



CAC AmeriCorps

Position Description

Urban Agriculture Steward



- Dates of Service:** August 5th, 2019 – June 26th, 2020
- Partner:** Beardsley Community Farm
- Location of Service:** Beardsley Community Farm
1741 Reynolds Street, Knoxville, TN 37921
- Supervisor:** Farm Manager and Urban Agriculture Director

About CAC AmeriCorps:

Established in 1994, CAC AmeriCorps is a national service program that combines elements of traditional conservation practice with community action that informs our work and places it in the broader context of the region. CAC AmeriCorps members serve to improve public lands, streams and greenways, educate the public, meet immediate human needs, eliminate barriers to employment, contribute to healthier lifestyles, and build volunteer capacity to enhance the ability of our partners to get things done. We are committed to human and environmental justice in our communities through enduring acts of service.

Position Summary:

The CAC AmeriCorps member serving with Beardsley Community Farm will be involved with maintaining and expanding existing programming of Beardsley Farm, including the Green Thumb program. Green Thumb maintains more than 20 community gardens for 150 gardeners across Knox County who do not have access to land. These gardens are located in a variety of places, from city parks to public housing communities. Green Thumb also distributes free seeds and plants to 1,000 households in Knox County each spring. During their term of service, the AmeriCorps member will be tasked with maintaining vegetable crops and fruit production at Beardsley Farm (planting, weeding, harvesting, irrigation, crop-rotation, maintaining soil health, disease/pest management), helping maintain 20 Green Thumb community gardens in Knox County (tilling, cover crops, mowing, and weed eating), constructing raised beds, picnic tables, and benches for Green Thumb gardens, tending to a flock of hens, harvesting honey and maintaining the health of a bee-hive, helping foster a safe and enjoyable place for community members at the farm, maintaining an attractive landscape at the farm, and other duties as needed.

This opportunity will provide the member with hands on experience and knowledge of urban agriculture and how it relates to addressing food insecurity in low-income and urban areas. The member will also gain experience in managing volunteers and working with community partners.

Minimum Qualifications:

Education

- High School Diploma

Position Requirements:

- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Ability to lead groups of volunteers with projects such as weeding, planting, invasive removal, and building.
- Must enjoy and be capable of working outdoors in all weather conditions (sun, rain, heat, cold, etc.)
- Capable of working with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Solid organization and leadership skills.
- Commitment to honesty, excellence, and professionalism.
- Ability to motivate others to change habits and behaviors.
- Must provide own transportation.
- Ability to multi-task in fast-paced environment with many weekly scheduled events such as community work-days, field trips, fundraisers for farm, workshops, etc.
- Enthusiasm for learning and engaging with new communities.
- Ability to adapt in an ever-changing work environment.
- Strong interest in environmental education.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds, team lift 100 pounds.
- Kneeling, pushing a loaded wheelbarrow up hill.
- Ability to use lawn mower, tiller, weed-eater, drill, circular saw, skill saw, tractor, mattock, pitchfork, shovel, trimmer, lopper, hoe, hose.

Member Benefits Include:

- A modest living allowance of \$14,000, or, \$595.74 bi-weekly (pre-tax), paid over 47 weeks.
- Education Award of \$6,095 that can be applied to student loans and/or future education expenses.
- Health insurance is available for members who are not already covered independently or by a parent.
- Worker's Compensation
- Child Care Reimbursement
- May be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In-house SNAP benefits specialist available to provide assistance in determining eligibility.
- May be eligible for utility bill assistance. In house specialists available to provide assistance with determining eligibility.
- Staff assistance with identifying housing. Housing, inclusive of utilities, is generally between \$300-\$450 in a share house/apartment scenario.
- Professional development and networking opportunities.

Equity and Inclusion:

The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will take action to ensure that employees are treated equally without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, cultural or religious convictions. CAC AmeriCorps provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

