**Nature Camp Educator**

**Middlebury Area Land Trust, Middlebury, VT**

*Learn the ins-and-outs of nature-based education while serving at a local land trust with over 30 years of conservation and education success. Connect over 180 local youth with nature while teaching day camps on over 1,000 acres of locally conserved lands. By serving as the Nature Camp Educator, you will gain valuable people skills, mentorship from talented lead educators, and teaching experience that will help you become a stronger environmental communicator. Previous experience teaching environmental education and a willingness to grow and learn alongside youth is required. Apply today!*

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.

The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) works with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities. Based in Middlebury, VT and serving Addison County, this AmeriCorps Member position will maintain and protect 3,700+ acres of conserved lands and 30 miles of public recreation trails. The member will inspire and foster a strong environmental ethic through environmental education for youth and adults while inspiring responsible outdoor recreation. This position is an ideal fit for someone seeking experience with all facets of a land trust, including conservation, education, communication, and volunteer engagement.

**Essential Functions:**

* Connect youth with MALT’s lands and trails;
* Facilitate nine weeks of outdoor summer day camps; camp runs from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, daily; educators arrive at 8:30 AM and our day wraps up by 4:30 PM;
* Collaborate with MALT’s passionate, experienced, creative, and sometimes muddy team of educators to provide safe nature-based experiences in an outdoor setting;
* Teach children ages 4 to 13;
* Serve as lead educator for 1-2 weeks of summer camp; the lead educator is responsible for planning, gathering materials, providing structure for camp, and delegating support tasks to other staff;
* Manage risk in the outdoors, including teaching youth about risk management and opportunities to be challenged and inspired in the outdoors;
* As part of the teaching team, maintain clean, safe, and quality education program materials, and assist in any administrative functions that support MALT’s summer camps;

**Secondary Functions:**

* Collect and share photos for MALT media.

**Desired Qualifications**

* One or more seasons (~3 months) of experience developing, coordinating, and teaching nature-based education to students age 4-13 in an outdoor setting;
* Intuitive, determined, and quick learner who thrives in a team setting;
* Familiarity with the ecology and natural resources of Vermont and the Champlain Valley;
* A deep, personal value of land conservation, outdoor recreation, and nature-based education with youth.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

* Experience supporting elementary-age children in any setting (childcare facility, paraeducator, camps, etc.);
* Knowledge of any of the following: wildlife, wilderness skills, story-telling, nature connection practices, forest and/or water ecology, geography, and anything/everything outdoors or creative;
* Strong interpersonal skills to communicate with people of all ages and backgrounds, especially parents and caregivers of campers;
* Ability to spend a full 8 hours actively moving over rough terrain and in all weather conditions, carrying loads of up to 30 lbs., while modeling joy for the outdoors for campers;
* A valid driver’s license and access to a personal vehicle is required. Applicant must pass a federal background check if offered the position. Applicant must be at least 18 years old;
* 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 an 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;
* And available to regularly serve 40 hours per week.

**Additional Information:**

Service locations will vary but all will take place in the greater Middlebury area and are within Addison County. Service will take place predominantly in outdoor settings and in all weather conditions. Service hours will generally be 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. The service member is required to have access to a vehicle. Housing through MALT is not available, but MALT staff will assist the member with securing housing if necessary.

Position begins June 10, 2024 and ends August 30, 2024.

This position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations (youth, persons over 60, individuals with disabilities).

This position is **Quarter Time:** Requires 460 hours of service for an average of 40 hours per week for 12 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of $6,880 (pre-tax), a monthly housing allowance of $300, for a total compensation of **$8,080** for the term. Member will receive 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-americorps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Jamie Jo Horton, 802-388-1007, jamie@maltvt.org

298 Maple Street, Suite 1B

Middlebury, VT 05753

Application deadline: **March 15, 2024**. Applications accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis; open until filled.

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at [*www.americorps.gov.*](https://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:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_