

What Is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a national service program that is involved in nonprofits, schools, and other community organizations across the nation. Each year, over 80,000 AmeriCorps members serve in AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

Programs in the state of Vermont include: ECO AmeriCorps (Environmental Careers & Opportunities), Lyndon Economic Opportunity AmeriCorps Program (LEAP), SerVermont AmeriCorps Vista, Everybody Works – ReSource AmeriCorps, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) AmeriCorps, Vermont Youth Development Corps (VYDC), and Vermont Youth Tomorrow (VYT) AmeriCorps VISTA.

What is VHCB AmeriCorps?

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) AmeriCorps Program is a national service project that places AmeriCorps members with affordable housing, land conservation and environmental education organizations statewide.

What do VHCB AmeriCorps members do?

Housing Members

- Help homeless individuals and families find suitable housing, build life-skills, develop résumés, access job training programs and obtain services.
- Assist first-time homebuyers to learn about budgeting and prequalify for low-interest mortgage loans at Vermont Housing Trusts.
- Recruit volunteers, provide community outreach, make referrals, provide direct services, information and technical assistance.
- Repair, make accessible and weatherize homes

Conservation Members

- Provide environmental education and service opportunities for school-age youth.
- Educate groups about responsible hiking and camping practices.
- Recruit volunteers and raise awareness about conservation issues.
- Participate in natural area inventories, extract invasive plants and implement weed management plans.
- Perform trail maintenance, restoration and improvement.
- Co-develop, coordinate, and teach summer day camps and natural history programs.
- Create mailings, contact the media, produce newsletters, create and maintain database records and websites, organize special events.
- Educate residents and housing groups on energy conserving measures

More details about VHCB AmeriCorps and service positions can be found at <http://www.vhcb.org/amicorps/>

Who can serve in AmeriCorps?

While specific qualifications vary, there are positions available for individuals with a variety of educational and professional backgrounds. Members must be 17 and do not require a college degree.

What has your experience been like?

Please feel free to share your personal experiences serving as a VHCB AmeriCorps member! Perhaps you have a success story from your site or you want to speak about what motivated you to join AmeriCorps in the first place.

Benefits of Serving with VHCB AmeriCorps*:

In addition to having an opportunity to do meaningful, life-changing work and gain real-world experience, there are many tangible benefits, including:

- Living Allowance = \$20,400 for full-time service; \$10,800 for half-time service members
- AmeriCorps Education Award: \$6,195 full-time members/\$3,097.50 half-time members 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
- Flexibility for vacation, personal and holiday time.
- Travel Reimbursement: Non-commuting travel is paid for service related activities
- Training Opportunities, may include: Conflict Resolution, CPR/First Aid, Cultural Competency/Disability Awareness, Leadership skills, Volunteer Recruitment, Sprawl vs. Smart Growth, and other position specific training.

**Note: the above benefits are for VHCB AmeriCorps members. Member benefits vary by program*

How to Apply:

Visit <https://my.americorps.gov> and click "Search Listings" to find available AmeriCorps positions. To get started, applicants will need to create an AmeriCorps profile that will include your basic information, employment and volunteer history, and relevant skills. Your AmeriCorps profile will allow you to save positions that you are interested in and apply to multiple positions without having to reenter your information.

VHCB AmeriCorps Sponsor Sites:

- Audubon Vermont
- Burlington Housing Authority
- Champlain Housing Trust/ HOC
- Catamount Trails Association
- Cathedral Square
- Central VT Council on Aging
- Committee on Temporary Shelter
- COVER Home Repair
- Cross Vermont Trails
- Evernorthing
- Good Samaritan Haven
- Green Mountain Club
- Groundworks Collaborative
- John Graham Emergency Shelter
- Montpelier Senior Activity Center
- Montpelier Parks & Trees Department
- Rural Edge
- Stowe Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Twin Pines Housing Trust
- Upper Valley Haven
- VT Housing & Conservation Board
- VT Institute of Natural Science
- VT Natural Resources Council/ VECAN
- Vermont Land Trust
- Vermont River Conservancy
- Winooski Valley Park District
- North Branch Nature Center