2025-2026 AmeriCorps Member Position Description

Partner Organization Name: Pontchartrain Conservancy

Corps Member Position Title: Coastal Tree Nursery Volunteer Coordinator

Supervisor: George Washburn

Days/Hours of Service: M-F, 9A-5P, occasional Saturday, occasional early/late days

Physical Location: 3501 N. Causeway Blvd, Suite 220, New Orleans

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Organization Mission and/or Goals:

Pontchartrain Conservancy's mission is to drive environmental sustainability and stewardship through scientific research, education, and advocacy.

Program Mission and/ or Goals:

This AmeriCorps position falls within PC's Coastal Department. Within the Coastal Department, Swamp Restoration is an ongoing program that seeks to restore critical swamp habitat throughout the Pontchartrain Basin. Broadly stated, the mission of this program is to ensure a healthy and sustainable estuary that maximizes the ecological functions of swamp habitat and enhances environmental resilience without compromising critical economic functions.

Member Position Summary and Impact:

Volunteer Coordinator: The member would be a program coordinator for our swamp tree nursery and volunteer coordinator for our coastal restoration volunteer opportunities. This would involve all aspects of the upkeep of the tree nursery, which currently houses ~5000 trees. This position is primarily focused on two aspects. First, operations of the existing nursery to ensure that the trees survive to planting season. Then helping coordinate the tree plantings in the fall/winter season. The second aspect will be to do some experimental work with marsh grasses. We're in the early stages of adding a marsh grass component to the nursery. The AmeriCorps member would be involved with an experimental project using locally sourced recycled glass sand to understand the growth/survival patterns using that material. We typically have several volunteer plantings each season (October – March,

weather contingent). These events usually have 15 – 40 volunteers, are time- and labor-intensive, and logistically challenging.

The member would work closely in a collaborative effort with our communications department the outreach and education departments to develop science communication, outreach, and volunteer recruitment pieces for the coastal department. The member in this position will have a variety of responsibilities that require an interest in science, data collection, fieldwork, data management, outreach, formulation of print and online outreach or awareness materials and social media. The member may also be asked to make promotional materials for initiatives within the coastal program.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Lead operations of the existing tree nursery
- Lead tree nursery volunteer program
- Continue development of marsh grass component of tree nursery and use recycled glass sand to understand impacts to coastal restoration
- Work with local schools to maintain student run nurseries
- Schedule, promote, recruit, and attend volunteer activities such as tree plantings or other nursery volunteer events
- Assist in field work and scientific data collection

Skills, knowledge and trainings the corps member should expect to gain from this position

- The member will become familiar with the key players in the coastal restoration community in Louisiana, specially at the state, federal, local and NGO level.
- The member will have the opportunity to learn important tech skills (i.e. ArcGIS, GPS) and other scientific methods during the course of their service.
- We like to offer open ended opportunities to allow the corps member to expand their skills individually. If a member wants to expand their scientific skills and knowledge or attend workshops and networking events, we can provide those experiences.

Ideal Candidate Qualifications

An interest in coastal science or biology/ecology is essential. Some background in either is advantageous but not required

Required Transportation Requirements (ex: own vehicle or able bike to site)
Own vehicle