Community Engagement Coordinator (2023-2024)

Vermont River Conservancy, Montpelier, VT

Join a vibrant team of staff and volunteers partnering to protect special lands along Vermont’s waterways. In this role, you’ll have varied responsibilities ranging from digital communications and event planning, to on-site photography and stewardship efforts, all of which will allow for a mix of time in-office and in-the-field, at a computer and connecting with people.

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience at a land trust, getting to know multiple aspects of our conservation efforts, while honing education and outreach skills to engage people as volunteers and stewards, ultimately helping Vermonters understand why it’s important to protect riverlands in local communities and engaging them as volunteers and stewards of these special places. It’s a position that has plenty of room for creativity and experimentation, with access to the tools and support of an established nonprofit organization. We embrace a diversified team and foster an inclusive, collaborative culture.

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.

Essential Functions:

● Develop river-themed educational materials and interactive activities that can be used with a wide range of audiences, whether via school programs or farmer’s markets.
● Plan and implement virtual and in-person educational events ranging from speaking engagements, film showings, site visits, landowner trainings, activities at farmers markets or similar community events, and more.
● Partner with VRC conservation staff to help identify and engage volunteers, coordinate volunteer days, track volunteer hours and participation, and help recognize and thank volunteers.
● Participate in VRC volunteer days to steward river access sites across the state.
● Educate the public about the benefits of river protection including community safety and flood resilience, plant and wildlife, and recreation and community wellbeing.
● Use print newsletters, press releases, and digital communications to help people understand best practices for land management (riparian plantings, erosion control, wildlife habitat improvements, etc.) and showcase model conservation efforts.
● Help people recreate safely and responsibly at Vermont’s many swimming holes and paddlers’ trails by educating people about best practices for river recreation.
VHCB AmeriCorps

- Participate in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Desired Qualifications:

- Commitment to the mission of Vermont River Conservancy.
- Ability to represent VRC in a clear and professional manner through excellent written and verbal communication.
- Familiarity with digital communications platforms (social media, website, video, photography, InDesign, etc.)
- Deep intuition and perception to understand and respond to communities’ interests and needs in ways that foster strong relationships and create connection to VRC’s goals.
- Commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, particularly as it relates to conservation and access.
- Ability to operate independently and potentially remotely while still functioning as an integral member of a strong team.
- Ability to set priorities while managing a variety of tasks and deadlines, and strong attention to detail.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to travel, and flexibility to serve on weekends or evenings as needed.
- 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.
- 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 fantastic opportunity to join a small but mighty (and growing!) team of conservation professionals working together to achieve our mission: to permanently conserve and protect special lands along the waters of Vermont for the benefit of this and future generations. Back in 1995, central Vermont volunteers founded VRC when they saw that more and more “no trespassing signs” were cutting communities off from their beloved rivers. Addressing this challenge head-on, VRC protects public access to popular swimming holes, fishing and boating accesses, gorges, and waterfalls, ultimately improving the lives of people who rely on Vermont rivers for recreation, hunting, and angling. Today, with more than a quarter century of experience protecting Vermont rivers, VRC continues its
commitment to public access work while adding new conservation programs to protect floodplains and river corridors, and working with community leaders statewide to re-envision individual towns’ and cities’ relationship to local rivers.

**Position begins September 11th, 2023 and ends August 9th, 2024.**

This position is:

**Full Time:** Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 47 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of $26,000 (pre-tax), a monthly housing allowance of $300, and an education award of $6,895 (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-americorps/positions](https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-americorps/positions)

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Kassia Randzio, 802-229-0820,

kassia@vermontriverconservancy.org

29 Main Street, Unit 11, Montpelier, VT 05602

Application deadline: No later than **August 25, 2023.** Applications accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

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: ___________________________