

Swimming Hole Steward

Vermont River Conservancy, Montpelier, VT



Spend your summer at popular swimming holes in Central Vermont! Welcome visitors with a friendly and open attitude and simple survey questions; encourage safe and respectful behavior and leave-no-trace practices; improve site conditions with litter cleanup, parking patrol, and invasive species control; collect data to improve overall site management and water quality; engage volunteers and the public with media and outreach tools. Enjoy Central Vermont's most beautiful rivers spots where hundreds of people come to enjoy the cool waters, chill vibes, and sweet surroundings. Apply today!

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.

Vermont River Conservancy's mission is protecting special lands along the rivers and waters of Vermont. The Swimming Hole Steward will welcome visitors and help steward and manage the natural resources and outdoor recreation at the Bolton Potholes, Lower Huntington Gorge area, and occasional other regional swimming holes.

Essential Functions:

- Visit each assigned swimming hole on a regular basis, including weekends and early evenings
- Collect site data and survey visitors
- Refer visitors to existing safety signage to encourage safe swimming practices and educate swimmers about safety issues
- Educate users about the natural history, geology, and river ecology of swimming holes, helping to develop place-based relationships
- Promote a Leave-No-Trace culture of responsible stewardship at swimming holes
- Perform stewardship tasks such as sign and trail maintenance, parking patrol and litter control
- Participate in VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Secondary Functions:

- Recruit volunteers for cleanup events, natural history guided walks, and other events
- Coordinate a public information program about safety and appropriate use of swimming holes, using local publications, Front Porch Forum, swimming hole websites, and social media
- Report all data and surveys to VRC supervisor, synthesize and summarize data



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Desired Qualifications:

- Friendly, outgoing, able to approach and talk with strangers for several hours a day
- Able to serve outside for up to 8 hours a day
- Able to serve independently, problem solve on the fly, and contact supervisor immediately if or when questions arise.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to travel to and between several swimming holes in Central Vermont
- Ability to walk over rough and steep terrain and wade through slippery rivers
- Ability to pickup litter and carry up to 30 lbs.
- 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 a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program's ethic of service 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:

Service is to be performed primarily outdoors in the summer, including weekends and some early evenings required. Weekly service in the office to enter data and create report summaries.

Position begins May 25, 2020 and ends August 31, 2020.

This position is **Quarter Time**: Requires 450 hours of service for an average of 40 hours per week for 13 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$5,400 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$1,612.43 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.

This position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations (youth, persons over 60, individuals with disabilities).

To Apply: <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

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Application deadline: April 30th, 2020



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

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.



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