

Conservation 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, all in the face of a changing climate. 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.
- 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 and conservation nursery.
- Assist with hosting summer nature programming at NBNC.
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participate in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Secondary Functions:

- Participate in Disaster Relief Services and projects
- 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 serve 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 a 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 is to be performed primarily outdoors in a variety of weather. Service will require working in uneven and steep terrain. This position begins mid-April and ends at the end of August. There is some flexibility with the start date. The service member's daily and weekly schedule is highly flexible will be largely tailored to meet the needs of the member and the priorities for the week. The expectation is for approximately 40 hours of weekly service, sometimes 9-5 Monday-Friday, and other times weekends or weeknights. Office tasks can often be conducted remotely in accordance with VHCB AmeriCorps teleservice policy.

Position begins April 14th and ends August 29th, 2025.

This position is **Reduced Half Time**: Requires 690 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for ~20 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of **\$11,914** (pre-tax). Member will receive an education award of **\$2,817.14** (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.



Serve. Experience. Lead

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Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.



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

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Sen Beckett

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North Branch Nature Center

713 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Application deadline: No later than **February 1 2025**. 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: _____

