Position Announcement: AmeriCorps VISTA

Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC) a nonprofit watershed group in Corvallis, Oregon, is seeking an energetic and self-motivated individual that can help expand their environmental education and restoration programs. The AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) will have the opportunity to serve while gaining a breadth of experience assisting with 1) project planning, 2) grant writing, 3) environmental education, 4) community engagement, 5) watershed restoration and enhancement, 6) event organization, and 7) nonprofit administration.

Reports to MRWC Executive Director, with accountability to MRWC Education and Restoration Project Manager

Status: Full-time (40 hours a week) for 12 months of service through AmeriCorps, a federal service program similar to Peace Corps but for domestic service. More information on the AmeriCorps VISTA program, including information on benefits and stipends, can be found here.

Recruitment Timeline:
Position Posted – May 8, 2020
Open until filled – Review of applications to begin on May 22, 2020
Interviews to begin – late May
Decision date – early to mid-June
Target start date – July 20, 2020

Location: This position is based out of the Marys River Watershed Council office in Corvallis. In response to COVID-19, all in-person business operations will be conducted following social distancing outlined in Governor Brown’s Stay Home Save Lives order. Telework options available on a case-by-case basis.

Position Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist in environmental education and restoration efforts alongside MRWC staff.
- Develop digital resources for social-distanced educational programming and assist MRWC and partners with programs, either in-person or distanced depending on COVID-19 impacts on 2020-2021 school year.
- Help create outreach materials, including e-newsletters, web and social media content, & print materials
- Maintain existing and build new partnerships and programs with schools, area youth-groups, and other local organizations.
- Perform grant research and grant writing.
- Help organize fundraising events and expand community outreach efforts.
- Assist with monitoring program.
- Aid in volunteer coordination, administrative support, and other support as needed.
- Attend trainings, workshops, conferences, as requested by ED and ERPM.
- Attend regular staff meetings, occasional MRWC Board meetings, and other partner meetings as requested by the ED and ERPM.
- Other duties, as assigned by the ED and ERPM.
- Attend occasional evening and weekend activities in various locations around or nearby the watershed. Some evening and weekend work may be required.
Qualifications and Characteristics

● Self-motivated individual who is apt at multitasking and is able to work under pressure
● Must have a commitment to working with the community to improve the quality of our rivers and lands
● Must have an interest in K-12 education
● Strong proficiency with Microsoft Office required, particularly Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
● Strong proficiency with Google Suite applications
● Strong leadership ability and a commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity required
● Strong written and verbal communication skills, including experience in public speaking
● Must be able to pass a background check
● Valid Oregon driver’s license (or ability to obtain), reliable personal transportation with proof of car insurance. Work-related mileage will be reimbursed at the current State of Oregon rate.

Preferred

● An Associate’s degree or higher in a related field preferred
● Prior work experience in environmental restoration and/or K-12 education preferred
● Proficiency in social media platforms preferred, including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter
● Fluency in Spanish is a major plus
● Proficiency in ArcGIS and/or other GIS platforms a major plus, but not required
● Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop a major plus, but not required
● Knowledge of ecological principles and experience monitoring water quality, fish, and macroinvertebrates
● Grant writing, event coordination, and fundraising experience
● Document design and web design experience

Physical Condition Requirement: Duties combine both indoor and outdoor tasks. Some physical exertion is required for this position, including the ability to move 40+ pounds and use/operate MRWC tools and equipment. Outdoor work can occur in variable weather conditions, often on uneven ground or in stream channels. Work will be conducted on private and public lands.

To Apply:

1. Submit application on AmeriCorps website here.
2. References, a resume, and a short writing sample will be requested of final candidates.

All emails related to the position must have the email subject: AmeriCorps VISTA.

For more information on the position, contact Holly Purpura, MRWC Executive Director, at 541-758-7597 or at Recruit@mrwc.org

About Marys River Watershed Council: Marys River Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 watershed organization that works to inspire and support voluntary stewardship of the Marys River watershed. Formed in 1997, the Council partners with landowners to enhance and steward our streams, forests, and prairies, and we also partner with our local schools to provide outdoor education opportunities for children to learn more about Oregon’s wonderful natural resource legacy. We have a small staff of two employees and one AmeriCorps VISTA, and we engage with an active group of volunteers, partners, and landowners to complete our mission and strategic goals.
Marys River Watershed Council is committed to equity as a core organizational value. MRWC is an equal opportunity employer and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, income status, marital status, or familial or parental status in employment in any program or activity. The MRWC believes that diverse perspectives strengthen an organization and encourages people with diverse backgrounds and life experiences to apply. For more information, visit www.mrwc.org.