

## AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**Position Title: Garden Educator**

**Field of Service: Agriculture / Farming**

**Service Site:** Guidestone Colorado – Salida, CO

**Address:** 1435 Holman Ave, Salida, CO 81201

**Site Supervisor's Name:** Emma Lietz Bilecky

**Slot Type:** Three Quarter Term

**Minimum # of hours to complete term:** 1200

**Start Date:** March 15th

**End Date:** October 31st

### Program Overview

Localizing our food system is one of the most impactful and actionable steps we can take to solve so many of our global problems. Across the central Rocky Mountains and southwestern Colorado, AmeriCorps service with Mountain Roots Healthy Futures Program builds social, economic, and environmental health for rural communities. We work with ten organizations throughout the region who are leaders in their fields, activating community-driven initiatives including Farm to School, Regenerative Agriculture & Community Gardens, Hunger Solutions (Community Food Security), and other programs in public health, conservation, and the environment. Join us for anywhere from one season to up to two years of mentored service, where you'll build a bridge from college to career while building and sustaining healthy communities, healthy people, and a healthy environment.

### Organization Overview (100 words)

Guidestone is a 501(c) 3, non-profit organization whose mission is growing a vibrant agricultural future through education, community building and partnerships. Guidestone has four cornerstone programs that help meet this mission: Farmhands Education Programs, the Farm to School Program, Colorado Land Link, and the Hutchinson Homestead & Learning Center. Guidestone serves farmers, educators, youth, and the community by providing farm-based education programs and supporting and growing the capacity of agricultural resources to help ensure a secure agricultural future.

### Service Description (500 words)

Farm to School (F2S) AmeriCorps Members are part of a team that works with Guidestone Colorado Farm to School staff and volunteers to connect youth to the earth, to their food, and to the community as part of our district-wide Farm to School program, bridging gaps that enable partner organizations to be more efficient and effective at providing nutrition, health, and garden-based environmental education to rural youth.

F2S Members engage youth and community members to build, maintain, and expand school gardens and community gardens through a start-to-finish growing season. Programs include farm field trips, guest visits, summer camps, and youth farmers markets. Members provide outreach and engagement at community events to promote Farm to School and the organization's programs and mission. Members gain exposure to organic agriculture, curriculum development, program planning, volunteer engagement, and participate in ongoing professional development.

### AmeriCorps Member Primary Responsibilities

#### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Build, maintain, and expand school gardens through a start-to-finish growing season.
- Design and deliver hands-on curriculum on nutrition, gardens, food sources, environmental science, cooking, and sustainability with student's grades K-12, in school garden classes and summer camp settings.
- Introduce fresh local foods through tastings, summer programs, and other activities.



- Lead the Youth Farmers Market, selling produce from the Community & School Farm with kids from the Boys & Girls Club.
- Community outreach/engagement, such as expanding volunteer involvement in the school gardens, organizing events, developing promotional strategies, coordinating, and leading community workdays.
- Support production activities at the Community & School Farm in the spring and fall, and as needed on an emergency basis.
- Support City of Salida Community Gardens at garden sites through community engagement, education, technical support and partnership development.

### **Location and Service Conditions:**

This position is based at 1435 Holman Ave, Salida, CO 81201 and will involve service at Hutchinson Homestead 8913 US-50, Salida, CO 81201. Position will involve frequent days of service outdoors and/or in a school or community building.

### **Qualifications:**

- Passionate, patient, flexible, intelligent, creative, kind, caring, self-motivated team players
- Feel strongly about the importance of connecting people to the source of their food for the betterment of themselves, their communities, and the larger world.
- Background or experience working on a farm doing sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and health/nutrition.
- Experience working with youth.
- Strong professional communication skills.
- Computer skills.
- Clean driving record.

### **AmeriCorps Required Qualifications:**

- At least 17 years old at start of service
- Must be a high school graduate, GED recipient, or working toward attaining a high school diploma or GED during the term of service. Members must obtain either a diploma or GED before using an education award.
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident of the United States
- Able to pass a National Service Criminal History Check (state, FBI, and National Sex Offender Public Website checks) per 45 CFR 2540.202

### **Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Program Benefits**

- \$13,552.00. Living Allowance - AmeriCorps Member(s) will receive total stipend paid bi-weekly at \$797.18 over the course of the term.
- \$4,826.50 Education Award / Tuition Assistance - AmeriCorps Member(s) can receive an Education Award upon successful completion of service. This can be used to pay back student loans, or to further your education.
- Eligible AmeriCorps Members can receive childcare assistance.
- All Members receive professional development and training, plus covered travel costs for attendance at state or regional conferences.
- All members may be eligible for Federal program assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)
- All members may qualify for student loan forbearance (postponing the payment of loans) while in service.
- Alumni benefits may include priority hiring with organizations that are part of Employers of National Service and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to eliminate educational debt.

### **About the Living Allowance**



An AmeriCorps Living Allowance is not a wage, salary, or hourly pay. You are enrolling in a SERVICE position, not a job. The Living Allowance is a stipend designed to support the basic necessities of the individual while in service, such as room and board, utilities, and transportation. Carefully consider this when applying.

Place an "X" beside all that apply.

EDUCATION PREFERRED FOR THIS POSITION <i>(select all that apply)</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High School Diploma or equivalent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Technical / Vocational School or Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some College or AA Degree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's Degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Master's Degree

ESSENTIAL SKILLS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youth Education / Teaching / Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment / Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Organizing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Services / Health & Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teamwork
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture, Farming, & Gardening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outreach & Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal Husbandry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working with vulnerable populations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade / Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Language <i>(specify)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <i>[specify]</i>

OTHER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Car Recommended
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Permits attendance at school during off hours
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Permits working at another job during off hours
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Typical schedule, Monday-Friday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flexible hours are required, including some weekends or evenings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remote / teleservice is allowed

