

AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: Farm Production Lead

Field of Service: Agriculture

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

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

Guidestone seeks a Farm Production Lead to be responsible for the production at the Community & School Farm (C&S Farm), including starting plants from seeds in our greenhouse, preparing beds in the high tunnels and production fields, leading volunteers to plant, seed, cultivate, and harvest crops, and creating and maintaining a vibrant community farm space. The C&S Farm is a 4-acre parcel owned by the Salida School District. Guidestone holds a 20-year lease for the Farm to School Program to grow food for school cafeterias, the hospital and community, and lead farm education and community service opportunities on the site. This member will work very closely with our Farm to School (F2S) Program Director, other Farm to School AmeriCorps members and volunteers to connect the community to the earth and their food, as part of our district-wide Farm to School program, bridging gaps that enable partner organizations to be more efficient and effective at providing healthy food to rural youth. The C&S Farm has a 24'x48' high tunnel, a 16'x24' movable high tunnel, and a 42' diameter dome greenhouse to extend the season, along with a 3/4-acre production field, small orchard, and raised beds in the front garden. In addition, the Farm Production Lead will support local food systems efforts through outreach and engagement with the Chaffee Local Food Coalition.

AmeriCorps Member Primary Responsibilities

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Build, maintain, and expand production at the Community & School Farm through a full growing season.
- Raise greenhouse transplants, complete direct seeding and transplanting according to the Community & School Farm crop plan



- In coordination with the Farm to School Director, prepare beds in the production field, front raised garden beds, high tunnels and greenhouse for planting and seeding.
- Assist with our ongoing shift in production to low-till. farming; which includes tasks such as using occultation tarps, a flame weeder, and a walk-behind tractor with a flail mower to manage cover crops.
- Support the Guidestone plant sales by helping to seed, pot up and label seedlings.
- Lead individual volunteers and school and community service groups in farm tasks, including transplanting, seeding, weeding and harvesting crops, and maintaining the farm
- Manage harvests for school, hospital, CSA, and Youth Farmers Market

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 | <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 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 |

