to convene groups of residents and citizens with a common goal to foster associative relationships.



Conservation Members

- Provide environmental education and service opportunities for school-age youth.
- Take stewardship actions to conserve Vermont's working and native landscape.
- Recruit volunteers and raise awareness about conservation issues.
- Participate in wild land assessments, extract invasive plants and implement weed management plans.
- Maintain trails and educate trail hikers.

Minimum Qualifications

- 17 years of age or older (no upper age limit); if 17, need written parental permission;
- U.S. Citizenship, U.S. National status or “lawful permanent resident alien” status;
- High School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate (or, for adults only, willingness to work on Equivalency Certificate concurrent with service term);
- 11+month long, full-time commitment;
- Service ethic: a desire to do meaningful and challenging work to better a community;
- Conscientious, reliable, punctual and organized;
- Ability to independently travel to statewide events;
- Individual sites may have additional qualifying requirements, for example, a passing record upon criminal background check.



“I gained a greater understanding and knowledge of a diverse population of people.”

What benefits do I get?

In addition to having an opportunity to do meaningful, challenging work and gaining real-world experience, there are many tangible benefits as well, including:

- Living stipend: \$12,825 for full-time service; \$6,790 for half-time.
- AmeriCorps Education Award: \$4,725 (\$2,362 half-time) to be used for existing student loans or for future education in the next seven years.
- Health Insurance: Covers major medical, hospitalization and prescriptions.
- Child Care: Assistance available for state-eligible members.
- Vacation, personal leave and holidays.
- Travel Reimbursement: Non-commuting travel is paid for service related activities.
- Free Training: In addition to an overnight Pre-Service Orientation, members have numerous training opportunities over the course of the year. Trainings may include Conflict Resolution; CPR/1st Aid; Diversity/Disability Awareness; Volunteer Recruitment; the Effects of Sprawl; a ropes course and other position specific training. Additionally, members will attend a 2-day All-AmeriCorps Statewide Conference, a Team Retreat, several Group Service Days and a Closing Ceremony.

What else should I know?

- You decide which sponsoring organization(s) on the enclosed list you would like to apply to. You can call the contact person to discuss the position and the application deadline and to get more details prior to applying. Members will work closely with their supervisors in their sponsoring non-profit agencies.
- **Apply Now!** Most positions for this service year will be filled by September 17, 2007. Send your completed application before then (including the enclosed application, résumé, and two written references) to your preferred sponsoring organization(s).

Vermont
Community
Stewardship
Program



The Vermont Community Stewardship Program enhances the welfare and stability of Vermont's communities, environment, and its citizens through education, skill development, and achievement.

An AmeriCorps
National Service Program
of the
Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board



Vermont Community
Stewardship Program
VHCB
149 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

VERMONT COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
An AmeriCorps Project of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
149 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

(802) 828-3253

www.vhcb.org/vcsp.html



AMERICORPS MEMBER APPLICATION

Full Name: _____ SSN#: _____

Address: _____
(Current)

Address: _____
(Permanent)

Current Day Phone: _____ Permanent Phone: _____

Current Evening Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Best Time to Call: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please indicate size for both T-shirt and Sweatshirt: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL

T-shirt: _____ Sweatshirt: _____

TO APPLY: Send this completed application, along with your résumé and two written references, directly to the organization(s) to which you would like to apply from the list of Sponsoring Organizations. A current list of open positions is maintained on our website: www.vhcb.org/vcsp/sponsors.htm

If you want to apply to more than 10 organizations, circle those organizations on the list and send your application and the list to VCSP/VHCB, 149 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602.

On a separate sheet of paper, please type or neatly write answers to the following:

This information is intended to provide greater detail on your experiences or to cover experiences that may not be on your résumé.

1. Personal motivation statement – Why do you want to join the Vermont Community Stewardship Program? What do you hope to gain as an AmeriCorps member?
2. Experience – What type of volunteer experience do you have? How will this help you during your term of service?
3. Skills – What special skills would you like us to know about? Examples could include computer, arts/crafts, recruitment/outreach, business, public speaking, writing, editing, teaching, or working with children or the elderly.

Please include this form (completed on both sides) and the following:

1. Résumé that includes education, community service, and employment history.
2. Two written letters of recommendation with phone numbers and their relationship to you.

