



**AmeriCorps**  
Washington



# AmeriCorps Response Corps Position Now Open

**Are you passionate about Food Education and Food Access? Do you want to make a difference in the World? Apply to serve as an AmeriCorps Response Corps Member at Walla Walla Valley Farm to School, a program of the Sustainable Living Center in Walla Walla WA**

**Dates of service:** August 23, 2021 - August 12, 2022

**Total amount of service:** 1700 hours minimum (full time!)

**To apply,** complete the AmeriCorps application form and send a resume, cover letter, and two letters of reference to Rey Cooley, Program Manager - farmtoschool@slcww.org

## **About our organization:**

The Sustainable Living Center's Walla Walla Valley Farm to School Program (WWVF2S) is a host site for the Statewide AmeriCorps Food Educator/Response Corps team hosted by Common Threads. WWVF2S aims to inspire healthy communities through food, farm and garden experience. By working with community stakeholders, especially during the pandemic, the school gardens have become a significant resource to address food insecurity in our community. WWVF2S is active in all aspects of the national Farm to School movement, namely providing garden education, supporting school gardens and encouraging and facilitating local food procurement for school meals. We do this through programming, partnerships and collaboration.

## **Responsibilities:**

Serve as part of a statewide AmeriCorps Food and School Garden education team in the Walla Walla Valley, rich with scenic beauty, internationally recognized wineries, renowned restaurants and small town friendliness where it rarely takes more than ten minutes to get to your destination.

Become part of a passionate group providing coordinated leadership and support of programs that explore food and agriculture in school gardens, on farms and in school kitchens with an emphasis on connection to Next Generation Science and Common Core curriculum.

There may be additional opportunities to provide winter in-class cooking lessons, after school garden clubs and renewing farm field trips. We provide the opportunity to build additional skills in social media, event planning, community building and marketing. Specific responsibilities include:

- Lead or support after school gardening and/or cooking clubs (at TBD sites on and off school campus)
- Community building - recruit and coordinate volunteers to assist with school garden maintenance, harvest and distribution of produce, as applicable.
- Community building - collaborate with community partners to support emergency food production and distribution efforts.
- Community building - collaborate with community partners to lead camp-style programs for

- elementary students during spring and summer breaks, as applicable.
- Manage administrative tasks, including email communications, data collection, and project prep time.
- Support school teachers and administrators to schedule garden activities.
- Support other relevant food education and food resiliency opportunities as they arise
- Model and encourage values that are integral to school gardens - curiosity, kindness, inclusion, equity, mindfulness, stewardship, service to others, community, health, peace.
- Complete a minimum of 1700 hours of service (full time, 35+ hours per week) between August 23, 2021-August 12, 2022

Additionally, Response Corps members are expected to participate in state-wide Response Corps programming. Additional duties at the state-wide level include:

- Attending live monthly development trainings (via webinar) with other Response Corps members. The monthly sessions will equip the Response Corps members with additional skills and tools for professional and personal growth and development (including leadership, collaboration, communication, etc.) and for the completion of their capstone project.
- Participating in asynchronous monthly online professional development courses. The monthly online courses will equip Response Corps members with additional skills and tools for professional and personal growth and development (including leadership, collaboration, communication, etc.) and for the completion of their capstone project.
- Developing and completing a capstone project by the end of their Response Corps experience. The capstone may address topics including, but not limited to: raising youth awareness of community/national issues, the impact of national service on members and the communities they serve, creating awareness about innovative programs and solutions to address community needs in communities with moderate to high levels of vulnerability.
- Attending virtual working group meetings or virtual conferences as needed to successfully develop and complete the capstone project.
- Presenting the capstone project to targeted audiences through online posting of completed capstone projects on various online platforms and/or virtual live presentations. Targeted audiences may include, but are not limited to: youth, AmeriCorps members, and state, nonprofit, and philanthropic leaders.
- Participating in communications and program awareness activities, including amplification on social channels and story sharing opportunities (e.g. video/photography, interviews) as needed.

\*Depending on the stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, service opportunities will be a combination of virtual remote and in-person service that is likely outdoors, socially distanced, and masked. Service members will participate regularly in low-risk and infrequently in moderate risk activities. Common Threads cannot guarantee zero risk of COVID-19.

## **Benefits:**

- Make a positive difference in your community during a time of uncertainty by getting healthy food into the hands of hungry kids and families
- Learn new skills and gain new experiences
- Make new personal and professional connections
- Receive a stipend of \$21,998.08 before tax for full-time position (1700 hours).
- Receive an [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) from the National Service Trust in the amount of \$6,345 upon successful completion of service
- [Health care coverage](#) including [dental and vision](#)
- [Subsidized childcare](#) for qualified members
- [Basic Food Benefits](#) eligibility
- Opportunity to learn and grow in the company of other passionate service members
- Federal Holidays excluding Martin Luther King Jr Day (additional time off approved on a case-by-case basis)

- Professional development including but not limited to:
  - **Education** - teaching and adapting lessons based on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), outdoor classroom management, culturally relevant and trauma-informed teaching practices, mindfulness for resilient educators
  - **Farming & Gardening**- winterization, crop succession and rotation, drip irrigation, soil and compost stewardship, pruning, seeding and starts
  - **Equity** - brave spaces, “racial equity deep dive,” food justice
  - **Professional skills** - communication styles, conflict resolution, constructivist listening, resume and cover letter writing, meeting facilitation, story-telling and virtual content creation

## **Skills and Qualifications:**

Minimum requirements:

- A U.S. citizen, U.S. national or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S.
- At least 17 years of age by August 23, 2021
- Have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent (or agrees to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent before using an Education Award)
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria
- Passion for and understanding of Walla Walla Valley Farm to School’s mission and programs
- Willing and able to serve in-person and remotely in Walla Walla WA
- Willing and able to travel to multiple service sites in Washington State.
- Willing to serve long hours outside in all weather
- Passionate, committed, creative, adaptable, detail-oriented, capable of working both independently and as a team
- Ability to create own structure within the day and work independently, and be a proactive self-starter on projects
- Basic computer skills

The ideal candidate will also:

- Have experience working with kids
- Have experience gardening, farming, cooking or nutrition
- Familiarity with Google Suite and Zoom
- Speak to what special skills, personal experiences or perspectives they will bring to the team

## **To apply:**

- Fill out our [application online](#). If computer access is a barrier to applying, please contact us at [farmtoschool@slcww.org](mailto:farmtoschool@slcww.org) for a paper application.

The Sustainable Living Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, or marital status in employment or the provision of services.