

## Watershed Engagement Coordinator

### Friends of the Mad River, Waitsfield, Vermont



**Advertising Statement:** *Water connects everything and everyone across the landscape. Serving as the Watershed Engagement Coordinator with Friends of the Mad River will give you valuable experience connecting the dots between healthy land, clean water, and the vibrant Mad River Valley community. In the context of a changing climate and landscape, you will help build resilience, adaptability, awareness, and inclusion into our watershed community by working with the Friends of the Mad River team to coordinate events and opportunities for education and community engagement. These events will come in many shapes and sizes, from community forums on the Vermont Climate Action Plan to guided naturalist hikes and climate-focused book clubs. Creativity is encouraged! Your work will connect you with important partners and decision makers and help inform the future of conservation in the valley. A passion for bringing people together, a commitment to following the science, and a love of the outdoors will help you find success in this position.*

This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps (VHCB AmeriCorps). The VHCB AmeriCorps program supports the innovative dual-goal approach to creating stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape. VHCB AmeriCorps is a national service program that places members with non-profit housing or land and energy conservation organizations around the state.

Friends of the Mad River (Friends) is a member-supported, nonprofit organization, founded in 1990. Friends is dedicated to stewarding the Mad River Valley's healthy land and clean water for our community and for future generations. We build diverse partnerships of neighbors, businesses, towns, and other organizations to restore and enhance the watershed's valued resources. Together, we learn about the health of the land and water; conserve our natural resources; and celebrate this special place. Our work is grounded in sound science, inclusive education and engagement, and thoughtful action.

#### Essential Functions:

- Develop events list and calendar with Friends staff and community partners
- Coordinate public educational and engagement (E&E) events and projects focused on;
  - Climate change and climate resilience
  - Ecology and water quality
- Attend and document events (photography skills welcome)
- Engage community partners to develop new E&E opportunities
- Compile a final report to document events, including attendance, photos, and key takeaways
- Support and expand existing Friends programs, including;
  - Mad River Watch – develop E&E opportunities tailored to Mad River Watch volunteers
  - Storm Smart – engage private landowners and managers to reduce the impacts of storms through education and direct implementation of Green Stormwater projects
  - Environmental Restoration – provide direct support removing invasive species, planting riparian buffers and upland forests
  - StewardMRV – support key stewardship partners and other volunteers as opportunities arise



# VHCB AmeriCorps

- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participate in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

## Secondary Functions:

- Develop outreach content for digital and print distribution (e-news, social media, newsletter)
- Research current topics around climate change, watershed health, and conservation best practices as needed
- Participate in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion trainings and program development initiatives

## Desired Qualifications:

- An interest in and familiarity with environmental conservation, watershed science, and climate change. Some familiarity with the Mad River Valley region.
- Comfortable engaging the public and people from diverse backgrounds
- Photography, writing, or any skill to help tell a good story
- Experience with outreach and social media tools such as Facebook, Instagram, blogs, Mail Chimp, etc
- A willingness to problem solve alone and as part of a team
- Solid time management

## Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to travel throughout the Mad River Valley
- Some weekend and significant evening service will be required
- Be US citizen or have permanent resident status;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation or 17 years of age with verified parental permission;
- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards a GED as part of the service-term. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps.
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program's ethic of service, appreciation of diversity, and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in all required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Available to regularly serve 40 hours per week

## Additional Information:

Service will take place both indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events will take place during inclement weather and throughout all seasons.

Position begins September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and ends August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



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# VHCB AmeriCorps

This position is: (check one)

**Full Time:** Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 47 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$26,000 (pre-tax), a \$300 monthly housing allowance, and an education award of \$6,895 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.



**Half Time:** Requires 915 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 24 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$13,500 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$3,447.50 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.

**Quarter Time:** Requires 455 hours of service for an average of 40 hours per week for 13 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$6,750 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$1,824.07 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.

Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.

**To Apply:** <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Ira Shadis, (802) 496-9127, [ira@friendsofthemadriver.org](mailto:ira@friendsofthemadriver.org)

4061 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT

Application deadline: No later than August 25, 2023. Applications accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

**The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is sponsoring this AmeriCorps position through their AmeriCorps Program. VHCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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