



The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT)

2016 Youth Education Coordinator Position Opening with East Quabbin Land Trust

The MassLIFT-AmeriCorps program was initiated and is managed by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust as a collaborative effort of regional conservation organizations (including urban conservation and gardening efforts) seeking to increase their capacity to engage with more people and do more community conservation projects across Massachusetts. This year, 30 MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members will help their hosting organizations meet critical community needs for land protection, stewardship of protected lands, outreach to the broader community, and youth education opportunities to engage young people in conservation. To learn more about MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, visit masslift.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.

MassLIFT-AmeriCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation of 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) 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. MassLIFT is one of 22 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's MassLIFT program will run from August 29, 2016 through July 28, 2017. All MassLIFT-AmeriCorps 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 MassLIFT team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

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 employment opportunities. Mass*LIFT* 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:

- Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$12,530 over the 11-month term of service, which is \$522.08 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- Mass*LIFT* assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through 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 \$5,775 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward for info and restrictions.
- AmeriCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps members gain skills in land conservation, attend a statewide conference, and participate in team trainings and other professional development opportunities.
- AmeriCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

Positions

The 2016 Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps program will support thirty 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). The positions differ in their emphasis on land protection, stewardship, community outreach, and youth or adult education. All members will carry out capacity building projects; educate or train individuals in environmental stewardship; recruit, train, manage, and support community volunteers engaged in land conservation activities; and identify new individuals and groups to participate in education, recreation, or service opportunities that address land conservation needs. All positions include computer-based administrative and reporting duties. The specific responsibilities and goals of members in each position differ as described below.

The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a Youth Education Coordinator for the 2016-17 service year. Information about all Mass*LIFT* positions is available at: masslift.org.

2016 Youth Education Coordinator Position Opening with East Quabbin Land Trust

East Quabbin Land Trust

120 Ridge Road
P.O. Box 5
Hardwick, MA 01037
www.EQLT.org

The East Quabbin Land Trust works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farmlands, woodlands and waters in our region of Massachusetts. We envision a regional community that continues to care for its natural environment and supports a sustainable local economy, ensuring a high quality of life for generations to come. The work of the East Quabbin Land Trust is focused on the communities of Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield. This East Quabbin area represents a diverse landscape of rivers, villages, rolling farmland, forested highlands, wetlands and working communities. By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trusts, East Quabbin Land Trust has protected over 4,500 acres, including 1,000 acres and several miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Youth Education Coordinators (YEC) build the long-term capacity of their host to develop and deliver youth-focused service learning projects, science field trips, and outdoor experiential education. They collaborate with schools, libraries, and youth groups on projects that connect young people to the natural world, improve science literacy, and encourage healthy lifestyles. With educators and volunteers, YECs help guide youth in environmental research, school and community garden projects, urban tree stewardship projects, urban pocket park projects, and green jobs training and internship programs. By serving with youth in an outdoor learning environment, they reinforce the connection between people, nature, and community and foster an inclusive land stewardship ethic in future generations.

MassLIFT-AmeriCorps 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. The East Quabbin Land Trust proposes the following potential projects for their Youth Education Coordinator:

- 1) Engage youth in creating children's literature that imparts messages about land conservation or stewardship themes in Massachusetts
- 2) Engage youth in taking photographs of conserved lands to promote public awareness of these special places and the work of land trusts
- 3) Develop a family walking program that uses social media to reach new audiences
- 4) Expand and enhance programs for growing food with local schools
- 5) Develop curriculum for summer camp days on conservation land
- 6) Expand internship and externship opportunities through the local high-schools

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:

- associate degree; experience may be substituted for education

- strong interest in land stewardship and hands-on conservation projects
- experience teaching or leading groups in the outdoors, preferably youth
- experience with hands-on conservation and stewardship projects
- strong presentation skills
- strong writing, communication, and networking skills
- able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- familiarity with Microsoft Office programs

Desired Qualifications:

- experience training and managing volunteers
- experience with experiential education, service learning, and inquiry-based learning methods
- experience with curriculum development and lesson planning
- farming and GIS experience a plus
- ability to be flexible and possess a positive attitude

For questions about East Quabbin Land Trust's Youth Education Coordinator service position, contact Cynthia Henshaw at chenshaw@EQLT.org

How to Apply

Hosting organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at the Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps website: masslift.org.

A complete member application includes a 1- 2 page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Download the application from the *Join MassLIFT* website. Scan your cover letter, resume, and completed form into one PDF file (in that order) and email it to admin@masslift.org.

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

We strongly encourage application submissions before interviews begin in mid-May. Position offers and acceptances will begin in early June. The program aims to fill all positions by late July, but host sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about Mass*LIFT*-AmeriCorps, contact Sean Pollock, Program Director, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Email admin@masslift.org or call 978-248-2043 x16.