



CAC AmeriCorps

Position Description

AmeriCorps Member



Dates of Service: August 2nd, 2021 – June 24th, 2022

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 proud AmeriCorps subgrantee that combines elements of traditional conservation practice with community action that informs our service and places it in the broader context of East Tennessee. Our AmeriCorps members improve public lands, educate the public, address pressing human needs, and build volunteer capacity to enhance the ability of our partners to get things done. We are committed to human and environmental justice in the region we call home through enduring acts of service.

Position Summary:

The CAC AmeriCorps member serving with Discover Life in America (DLiA) will help coordinate biodiversity programming in three key areas. (1) They will coordinate iScience, DLiA's schoolyard biodiversity program for regional middle schools, carried out in coordination with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Program responsibilities include recruiting schools for the program, coordinating iScience activities with schools, presenting to school groups, and creating biodiversity-related classroom curriculum and videos. (2) The member will also coordinate volunteers as part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They will recruit, train, and manage volunteers to process and identify biological specimens (insects, etc.) that have been collected as part of the ATBI. (3) Finally, the member will educate the public about the importance of biodiversity through creative and informative content shared through DLiA's social media channels.

Upon completion of their tenure with DLiA, the member should: understand and be able to implement the programs described above; be equipped to engage a diverse audience about the value of biodiversity; be proficient in using the citizen science platform iNaturalist 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 education and science staff, and to learn the inner workings of a small nonprofit.

Minimum Qualifications:

Education

Minimum CAC AmeriCorps Qualifications:

- All CAC AmeriCorps positions require, at minimum, that our members be at least 18 years old at the start of service, and have completed high school or received a GED.

Site Preferences:

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

Position Expectations & Requirements

Minimum CAC AmeriCorps Expectations

- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require attendance of an orientation at the start of service, monthly corps meetings, service days, and other all-corps activities.
- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require that you serve a full-time schedule.
- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require that members wear AmeriCorps branded uniform gear and safety equipment during service.
- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require that members be able to get to and from their service site reliably, and in a timely manner.
- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require that members be able to serve effectively both independently and within the context of a team.
- CAC AmeriCorps environmental positions require that all members be able to be able to take direction and perform their service with relative independence with site supervision provided on a weekly basis in either a one-on-one or group setting and intermittent contact from the CAC AmeriCorps office.

Site Preferences:

- Effective written and oral communication skills, including public speaking
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Experience working in environmental and/or outdoor education
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Physical ability to hike 5-8 miles while carrying a 30-pound backpack
- Experience engaging audiences through social media
- A strong interest in nature, biodiversity and conservation

Desired Qualifications:

- Basic video recording and editing experience
- Experience carrying out biology-related field and/or lab work

Member Benefits Include:

- A modest living allowance of \$14,000, or, \$595.74 bi-weekly (pre-tax), paid over 47 weeks.
- Education Award of \$6,345 that can be applied to student loans and/or future education expenses.
- A Health insurance subsidy is available for members covered through healthcare.gov
- 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 \$400-\$500 in a shared housing scenario, which is what is highly recommended.
- Professional development and networking opportunities.
- Optional opportunity to enroll concurrently in Carson Newman MBA in Nonprofit Leadership

Equity and Inclusion: The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will take action to ensure that members and employees are treated equally without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, gender, romantic/sexual orientation, 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 recruitment / employment process.

