



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**
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Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



**AmeriCorps
Ohio**

1404 Goodale Blvd, Ste 100, Columbus, OH 43212

2024-25 Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps Program

Conservation Implementation AmeriCorps Member

About Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is a government agency dedicated to protecting soil and water resources in Central Ohio. Our mission is to promote responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information and assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance, and education.

AmeriCorps Program & Position Overview

The Conservation Implementation AmeriCorps Member position is affiliated with the Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps program, which is a national service program supported by the U.S. federal government agency AmeriCorps. Franklin Soil and Water serves as one of 7 different AmeriCorps member host sites for this program, and it also serves as the dedicated office for administering the program as a whole.

This position will have you be part of a 12-member cohort for the 2024-25 cycle of the Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps program. **It will be a one-year (Sep. 9, 2024 – Aug. 31, 2025), Full Time commitment with a minimum of 1,700 hours of service.** The position will work under the direct supervision of the Franklin Soil and Water Assistant Director and supplemental supervision of the Conservation Implementation Specialist, Watershed Resource Specialist, and AmeriCorps Program Coordinator.

In order to meet the 1,700-hour requirement, expect to work ~35 hours/week during the service term, with the exclusion of Franklin County Holidays. Hours may fluctuate in consideration of seasonal changes. Availability on some evenings and weekends (with advance notice to member) is desired.

Key Duties

Programs You Will Support

- **Master Rain Gardener:** Receive training on rain garden installation and maintenance to assist with rain garden inquiries and project implementation. Assist program lead with providing technical assistance and monitoring for Master Rain Gardener projects, including conducting periodic site visits/assessments. Assist with program administration, promotion, and development.
- **Community Backyards:** Assist program lead with providing technical assistance and monitoring for Community Backyards business rebate projects (e.g., pollinator gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, etc.) and rain garden rebate projects, including periodic site visits/assessments. Assist program lead with program administration, promotion, and development.

- **Volunteer Program:** Facilitate communications between the District and volunteers, such as announcements and newsletters. Develop strategies for engaging current volunteers and attracting new volunteers. Respond to volunteer inquiries, organize volunteer events, and provide day-of volunteer event support and leadership.
- **Conservation Team activities:** Assist program leads with providing technical assistance and conducting site visits/assessments for projects affiliated with the following District programs: Conservation Mini-Grant, Columbus Tree Assistance Program, Franklin County Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant.
- **Outreach & Education Team activities:** Develop and distribute educational and outreach materials, such as brochures and flyers, for public and community partner events. Create public newsletters and social media content to communicate the importance of conservation, land stewardship, and sustainability. Develop and facilitate environmental education programs, including school programs, workshops, presentations, and field trips/tours. Represent the District by attending public and community partner events.

Additional Activities to Be Performed

- Participate in on-the-ground conservation projects with program cohort. Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Invasive species removal; (2) planting native trees, shrubs, and forbs; (3) stream, wetland, and habitat restoration; (4) litter cleanups; and (5) growing trees at local nurseries.
- Provide general office customer assistance on natural resource inquiries/concerns. Conduct landowner site visits and communicate assessment findings. Connect residents and community partners with conservation implementation resources.
- Participate in watershed coordination by engaging newly formed watershed groups with existing District, community, and conservation implementation resources.
- Participate in trainings, conferences, and team-building activities with program cohort.
- Support other program host sites by participating in group work days with program cohort (activities to be preapproved by the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator).
- Complete member timesheets, program reports, and other administrative items as scheduled.

Minimum Eligibility

- U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien.
- At least 17 years of age by start date of employment (i.e., Sep. 9, 2024).
- High school diploma or GED equivalent certificate.
- Ability to pass criminal background checks (having a background does not automatically exclude you from the position) and driving record check.
- Have a valid U.S. driver's license.

Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of Microsoft Office and Google Suite software packages.
- Able to work outdoors in adverse weather conditions (heat, cold, insects, poison ivy, etc.).
- Able to lift 30 pounds.
- Able to traverse up to 0.5 mile over uneven and brushy terrain, potentially carrying program equipment, tools, and supplies with or without accommodation.
- Able to secure transportation to and from work and events.
- Able to work both independently and in a team setting. Comfort in leading projects and resident site visits.
- Excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Able to take direction and respond positively to feedback.

Benefits

- Living stipend up to \$22,984 (distributed biweekly as \$884 throughout the service term)
- Segal Education Award up to \$7,395 (contingent on completion of service)
- Federal student loan forbearance while serving
- Mileage reimbursement
- Access to member healthcare (health, dental, and vision insurance)
- Access to childcare assistance (based on household income)
- Training on the following topics: First Aid & CPR, chainsaw safety, herbicide & pesticide application, rain garden installation & maintenance. Additional trainings available based on member's interests.

How to Apply

Please complete an online application via the following link:

<https://arcg.is/1bPOK4>

Contact the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Abby Thiel (athiel@franklinswcd.org), with any questions. Selection of candidates will begin on July 22 and remain open until all positions are filled.