

United Communities AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: Science Outreach Specialist

Project Host Site: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve www.southsloughestuary.org

UCAN Mission: This position is in partnership with the United Community Action Network (UCAN). UCAN's mission is: Creating solutions to Poverty, Improving Lives in Our Community. www.ucan.org

Project Location: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Charleston, OR

Position Summary: The Science Outreach Specialist member will focus on two goals for this position 1) increasing the place-based relationship between schools and neighborhood green spaces through Estuary Explorers (~75%), and 2) assisting with development and delivery of interpretive programming and camps(~25%). The member will further develop the Estuary Explorers program to add a watershed stewardship component and serve an after-school audience of k-8 students through structured, hands-on science education activities in partnership with the Coos Watershed Association. The secondary goal is the development and delivery of interpretive programming for public audiences and assistance with science camps. The project will be supported through training and interaction with South Slough education staff in design and delivery of activities highlighting reserve research and stewardship activities. The Science Outreach Specialist will assist South Slough NERR in advancing educational objectives by seeking opportunities to strengthen place-based education at schools through the Estuary Explorers – Watershed Stewardship program.

Essential Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

- Deliver hands-on education programs in estuary science, stewardship, and natural history.
- Develop and prepare activities and materials for South Slough Estuary Explorer and summer science programs.
- Assist in program administration and evaluation.
- Complete and submit all necessary UCAN/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Attend and complete all UCAN/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, training's, team meetings and national service days.
- Wear AmeriCorps apparel and/or appropriate identifiers while performing service or attending official events.

Marginal Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

- Assist in visitor services at South Slough Interpretive Center when necessary.
- Assist in preparation for programs and post-field activities.

Position Requirements:

- Ability to walk up to 4 miles over unpaved, uneven surfaces including mudflats with minimal or no assistance.
- Ability to carry up to 40 pounds and lift 50 pounds safely.
- Ability to work on small boats and take directions for safety and proper task completion
- Comfort with talking with staff and visitors and ability to learn to talk to various size groups, in professional, friendly manner.
- Member will need to provide personal rubber knee boots, rain jacket and pants, work gloves (if sizes not available at reserve), personal clothing and other belongings, and personal funds or debit/credit card for personal items needed, and cell phone or calling card for personal calls outside of the local area
- Ability to learn, retain, and apply lessons learned during fall for application in winter and spring.
- 17 years of age or older, at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
- Must successfully pass a fingerprint criminal history background check provided through UCAN and/or Project Host Site.
- Regular and reliable attendance.

- Have not previously served four terms in an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members may serve up to three terms in another National Service Program, but only four terms may be within an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members are only eligible for the equivalent of two full-time education awards in their lifetime. Applicants must disclose if they have ever been removed for cause from any national service program.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Pacific Northwest natural history background or ability to apply oneself and learn quickly.
- Experience in delivering environmental education or other public programs.
- Energetic, self-motivated, self-starting, and willing to learn and work individually and with a team.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Experience in use of GPS and compass, maps, digital camera.
- Experience with or willingness to learn use of spreadsheets and other software.

Service Conditions:

- Office, interpretative center, paved and unpaved trails, field sites in forested, upland watershed, and bay habitats including boat channels, mudflats, and marshes.

Physical/Intellectual Demands

- Ability to walk on uneven terrain for up to four miles carrying up to 40 pounds.
- Ability to work in, on, or near open water.
- Ability to walk and work in muddy, wet conditions
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Interest in and willingness to learn more about science or education, and to develop and deliver spoken presentations and a PowerPoint or report.

Equipment Used:

- Technology, tools, or machines that may be used include: computers and software, hand tools, map, compass or GPS, laboratory or field equipment such as meters, measuring tapes, sampling quadrats, nets, lines, and digital cameras.

Transportation Information:

- Organizational vehicle is available for service activities. Member is covered by organization's vehicle insurance policy.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation.
- Personal vehicle is recommended to get to service site.

Member Benefits Include:

- A taxable, monthly living allowance (before taxes, approximately \$1139).
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of \$5,730. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans or for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used. Members that are 55 and older may transfer the award to one child or grandchild.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
- Child care allowance for those who qualify.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities
- Housing, bath, and kitchen facilities.
- Exposure to and training in diverse hands-on science, resource management, and education topics and practices.
- Opportunities for personal development, career exploration or experience, self-evaluation and growth.

Application Deadline: August 1st, 2015

Interviews: Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis as qualified candidates are identified, and selection may be made prior to the application deadline. Early application is strongly encouraged.

Type of position: Full time

Service Dates: August 26, 2015 – July 31, 2016

Length of Term: 1700 hours

How to apply:

Step 1 - Complete Your Application Online:

1. Apply through www.AmeriCorps.gov by clicking on “Advanced Opportunity Search” then search by Program Name: “UCA”

Step 2 - Email your résumé and cover letter to the Project Host Site for this position – Joy Tally at joy.tally@state.or.us. Please include the names & contact information for three references.

Step 3 - The Project Host Site will conduct all initial interviews and recommend a candidate for this position.

Step 4 - UCA will interview top applicants recommended by the Project Host Site and approve final selection.

Questions about the position? Contact: Joy Tally at joy.tally@state.or.us or 541-888-5558 Ext. 27

Questions about the AmeriCorps program? Contact Sarah McGregor at United Communities AmeriCorps, Sarah.McGregor@ucancap.org or at 541-492-3518.

Qualified individuals with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. We provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals and conduct all activities in fully accessible settings.