

COVID-19 Response Service Award

Amber Bydynkowski, WisCorps – La Crosse, WI

Prior to the spread of COVID-19, Amber Bydynkowski served as an AmeriCorps member providing environmental education programming and access to nature through the operations of the Myrick Park Center in La Crosse. After COVID-19 started spreading, she was a critical part of how the WisCorps AmeriCorps program reimagined their service to respond to pressing community needs, particularly the lack of volunteers necessary to carry out vital services at numerous nonprofit organizations.

Amber served as a team leader for the WisCorps COVID-19 Disaster Response Crew, helping organize the AmeriCorps members deployed at various locations throughout the La Crosse area and determining ways to make their service more efficient. Her leadership helped guide the team to deliver numerous meals and groceries to vulnerable individuals, complete projects for seniors at their homes, maintain community gardens to feed local citizens, and numerous additional efforts throughout the area.

Additionally, Amber worked on the implementation of physical changes at the nature center that would be required for continuing operations once the public could return.

Following the initial deployment of the response crew, Amber led multiple modified nature day camp programs this summer, allowing children to participate in nature activities that were redesigned for safety concerns.

Following this service, Amber is continuing to respond to community needs by leading the WisCorps Disaster Relief Team that is currently cleaning up flood damage in Monroe and Vernon County.