

# AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2017 – 2018 Service Description



**AmeriCorps Position Title:** AmeriCorps Education and Volunteer Associate  
**Host Site:** Transylvania County Cooperative Extension  
**Service Term:** February 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018

**Supervisor Name:** Bart Renner  
**Supervisor Title:** Director of Transylvania County Cooperative Extension  
**Supervisor E-mail:** bmrenner@ncsu.edu

**Address:** 106 East Morgan Street Suite 109 Brevard, NC 28712  
**Phone:** (828) 884-3109  
**Fax:** (828) 884-3142  
**Website:** <https://transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu/>

**Host Site Mission Statement:** NC State Extension helps create prosperity for North Carolina through programs and partnerships focused on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development.

**Summary of Position:** The AmeriCorps service member will perform duties related to educational outreach and volunteer engagement centered around the natural resources contained in the boundaries of Transylvania County. This position will build the capacity of local organizations to conduct activities that inform and educate residents and visitors about stewardship and appropriate management of critical natural resources. Those resources include the headwaters and main stem of the French Broad River, the Little River, farmlands, parks and public recreation, and natural areas. The member will provide critical support to the organizations and agencies working in the natural resources field, including Transylvania Cooperative Extension, Conserving Carolina, Transylvania French Broad River Stewards, Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation, the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman. The Member's daily tasks will include conducting educational opportunities, promoting attendance of those events to the local communities, and preparing related media and marketing products. Other tasks will be to plan, market, prepare, and conduct volunteer opportunities that directly support the listed Transylvania organizations. The Member will also prepare and distribute media releases and conduct social media campaigns. The Member will assist in planning and marketing large special events. The Member will work to promote local food initiatives, river stewardship, parks development, and forest restoration.

## **Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

- Applicant should have some experience with managing a volunteer program, with emphasis on in-person networking and communications.
- Applicant should have a college degree or working towards a degree in the fields of, but not limited to, natural resources management, biological sciences, non-profit management, public administration.
- Applicant should have some working knowledge of the Southern Appalachian region, Southeastern Forests, and the French Broad watershed.

- Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, and consent to a criminal history check.

**Preferred Service Hours / Weekly Schedule:** Wednesday through Saturday

## **Position Responsibilities and Duties**

### **Conservation Education: 40%**

- Conduct natural resources management educational programs at weekly farmers market on topics of but not limited to Hemlock tree restoration, water quality, watershed protection, local food movements, and natural resources conservation.
- Conduct film series events at local library on current resources management issues
- Write supplemental columns in local newspaper Transylvania Times Outdoors page
- Conduct and promote Cooperative Extension educational programming
- Host booth at annual RiverFest event
- Present at County Commission Meetings, other public meeting on topics of French Broad River watershed protection, water quality, and other natural resources management issues.

### **Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 40%**

- Conduct French Broad River stewardship volunteer workdays to include litter clean up, live tree staking, erosion control, non-native plant removal
- Improve volunteer database to enhance volunteer engagement
- Recruit new volunteers to French Broad River Stewards for workdays, meeting attendance, and Board recruitment
- Build capacity for local organizations to reach more community members

### **At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: 20%**

- Stewardship support to the French Broad River Headwaters; a class A trout water, Eastern Hellbender habitat, Appalachian Elk Toe Mussel habitat through workdays, educational presentations, and advocacy to local government
- Build capacity for organizations to treat Eastern Hemlock trees for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

## **Additional Comments**

**PLEASE NOTE:** In addition to fulfilling host site service responsibilities, all Project Conserve members are required to fully participate in team trainings, service projects and statewide AmeriCorps events. Project Conserve team events will occur approximately twice per month in locations throughout the service area and may require up to three overnight stays.

## **Essential Functions**

- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives including social networking, written articles and press releases.
- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, low-income residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).

- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.
- Conducting field-based monitoring, assessment, and management of conservation properties, public lands, and/or water quality monitoring sites.
- Using mapping software and other computer programs to create quality reports, management plans, maps, and/or analysis, based on field data.

**Equipment/Software Used:** Microsoft Office Suite, email, Global Positioning Systems, Canoes and/or Kayaks

**Physical Demands:** Must be able to lift 50 lbs, pilot a canoe or kayak, complete volunteer workdays such as invasive plant removal, litter clean up, leading guided hikes.

**Transportation Needs:** Mileage for personal vehicle use will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate.

**Setting / Location of Service Activities:** Transylvania County, North Carolina is located in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains, south and west of Asheville. The county is surrounded by public lands: Pisgah National Forest, Gorges State Park, Toxaway Gamelands, Dupont State Forest, Headwaters State Forest, and Nantahala National Forest. Three forks of the headwaters of the French Broad River meet near the town of Rosman, flowing northeast. Service activities will take place along the river, on public lands and in the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman.