



Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

| Host Site – Sierra House Elementary School | |
|--|--|
| Position Title: | Type: |
| Sierra House Environmental Education Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Full Term <input type="checkbox"/> Half Term |

Organizational Background:

A parent–teacher association/organization, parent-teacher-friend association, or parent–teacher–student association is a formal organization composed of parents, teachers and staff that is intended to facilitate parental participation in a school. [The Sierra House Parent Teacher Association \(PTA\)](#) is supporting an Americorps position to provide staff capacity to implement the “Sierra House Growing Dome Program,” the school recycling program, Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics ([STEM](#)) enrichment in alignment with the [FOSS Next Generation Science](#) curriculum used by the school district.

Sierra House Elementary School is a public Title One institution and has a student population of 411 students with 58% of these students designated as low socioeconomic status.

In 2014, the Sierra House Elementary PTA raised funding to develop the ‘Sierra House Growing Dome Program’. This project includes two high-tech geodesic growing domes (www.growingspaces.com) that grow food year round and an outdoor learning area. At Sierra House our growing domes and garden are an integral part of our every day curriculum and composting is a part of our vision and educational program. Students currently plant seeds to create their own food, and are working to create a pollinator garden to bring pollinators to the garden to increase our food yield and harvest the food we grow to eat locally in our school and community. Students are learning experientially where their food comes from and how it can be grown sustainably in an alpine setting. Eating the produce that they have grown in the growing domes themselves is connecting students to healthy eating habits and promoting a

whole host of cascading positive health benefits. The results so far have been wonderfully positive.

In addition to the domes, Sierra House has a STEM learning room and a [Charlie Cart](#) to bring the dome and science learning indoors during the winter months. In addition to using the tools at school, the Americorps Member will work with the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition. The South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (STEEC) is a network of more than 20 local agencies and organizations that collaborate to bring environmental education resources to the Tahoe Basin. STEEC is “dedicated to bringing high quality environmental education programs and projects to Lake Tahoe youth.” STEEC has created and implemented new programs for Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD) schools, reaching thousands of students each year.

Number of Member Positions at this Site: 1

Site Supervisor’s Name(s) and Title(s):

- *Cary Brown, RSP Instructional Assistant*

Position Description: This Americorps position will provide staff capacity to implement the “Sierra House Growing Dome Program,” the school recycling program, and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics ([STEM](#)) enrichment in alignment with the [FOSS Next Generation Science](#) curriculum. The Americorps Member will also work with the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition to bring enhanced community environmental education opportunities from environmental organizations and agencies.

Site-Specific Training Provided: Training will be provided through on the job training. Our Garden coordinator, Cary Brown and former garden leads Kristi Wilson and Michelle McLean have collaborated to put together a scope of work for the garden through the year. We have recently adopted a new science curriculum that requires extensive organization and set up. Teachers, principal and district science Content Area Specialist will assist in training for this part of the job. Our custodial staff and kitchen team along with our CTE coordinator will train on how to coordinate and facilitate our recycling program.

Things to Note: This position will spend much of the time outdoors year round in our Sierra House gardens. Extensive bending, weeding, lifting, raking, digging, staining and other physical labor is part of this position as the main focus is garden maintenance and planting. This position will also be required to work closely with staff, students and families in our Kindergarten- 5th grade school- including 25 students with various disabilities. The applicants should possess strong communication and organizational skills and be willing to do whatever is needed to support our school community in our garden, science, STEAM and recycling programs.

| WORK HOURS | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 8-hour days | 10-hour days | 10+ hour days |
| 90% | 10% | 0% |
| Housing Offered through Site: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Vehicle provided for Placement Site work: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

| TYPE OF WORK | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Field Work <i>(field surveys, planting, invasive pulls, maintenance, etc.)</i> | Office Work <i>(lab analysis, data entry, GIS, writing, etc.)</i> | Travel <i>(travel to field work and project Sites)</i> | Restoration and Assessment <i>(water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, fish surveys, etc.)</i> | Education <i>(teaching, citizen science, etc.)</i> | Volunteer Recruitment & Management | Member Training <i>(Site-specific training, conferences, and development opportunities)</i> | Other <i>(gear and equipment maintenance, outreach, etc.)</i> |
| 20% | 5% | 0% | 5% | 50% | 10% | 10% | 0% |

All Full-Time members qualify for:

- \$2,318.18 stipend per month
- Standard health, dental, and vision insurance
- Student loan forbearance during service term
- CA subsidized Childcare stipends are available.
- Professional Environmental experience and networking
- AmeriCorps members that successfully complete a service term will earn an education award; respective amounts are listed below.

| ▪ \$500 Training Support Budget ▪ | Estimated Start Date | Total Hours | Hours of Training | Education Award |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Full Time | 11/1 | 1700 | 340 | \$10,000.00 |
| 3/4 Time | 2/1 | 1200 | 240 | \$4,826.50 |
| Half Time | 4/1 | 900 | 170 | \$3,447.50 |
| Reduced-Half | 5/16 | 675 | 135 | \$2,626.27 |