

Environmental Educator

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, Brattleboro, Vermont



Gain valuable experience working with a team of naturalist educators fostering connections to the natural world through a variety of opportunities, including camps, school programs, public programs, volunteer opportunities, and the visitor experience. BEEC seeks a creative educator and nature lover, who enjoys serving outdoors and with children, and has strong leadership and inclusion skills.

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.

BEEC is a member-based nonprofit organization founded in 1991, with a mission to foster experiences that inspire connection to the natural world and its many inhabitants. To achieve its mission, BEEC provides a variety of educational programs and initiatives to create an involved group of community scientists and caring stewards of our land. BEEC coordinates and leads important community-based natural history and conservation programs. BEEC public programs are for all ages to engage with and learn about the natural world around us. BEEC school programs use the scientific process, hands-on activities, and outdoor experiences to help students learn about a wide range of life, earth, physical and environmental science topics. BEEC youth programs are for the young person who loves the natural world with the goal to foster a love of nature in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. BEEC trails are open to the public from dawn to dusk and we are envisioning new interpretive features to enhance the visitors' experience. The Environmental Educator will support and help develop these efforts to help us achieve our mission.

Essential Functions:

- Co-develop and teach environmental education youth programs and day camps.
- Coordinate events and create educational materials to build member relationships.
- Strengthen the visitors' experience to BEEC through the creation of interpretive features.
- Steward the BEEC property, leading volunteers on trail maintenance and invasive plant management.
- 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.



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Secondary Functions:

- Assist with the development of BEEC's printed and electronic environmental education outreach materials (e-newsletter, website, social media, posters, etc.).
- Represent BEEC at community service fairs and other events.
- Assist with public programs and nature walks.
- Conduct outreach and support to BEEC volunteers.
- Utilize technology to help develop and promote BEEC programs.

Desired Qualifications:

- Some teaching experience with school-age children.
- Some experience creating interpretive materials.
- A strong interest and reasonable understanding of the natural world.
- Self-starter with strong initiative and follow through.
- Ability to be creative, flexible and adapt to new situations from day to day.
- Willingness to serve on some evenings and weekends.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Enjoys engaging with youth and sharing the wonders of nature.
- Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Strong communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills and service ethic.
- Comfort serving outdoors in all weather conditions with groups.
- Comfort with computers and technology, including Google Suite.
- Ability to serve independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to follow guidelines and implement protocols.
- Driver's License with access to a personal vehicle.
- First Aid & CPR Certification, or willingness to obtain certification.
- 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



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Additional Information:

Service will be performed primarily outdoors, some will be performed remotely using collaborative technology, and some will take place within a classroom and office. There is some flexibility in the schedule. Camp hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm. The member will serve a schedule that will include some evenings and weekends. BEEC's culture is one of respect for the natural world and for our colleagues. We foster and participate in open communication and collaborative decision-making.



Position begins September 9th, 2024 and ends August 14th, 2025.

This position is **Full Time**: Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 47 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of **\$30,000** (pre-tax) for the service term. Member will receive an education award of \$7,395 (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:

Kristina Weeks, 802-257-5785, kristina@beec.org
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center
PO Box 2318, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled.

Additional information on the AmeriCorps is available at 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, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

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