



Conservation Stewardship Technician

North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, VT

Spend your summer in the woods and meadows of a thriving nature preserve championing the ecological health of plants, wildlife, and people in Central Vermont. You'll gain important skills in natural resource management and plant restoration alongside North Branch Nature Center's expert naturalists and passionate volunteers. From conservation stewardship to invasive species removal to wildlife management, this position is all about caring for the land and its wild inhabitants.

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.

NBNC's mission is to connect people with the natural world. A primary way we demonstrate that mission is through an enriching visitor experience at our 28-acre preserve. The goal of the Conservation Stewardship Technician is to help achieve our property management and ecological resilience goals through hands-on stewardship, ecological restoration, and community engagement. The Conservation Technician will combine a love of nature with a passion for outdoor service to maintain and enhance the NBNC landscape as a demonstration site for best practices in land management and environmental stewardship.

Essential Functions:

- Pursue NBNC's ecological resilience goals via invasives management and native plant restoration.
- Lead volunteer and student groups in ecological restoration service projects.
- Coordinate the creative and effective use of NBNC's garden plot and conservation nursery.
- Help plan for and implement solutions for healthy coexistence with resident beaver populations.
- Maintain existing trails and visitor experience installations (kiosks, displays, benches, etc.)
- Maintain and care for NBNC's fruit orchard.
- Assist with hosting summer nature programming at NBNC.
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Option to participate in VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Secondary Functions:

- Assist with community science projects including nest box monitoring.
- Assist with a summer nature festival taking place at NBNC.
- Help maintain NBNC's river aquarium displays.



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Desired Qualifications:

- General knowledge of New England natural history including botany and tree ID.
- Experience with hand tools and power tools typically used in landscaping and gardening.
- Strong self-starter skills with the ability to envision and tackle long-term tasks.
- Ability to serve independently and as part of a team.
- Strong organizational skills and service ethic.
- College-level experience in natural resources, plant science, landscape design, or a related field.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Comfortable serving outside in all weather conditions.
- Able to travel to and from property.
- Able to safely lift/carry heavy objects (> 40 lbs).
- Ability to work occasional weekends.
- 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:

Service Environment and Conditions: Service is to be performed primarily outdoors in a variety of weather conditions. Service will require working in uneven and steep terrain.

Position begins April 22nd and ends August 30th 2024. *Some flexibility with the start date.*

This position is **Reduced Half Time**: Requires 690 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 22 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$10,324 (pre-tax), a monthly housing allowance of \$300, for a total living allowance of **\$11,824** for the 5 month term. Member will receive an education award of \$3,447.50 (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>



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For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Sean Beckett, Director of Natural History Programs, North Branch Nature Center
713 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 802-229-6206 ext. 102.

sean@northbranchnaturecenter.org

Application deadline: **March 8th, 2024**. Applications accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled.

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at 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: _____

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