



Blue Elements Watershed Stewards

AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: Recreation Ranger

Field of Service: Environmental Stewardship & Education

Service Site: Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Address: 307 W Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201

Site Supervisor's Name: Serena Rocksund

Service Dates: May 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Average Hours per Week: 40

Days/Hours of Service: 10 Hour shifts

Minimum # of Hours to Complete Term: 1200 Hours minimum

Program Overview: Blue Elements Watershed Stewards is committed to increasing community resilience in the face of changing water conditions by supporting sustainable, equitable access to one of Colorado's most valuable natural resources. AmeriCorps members will support organizations serving the water conservation, restoration, education and monitoring sectors in the Arkansas River Valley and beyond. Members may provide water education to youth and adults, complete water restoration projects, and support water quality monitoring projects. Members will work with diverse, traditionally underrepresented community members.

Organization Overview: The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is a river-based state park that encompasses 152 miles of river corridor between Leadville and Lake Pueblo State Park. The AHRA is co-managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service. The Arkansas River is the most commercially rafted river in the United States. The most common activities in the park are rafting, kayaking, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking and gold panning.

Service Description: The Watershed Stewards position with the AHRA is focused on opportunities for providing watershed education and stewardship within Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The member will educate the public on natural resources and sustainable recreation, and will gain education and experience with federal and local partners through the unique cooperative management of the AHRA. The member will gain experience in land and river based ranger activities, emergency services, swiftwater rescue skills, trail construction and maintenance, and naturalist programming. Training will be provided in First Aid/CPR and Swiftwater Rescue.

AmeriCorps Member Primary Responsibilities:**Essential Functions:**

- Educate the public on natural resources and sustainable recreation, both at the visitor center and in the field.
- Conduct land and river based recreation ranger activities
- Assist in emergency responses, including swiftwater rescue operations
- Trail Construction and maintenance
- Support the development and deliverance of naturalist programming to both youth and/or adult audiences
- Support watershed stewardship activities and river clean up events

Location and Service Conditions: This position is based at the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, 307 W Sackett Ave in Salida, CO 81201. The position will entail travel throughout the 152 mile stretch of the state park along the Arkansas River on both land and water. Gear and training will be provided for whitewater activities. Expert swimming skills are not necessary, but a requirement to wear a personal floatation device at all times during water based activities. The position will involve frequent days of service outdoors in potentially inclement weather, with temps ranging from near 0 to near 100. May involve frequently working with children and community members.

Qualifications:

- Passionate about engaging communities in watershed stewardship
- Patient, kind, caring, self motivated team player
- Maintain a positive and professional leadership role when supporting youth
- Strong professional communication skills
- Basic computer skills
- Commitment to ethics of diversity, equity, and inclusion

AmeriCorps Required Qualifications:

- At least 18 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.
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident of the United States
- Ability to pass a National Service Criminal History Check (state, FBI, and National Sex Offender Public Website checks) per 45 CFR 2540.202

Watershed Stewards AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Living allowance- AmeriCorps member(s) will receive a stipend paid bi-monthly at \$770.00 per pay period over the course of the term. Taxes are deducted and the living allowance is distributed by direct deposit to the member.
- Education Award / Tuition Assistance- AmeriCorps member(s) can receive an Education Award in the amount of \$4826.50 upon successful completion of service. This can be used to pay back student loans or further your education.
- All members receive professional development and training, plus covered travel costs for attendance at regional or state conferences.
- All members may be eligible for the Federal Assistance Program (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)
- All members may qualify for student loan forbearance 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 position 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.

Diversity and Equal Opportunity Statement:

We believe that equity, diversity, and inclusion drive our success, and we encourage candidates from all identities, backgrounds and abilities to apply. We are committed to building inclusive, innovative work environments with employees who reflect our communities and enthusiastically serve them.

For Further Information and to Apply:

Please submit your resume and a cover letter detailing your relevant experience to Sheena O'Hara at sheena@blueelements.org, 970-485-3746.