



CAC AmeriCorps

Position Description

AmeriCorps Member



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

Partner: UT FUTURE Postsecondary Education Program

Location of Service: 430 Claxton Complex, 1122 Volunteer Boulevard, Knoxville, TN 37996-3452

Supervisor: Dr. Emma Burgin, Program Coordinator

About CAC AmeriCorps:

Established in 1994, CAC AmeriCorps is a national service program that combines elements of traditional conservation practice with community action that informs our work and places it in the broader context of the region. CAC AmeriCorps members serve to improve public lands, streams and greenways, educate the public, meet immediate human needs, eliminate barriers to employment, contribute to healthier lifestyles, and build volunteer capacity to enhance the ability of our partners to get things done. We are committed to human and environmental justice in our communities through enduring acts of service.

About UT FUTURE: <https://futureut.utk.edu/>

Housed in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, FUTURE is a comprehensive program that helps young adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) make a successful transition from high school to adult life. Students in the program attend specially designed FUTURE classes, audit undergraduate courses, and complete an internship on or off campus. Career and clinical counseling is available to help develop academic, vocational, social, and decision-making skills, and students receive a vocational certificate upon successful completion of the program. The program is a leader in the movement to start and grow inclusive postsecondary academic programs in colleges and universities across the United States, providing growth in not only vocational skills, but academic, social, emotional/behavioral, and independent-living skills as well.

Position Summary:

The CAC AmeriCorps member serving as the Independent Living Coordinator with the UT FUTURE Program will be involved in the expansion of the Program's residential pilot program at the University of Tennessee. Throughout the year, the member will engage in a variety of activities to increase the skills, knowledge, and confidence of our FUTURE students to live with greater autonomy and independence. Topics will include acquiring food, healthy cooking, domestic chores, transportation, environmental appreciation and conservation, social awareness, and community engagement.

The member will lead planning of Friday afternoon activities, which are a mainstay of the FUTURE Program. This time works toward social inclusion and allowing FUTURE students to contribute to their surrounding community. A portion of these Friday plans can include acts of service that are focused on environmental justice.

The member also will job coach several FUTURE students whose internships take place at certain locations on and around the UT campus. This can include but is not limited to sites such as the UT Gardens, UT Recycling, Beardsley Community Farm, and the Sustainable Future Center.

The member should be flexible and ready to take on something new each day, as working with individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities can provide unique and varying challenges. The position will provide the member the opportunity to see, and be a part of, the day-to-day operations of a postsecondary education program for individuals with disabilities. The member will gain experience working with a diverse group of individuals, leading and planning events, being part of a team that focuses on a holistic approach to education services, and teaching students with diverse abilities. Through this, the member will become proficient in communication, leadership, organization, teamwork, and adaptability.

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:

- University Degree, preferably in the humanities or social sciences

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:

- Strong communication skills
- Ability to follow instructions

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- Ability and willingness to learn
- Ability to work well in a team
- Strong work ethic
- Ability and willingness to follow all safety protocol

Member Benefits Include:

- A modest living allowance of \$14,000, or, \$595.74 bi-weekly (pre-tax), paid over 47 weeks.
- Education Award of \$6,195 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 aid in determining eligibility.
- May be eligible for utility bill assistance. In house specialists available to aid with determining eligibility. - Staff assistance with identifying housing. Housing, inclusive of utilities, is generally between \$300-\$450 in a share house/apartment scenario.
- 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 act to ensure that 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 employment process.

