



AmeriCorps Member Position Description

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Member Position: Native Plants Program Technician **# in this Position:** 1

Member Immediate Supervisor Name: Gardner Goodall

Days / Hours of Service: Typically, Mon. – Fri. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.; nights and weekends for events

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Native Plants Program Coordinator

Partner Organization Name & Website: Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, crcl.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals: Mission: To unite people in action to achieve a thriving, sustainable Louisiana coast for all.

Purpose: CRCL represents a broad spectrum of concerned coastal citizens working towards a sustainable future for Louisiana in the face of climate change and wetland loss. Through advocacy we work to ensure that restoring and protecting coastal Louisiana is a top priority for our state and the nation. We also advance on the ground restoration through our Native Plants and Oyster Shell Recycling Programs. To build support for coastal protection and sustain as much of Louisiana's coast as possible, CRCL raises public awareness of the importance of coastal wetlands through community engagement.

Program Mission and/or Goals: This position is part of CRCL's Native Plants Program, which builds support for coastal restoration among stakeholders by directly improving coastal habitats and serving as a platform to engage and educate the community about coastal land loss issues and solutions. The NPP engages coastal residents in wetland restoration through volunteer planting events. The OSRP recycles oyster shell from New Orleans-area restaurants to construct living shorelines that protect Louisiana's eroding coast; the OSRP raises awareness of oyster reef ecosystems through volunteer shell bagging and community reef construction events.

Community Need: As the urgency of Louisiana's coastal land loss crises grows, so does our need to engage the public in educational wetland restoration plantings. Supporting coastal plantings through logistical planning, volunteer management and program development will help better engage coastal residents in understanding the role of plantings in reducing land loss and flood risk in their communities. Each year many of these plantings depend on the purchasing of cypress tree seedlings to be grown in the field before being planted in the swamps. This position will work to pilot the growing of these seedlings in house, growing stronger, locally sourced cypress trees while saving money for future restoration efforts. Increased capacity for CRCL to develop the NPP would benefit the community by helping us to (1) engage more volunteers at our planting events (2) grow more trees for us to plant along Louisiana's coast (3) engage a wider range of volunteers at the Brown Foundation Nursery.

Member Position Summary: The Native Plants Program Technician will work closely with the Native Plants Program Coordinator to support the planning and preparation of 20-35 volunteer restoration project workdays as well as the monitoring of current and past plantings. Workdays will consist of long hours in the field directing and supervising volunteers of varying experience levels in remote locations across coastal Louisiana. This position will be responsible for coordinating and supervising volunteers to pilot the cypress tree seed starting initiative which will grow cypress trees from seed, to ultimately be planted on volunteer restoration workdays. This position will require a flexible schedule and some work on weekends.

Member Impact: In the short-term, the Serve Louisiana member will be expected to support the planning and implementation of 20-35 volunteer restoration project days annually. They will also implement the cypress tree seed starting initiative to grow 8,500 cypress seedlings through monthly volunteer workdays that will continue to supply volunteer work days into the future.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Support Native Plants Program Coordinator in the implementation of 20-35 volunteer restoration project days
- Support the coordination of logistics, equipment, and personnel prior to volunteer events
- Recruit, train, supervise and recognize volunteers
- Support the management and presentation of project data and basic GIS maps for outreach and reporting purposes
- Contribute to developing content for restoration project communications, marketing, and database tracking
- Work with Communications, Engagement and Development teams to produce informational material and outreach opportunities to disseminate nursery and plantings to a wide audience
- Maintain all equipment used in plantings and nursery work days
- Help plan and host larger CRCL events, such as our annual Shell-A-Bration, the State of the Coast conference (in odd years), annual Stewardship Awards event, Restoration on the Half Shell, etc.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Interest in coastal restoration, community engagement, and science communication
- Knowledge of basic plant physiology and care
- Able to comfortably navigate through wetland ecosystems in hot, cold, and wet conditions while carrying up to 30 pounds
- Able to work evenings and weekends—frequent weekend travel is required
- Proficient with Microsoft Office and have a demonstrated ability to learn new software
- Positive, professional, and exhibit a solution-oriented attitude

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

- Coursework in wetland ecology, general ecology, environmental studies, environmental science, natural resource management, botany or similar fields
- Experience with field work in a coastal environment
- Familiarity with Louisiana’s coastal land loss issues and coastal restoration/protection projects
- Operational knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 software