



CAC AmeriCorps

Position Description

Biodiversity Education Coordinator



Dates of Service: August 5th, 2019 – June 26th, 2020

Partner: Discover Life in America

Location of Service: Discover Life in America office
1316 Cherokee Orchard Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Supervisor: Todd Witcher, Executive Director Discover Life in America

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 Discover Life in America (DLiA) will coordinate educational activities related to three main programs, all oriented toward citizen science: (1) iScience (a middle school schoolyard biological survey program with the Tennessee Valley Authority), (2) Science at Sugarlands (a biodiversity-themed public speaker series in Great Smoky Mountains National Park), and (3) Species SnapIt & MapIt (a program to engage citizen scientists to help map the species of the Smokies). The member's responsibilities will include recruiting middle schools to participate in iScience and coordinating with and presenting (in person and via video presentations) to teachers and school groups; coordinating speakers for Science at Sugarlands; training teachers, students, and citizen scientists to use a smartphone app called iNaturalist; and creating promotional materials for these three programs.

Upon completion of their tenure with DLiA, the member should: understand and be able to implement the three programs described above; be equipped to engage a diverse audience in the value of biodiversity; be proficient in using iNaturalist (app) as a tool for identifying species and cataloging biodiversity; and be familiar with many of the plants, animals, and other lifeforms that inhabit the Smokies and surrounding area. In addition, this position will afford the member the opportunity to work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, to collaborate with and work alongside National Park Service staff, and to learn the inner workings of a small nonprofit (including the opportunity to attend board meetings and other administrative activities).

Minimum Qualifications:

Education:

- Bachelor's Degree in Education, Biology, Environmental Science or Related Field

Position Requirements:

- Effective written and oral communication skills, including public speaking
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Experience working in an environmental and/or outdoor education
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office, especially PowerPoint
- Physical ability to hike 5-8 miles while carrying a 30-pound backpack

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience engaging audiences through social media
- Basic video recording and editing experience

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.

