

Position Description

900 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Montana State Parks Weed Mapping and Education Coordinator

Helena, Montana
Fish, Wildlife and Parks Headquarters



Term of service: April 8, 2019 – September 13, 2019

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 915 hours over a 23 week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 40 hours of “Time Not Scheduled to Serve” to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Weed Mapping and Education Coordinator (WMEC) is a new position to help our park system gain a better understanding of the extent of noxious terrestrial weeds located on Montana State Park property. This position is unique in our program as the individual serving as the WMEC will travel across the state of Montana visiting numerous state parks rather than being stationed at an individual park. This position will learn to identify noxious weeds present in the various ecosystems in park system and then complete a weed inventory in the parks. This position will also perform revisits to inventoried sites to collect data that will contribute to an evaluation of the effectiveness of weed treatments.

The WMEC will also be instrumental in understanding what noxious weed education is present across our park system with an intent of then providing an array of interpretive options for parks to utilize. This will unify our park’s messaging about preventing the spread of noxious weeds. This position will also be available to assist other AmeriCorps members and State Park staff in conducting weed mitigation projects such as volunteer weed pulls, spraying, biological control releases, etc.

This position will serve out of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Headquarters in Helena, Montana. The Montana State Parks Team leader lives and works in Helena, the capitol of Montana. Helena is home to a rich cultural heritage, and a vibrant recreational community. The Mount Helena City Park contains 70+ miles of single track trails which received the Silver Level designation from the International Mountain Bike Association in 2015, and was ranked in the top 20 “Mountain Bike Towns in America” by the National Geographic Magazine. The access to these public lands is literally out the back door, as the trail heads are scattered across town. Helena also serves as the gateway to the upper Missouri River, a blue-ribbon fishery. Hiking, camping and backpacking opportunities are also abundant around Helena. There is quick access to one of a kind in the nation, Elkhorn Wildlife Management, the Continental Divide Scenic Trail and millions of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Helena also marks



the half way point between Glacier and Yellowstone National parks, each approximately 3 hours away.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below in order to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Improve park land
 - Complete a comprehensive park wide weed inventory in at least 5 state parks.
 - Be available to support other members across the state in weed control projects.
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
 - Complete a noxious weed interpretation inventory in the State Parks and produce an educational document for staff to chose weed education materials best suited to their parks.
- Increase volunteer capacity
 - Lead a local weed control events in Helena Area parks (Spring Meadow State Park and/or Black Sandy State Park).
 - Be available to support other members across the state in weed control projects.
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
 - As time is available, this position may table at local farmer's markets, complete outreach to local groups (i.e. extension offices, 4H, Future Farmers of America, schools, etc.) in regard to weed management.

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines

- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$5,175 over a 23 week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$3,047.50 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

To Apply:

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all of our 900 hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by March 1, 2019.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to

perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.