



2025-26 Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps Program Conservation Implementation AmeriCorps Member

About MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) is a non-profit institution that provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world. The Land Stewardship Team (LS) engages in eco-restoration projects and maintenance across MTSO's eighty acres of field and forest while providing environmental education and training for students, interns, and volunteers.

Further information can be found on MTSO's website: <https://www.mtso.edu/>

AmeriCorps Program and 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. AmeriCorps is the federal government agency for national service and volunteerism in the U.S. MTSO serves as one of 9 different AmeriCorps member host sites for this program.

This position will have you be part of the 2025-26 cycle of the Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps program. **This is a Quarter Time term of AmeriCorps national service (May 2026-Aug 2026), full-time commitment with a minimum of 450 hours of service (over the course of 14 weeks). The QT member will have the option of choosing between serving May 4-Aug 9 or May 18-Aug 23.** The position will serve under the direct supervision of the MTSO Land Steward (Tim Bachelor).

In order to meet the 450-hour requirement, expect to serve ~35 hours/week during the 14-week service term, with the exclusion of federal holidays. Hours may fluctuate in consideration of seasonal changes, projects, and events. Availability on some evenings and weekends (with advance notice to member) is desired.

Key Duties

- **Invasive Species Management: (MAIN PROJECT) Assist Land Steward with design and implementation of invasive management program, a system for continuous monitoring and removal in previously cleared areas.** This framework will provide a strategy for long-term maintenance within the constraints of weather, season, and other factors.
- **Pollinator Habitat Management: (SUPPLEMENTAL)** Assist with maintenance and development of existing pollinator beds and prairie restoration areas. Provide support for Land Steward with seed-gathering, processing, sowing, planting and maintenance of native species. Assist with existing apiary and develop habitat for native pollinator species.
- **Eco-restoration Initiatives: (SUPPLEMENTAL)** Receive relevant training to assist Land Steward in planning and execution of all key stream, forest, prairie, and wetland eco-restoration goals. Assist with development of current and new restoration projects. Track and document bioindicators (wildlife) in forest, field, and stream.
- **Equipment Operation: (SUPPLEMENTAL)** Receive training on safety, operation, and maintenance of power equipment to support Land Steward with key infrastructural duties. Assist with eco-centered farm, land, trail maintenance tasks and minor construction projects. Help respond to effects and damage from extreme weather events.
- **Administrative Tasks:** Complete mandatory online trainings and submit timesheets in a timely manner. Provide support in creation and distribution of key documents which may include educational brochures, powerpoints, newsletter articles, spreadsheets, grant proposals, and other materials.

Additional Duties

- Join and assist with field trips, trainings, education, outreach, and volunteer events.
- 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.
- Participate in trainings, conferences, and team-building activities with program cohort.
- Support other program host sites by participating in group workdays with program cohort (activities to be preapproved by the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator).
- Complete member timesheets, reports, and other items as scheduled.
- Participate in ServeOhio sponsored programs and activities.

Minimum Eligibility

- U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien.
- At least 17 years of age by start date of service (i.e., May 2026).
- 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 40 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. Comfortable in leading projects and communicating with others.
- Excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills (both written and verbal).
- Able to take direction and respond positively to feedback.

Benefits

- Living stipend of \$915 (before taxes) distributed biweekly throughout the service term, to total up to \$6,405 (before taxes). The living stipend is considered taxable income by the IRS, but it is NOT counted as income for eligibility for government assistance programs, such as SNAP.
- Segal Education Award up to \$1,956.35 (contingent on completion of service) that can be used toward qualifying student loans and/or future educational expenses.
- A guarantee that at least 10% of service hours (45 hours) are dedicated to professional development activities.
- Access to federal student loan forbearance while actively serving, including partial forgiveness of interest accrued during service (contingent upon completion of service).
- Full Time AmeriCorps service is considered qualified employment for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
- Ability to work alongside environmental professionals and build a career in the environmental field.
- On-site housing in a graduate school apartment. This benefit is unique to this position.

- Access to member healthcare (health, dental, and vision insurance).
- Access to childcare assistance (based on household income).

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. To apply, please email a resume and cover letter to the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Abby Thiel (athiel@franklinswcd.org) and MTSO Land Steward, Tim Bachelor (tbachelor@mtso.edu).

Useful Links

AmeriCorps: <https://americorps.gov/>

ServeOhio: <https://serve.ohio.gov/home>

MTSO: <https://www.mtso.edu/>

Disclaimer: This position constitutes a *national service* opportunity and NOT employment.