



Program: 2023 Summer Youth Corps

Position: American Sign Language Crew Leader & Interpreter (AmeriCorps, ages 19 - 25)

Location: This is a residential program; food and lodging will be provided during the service term.

- Based in St Croix State Park, MN; travel throughout region to complete projects.

Service Term: 675-hour AmeriCorps position; 6/1 - 6/2 online training and 6/5 – 8/15 residential

Benefits:

- Living Allowance: \$2,076/month
- Lodging & Food & Transportation provided for duration of program
- Education Award: \$2,626.27, if eligible and upon successful completion of program
- Student loan forbearance (on qualifying student loans)
- Health insurance
- Childcare assistance
- Training, certifications, networking

About Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa: Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, a nonprofit organization and AmeriCorps grantee, engages hundreds of youth and young adults each year in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship. Our vision is a world in which everyone has equitable access to nature, is equipped to succeed in career and life, and is empowered to make a difference in conserving natural resources. Our projects and programs embody our core values of safety, service, respect, equity, and community. In working toward our vision, we believe it is important to acknowledge that natural resources organizations, including Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, have a legacy of supporting and benefiting from systems that have restricted access to public lands and careers for marginalized groups. To challenge this, we commit to using equity as a lens for the work we do and decisions we make, building a shared vision surrounding justice, equity, diversity, and Inclusion goals with our partnering organizations and communities and providing an equitable training environment and high-quality programming to all our participants.

Position Summary: Summer Youth Corps American Sign Language (ASL) Crew Leader & Interpreter will add value to the community, environment and youth participants through their dedicated service. The Crew Leader & Interpreter will motivate and supervise an ASL crew of Deaf, Hard-of-hearing, and hearing young people in a rigorous program focused on job skills training, environmental education, and conservation projects. The member will be responsible for behavior management and fostering positive crew morale by through consistent teamwork. The member must ensure that they and the crew adhere to program goals and mission. The member will work alongside youth to set the standard and pace of work. While serving alongside another AmeriCorps member, the Crew Leader & Interpreter will provide collaborative leadership for the crew, ensure safety procedures are followed, and communicate with project partners. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Invasive species management
- Trail construction & maintenance
- Stream bank stabilization, erosion control
- Rain garden construction
- Tree planting
- Basic carpentry
- Plant or animal surveying
- Emergency response

Projects are in partnership with public land management agencies such as the State Department of Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, cities, counties, and trail associations. Projects are physically challenging and team-oriented and occur across MN and neighboring states, including urban and wilderness settings. Crews travel for 5 weeks in a row while camping in tents near project sites, preparing their own meals, and completing work projects. Crews are led by AmeriCorps Crew Leaders and supervised by the Program Manager, Assistant Program Manager, and seasonal Field Coordinators.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Interpret youth training, project orientations, crew meetings, and education activities for ASL crews
- Interpret at program events with support of additional NIC interpreters
- Support Head Staff, fellow Deaf/Hard-of-hearing, CODA, and/or ASL Interpreter AmeriCorps members and youth with presentations about and promotion of respect for Deaf culture in this multi-lingual and multicultural program
- Complete conservation service projects in cooperation with fellow crew leader and crew members safely, effectively and efficiently and to the satisfaction and specifications of the project host
- Abide by Corps program safety regulations as well as applicable federal/state/municipal law and OSHA requirements; communicate any safety concerns and incidents
- Contribute actively to the team to complete projects, demonstrating a commitment to the Corps values of safety, service, respect, equity and community, as well as justice, diversity, and inclusion.
- Positive attitude, desire to learn new skills, and interest in community service
- Represent Conservation Corps in positive manner in public
- Serve a minimum of 675 hours and complete the entire service term per the start and end dates listed on the Member Service Agreement
- Complete and approve timecards and other required reports and paperwork in timely manner

Hours & Schedule

Schedules can vary, depending on crew location. Crew members should expect to be scheduled for at least 40 hours of service per week. A typical schedule is Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, including a mandatory 30 minute lunch break which does not count towards service hours and an additional hour of facilitating education activities for youth in the evening. Crews typically camp near their project sites for a week, then do crew chores including laundry, grocery shopping, phone calls home, and travel to a new project location on Sundays.

Training & Development

The Corps provides orientation and skills training at the start of the program year, and additional region or project specific training throughout the service term that may include:

- AmeriCorps benefits
- Team building and conflict resolution
- Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Youth Development
- Network with professional ASL interpreters
- Safety and risk management
- Hand tool safety and maintenance
- First Aid and CPR
- MN Safety Council defensive driving
- Introduced species management
- Plant identification
- Leave No Trace principles.

No more than 20% of total service hours will be spent on training and development activities.

Qualifications

- Completion of or ongoing study in a certified ASL interpreter associate or bachelor program; OR, possess fluent ASL
- Possess excellent ASL and knowledge of Deaf culture
- Ability and desire to work well with others in a team setting, outdoors, and in all weather conditions
- Ability to foster strong work habits, environmental ethics, youth leadership, and team unity with youth from diverse backgrounds who may be experiencing a job and/or camping for the first time
- Commitment to upholding Corps values of safety, service, respect, equity, and community
- Dedication to complete the full term of AmeriCorps service
- Ability to perform the Essential Service Functions, which include but are not limited to:
 - Long (7-8 hour) days of shoveling, digging, and swinging heavy tools repetitively
 - Heavy lifting, bending, and carrying up to 50 pounds
 - Walking and working on steep or uneven terrain
 - Working in extremes of heat or cold
 - Eating and camping outdoors in all weather conditions
- Given the residential nature of our program, crew leaders must be willing to work long hours, continuing to supervise youth after the project day has ended, with limited time off. Must be willing to live in tents and in a variety of locations throughout the summer.
- Must be a US Citizen, US National, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the US
- Must pass a criminal history check consisting of a National Sex Offender Public Website check, a state criminal history check, and a fingerprint-based FBI check. Passing the criminal history check is defined as no positive hits on the NSOPW and no history of violent offenses on the state or FBI checks.
- High school degree, GED, or willingness to work towards obtaining a GED
- Valid driver's license and safe driving record (no major moving violations or DUI's in the past five years).
- *In addition to an interview, interpreters will need to submit a video of their interpreting skills for ASL to English and English to ASL. Videos will be evaluated by the Program Manager and nationally certified ASL interpreter to determine if applicant possesses adequate interpreting skills for this position.

Other Information

Women, BIPOC, LGBTQ people, Deaf/Hard-of-hearing, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa requires all employees and AmeriCorps members to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 OR provide a weekly COVID-19 test.

I _____ have read and fully understand the above position description that reflects the service activities that I will perform during the AmeriCorps term.

AmeriCorps member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Approval Signature: _____ **Date:** _____