



Position Description

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: Education Coordinator
Host Site: Sierra Streams Institute
Site Supervisor: Justin Wood, River Scientist
Contact: 530-477-7132 x204, justin@sierrastreamsinstitute.org

Service Commitment: SNAP AmeriCorps members are passionate and committed to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, SNAP and AmeriCorps. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve a nonprofit organization or public agency in the Sierra Nevada. The SNAP Term of Service is from October 21, 2018 – September 21, 2019. Time Commitment: 1,700 hours total, approximately 40 hours per week.

Position Location: Nevada City, California.

Sierra Streams Institute is located in Nevada City, California, with our work primarily occurring in the Yuba and Bear River watersheds. Nevada City is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in Northern California at 2500' elevation, one hour west of north Lake Tahoe and three hours east of the Pacific Ocean. During the Gold Rush, Nevada City was a thriving hub of mining activity, and it remains one of the liveliest, friendliest and most beautiful of all California Gold Rush towns with a remarkably rich cultural life. It is considered to be one of the best preserved towns in the west. In addition to its rich history and considerable natural beauty, Nevada City boasts a thriving arts and entertainment community with fine restaurants, a vibrant live music scene, galleries, museums, and theater. Nevada City is a Mecca for outdoors enthusiasts, with abundant recreational opportunities such as backpacking, cycling, and kayaking in the many rivers and lakes, as well as skiing and rock climbing in the nearby mountains. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers, and wet winters with periodic snowstorms and lots of winter sunshine.

Organization Description: Sierra Streams Institute is a watershed science organization based in Nevada City, California, dedicated to increasing watershed stewardship capacity throughout the Sierra Nevada region and beyond. Founded in 1996 as Friends of Deer Creek, SSI has grown to become an important voice in the regional scientific community. We work with local, state, and federal agencies as well as universities and community groups to find solutions to the problems that afflict Deer Creek and other watersheds (Yuba, Bear) throughout the region that share the challenges resulting from a century and a half of gold mining, development, and agriculture. SSI's emphasis on rigorous science, data collection and community engagement provides the basis for restoration decisions that are made on behalf of Sierra watersheds, and makes us a valuable partner of local and state government agencies.

Program Description: Sierra Streams Institute focuses on the following six program areas: Watershed Restoration, Science Education, Research, Training, Lab and Testing Services, and Friends of Deer Creek. Please visit www.sierrastreamsinstitute.org for a description of these program areas.

Position Description: The Education Coordinator will work with Sierra Streams Institute staff,

volunteers, and interns to educate youth and adults about watershed science. In addition the member will assist with monitoring, assessment, research, and restoration throughout the Deer Creek and surrounding watersheds. Responsibilities include: teaching, lesson planning, curriculum development, coordination and outreach in the watershed science education program; monthly water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate and algae collection, annual habitat assessments, and other ecological surveys. The member will also recruit and organize stakeholders and volunteers to participate in watershed monitoring and restoration, conduct outreach and presentations to community groups, citizen scientists, and stakeholders, and help organize the Sierra Science Speaker series, and assist with monthly newsletter publication.

Required Qualifications:

- College degree with a focus or interest in biology, ecology, hydrology, geology, river science, restoration science, chemistry, environmental science, education or related field.
- Ability to work independently, with other staff, and a diverse group of volunteers and interns.
- Experience working in informal or formal education contexts and desire to inspire youth and adults to learn about environmental science.
- Strong written and oral communication skills; strong computer and organizational skills.
- Knowledge of the scientific method, strong science communication skills.
- Ability to hike through creeks and vegetation (occasionally poison oak or Himalayan blackberry) and be on your feet for up to 10 hours a day to perform monitoring and habitat assessments. Ability to carry monitoring and education equipment that weighs up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to work in the office sitting at a computer station, or in the lab sitting and standing to process samples and/or working at a microscope, for up to 8 hours a day.
- Willingness to occasionally work early in the morning (before 6:00A.M.), in the evening (after 6:00P.M.), and/or on weekends to complete monitoring and assessment projects (such as bird or mammal monitoring).
- Ability to drive for up to 8 hours a day to access monitoring sites and required trainings across the Sierra Nevada.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience teaching in a classroom or field setting and/or leading groups of students or citizen scientists in the field.
- Experience performing habitat assessments, conducting algae and macroinvertebrate sampling, conducting water quality and other monitoring, and processing samples in a lab.
- Experience with on-the-ground restoration projects that involve the local community.

Additional Benefits: Perks of serving as an AmeriCorps Member at Sierra Streams Institute include:

- Live and work in Nevada City, in close proximity to abundant recreational opportunities including skiing and snowboarding, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming, and backpacking.
- Work with scientists in a great environment to develop professional skills.
- Have the opportunity to lead projects and classes, and to work with and manage citizen scientist volunteers and interns.
- Get assistance with settling in to the area, as needed, from our staff and volunteers.

Website: www.sierrastreamsinstitute.org