



# TERRACORPS

*Formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps*

## **2017 Land Stewardship Coordinator Position Opening with Wildlands Trust**

**TerraCorps**, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support thirty-six full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Conservation Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), and Youth Education Coordinator (YEC). Members will serve in full-time, eleven-month positions (August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017- July 27, 2018) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

Wildlands Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2017-18 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

### **Wildlands Trust**

675 Long Pond Rd.  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
[wildlandstrust.org](http://wildlandstrust.org)

The Wildlands Trust works throughout southeastern Massachusetts to conserve and permanently protect native habitats, farmland, and lands of high scenic and ecological value in order to keep our communities healthy and our residents connected to the natural world.

The Wildlands Trust will work to sustain the rural character and quality of life enjoyed by the residents of southeastern Massachusetts by protecting high quality conservation and agricultural lands. We envision a future where open land is abundant, our water is clean, and forests, farms, wetlands, fields, ponds, and coastal areas are commonplace sightings on our landscape.

We are one of the largest and oldest regional land trusts in Massachusetts, and since our founding in 1973, we have helped to ensure the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands. We currently have six full-time and two part-time staff carrying out the

day to day activities of Wildlands Trust. We also have interns, seasonal employees, and volunteers who assist us on a regular basis. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 14 committed individuals from the communities we serve and we enjoy the support of nearly 1,200 members from around the region.

**Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC)** Build the long-term capacity of their host sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resiliency and sustainable use of community lands.

LSCs may assist their host site by: surveying and monitoring conservation land, building and maintaining recreational trails, monitoring and maintaining urban farmland, restoring wildlife habitat, mitigating erosion, and improving public access to open spaces. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape. LSCs spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. Wildlands Trust has proposed the following potential projects for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

- 1) Enhance, expand, and integrate our stewardship volunteer programs by coordinating trainings, service days, and networking opportunities.
- 2) Assist local conservation and open space committees with stewardship volunteer program initiation, management, and retention.
- 3) Create proactive service learning curriculum for local schools and youth groups
- 4) Lead and develop stewardship based programming for the public

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

**Essential Qualifications:**

- High school diploma and relevant experience
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Ability to read and interpret various maps, such as surveys, aerial photos, and USGS topos
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Comfortable serving independently in both an office and field setting
- Able to walk 3-4 miles a day over uneven terrain in a range of weather conditions
- Comfortable utilizing computer programs such as Microsoft Office and have the ability to quickly learn new programs
- Experience or desire to work with youth

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Associates degree or higher and/or certificate, training, or apprenticeship in a field

related to natural resource management, landscape architecture/planning, agriculture/farming, or other scientific related fields.

- Knowledge and direct experience with ArcGIS mapping software
- Ability to write detailed technical reports
- Experience giving presentations and/or trainings to a diverse audience
- Experience training and managing volunteers

For questions about Wildlands Trust's service positions, contact Erik Boyer, Property Manager at Wildlands Trust at [Eboyer@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:Eboyer@wildlandstrust.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year's TerraCorps program will run from August 28, 2017 through July 27, 2018. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

As a program of AmeriCorps, TerraCorps applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

### **Member Compensation and Benefits**

- TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$12,530 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$522.08 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a \$5,815 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See [nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward](http://nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward) for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.

- TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

**Note:** TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

### **How to Apply**

2017-2018 Host Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our host sites. Do not send applications directly to a host site.

We strongly encourage application submissions before interviews begin in mid-April. Position offers and acceptances will begin shortly thereafter. The program aims to fill all positions by early June, but host sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.  
Email [admin@masslift.org](mailto:admin@masslift.org) or call 978-248-2043.

### **Additional Information About this Program**

**TerraCorps** We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov).

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

**The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, [mass-service.org](http://mass-service.org))** is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.