

AMERICORPS PROJECT CONSERVE MEMBER SERVICE DESCRIPTION

September 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011 Service Year

Position Title: AmeriCorps Agricultural Outreach Coordinator,
8 am to 4:30 pm (events on nights and weekends).

Host Site's Name: Polk County Office of Agricultural Economic Development,
P.O. Box 236, Columbus, NC 28722

Site Supervisor: Lynn A. Sprague, Director, lsprague@polknc.org,
phone 828-894-2281, fax 828-894-2231

Polk County Office of Agricultural Economic Development Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Office of Agricultural Economic Development is to promote agricultural values and the general welfare of the county and more specifically: Increase identity and pride in agricultural community and its way of life. Encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture. Increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

Main purpose of this position:

The main purpose of this position is to reconnect the community with agriculture and the rural character of the county as well as assist with the Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District (EVAD) and conservation easements.

General Summary:

The AmeriCorps service members would educate youth and the general public on the value of agriculture in conserving the rural character of Polk County. Members would be involved in promoting: the new Agricultural Economic Development Center building and its mission; community gardens; and other public agricultural activities throughout Polk County (such as local farmers markets and other special community events). The members would strive to demonstrate value of farm and forest lands and ways to protect them through Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture Districts and conservation agreements (including updating the website). The members will remain in continual contact with Cooperative Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, local schools, the Polk County Tourism Office, and the County Economic Development Office.

Special conditions of service (if any): All members will participate in AmeriCorps Project Conserve sponsored events, service days, and training days. Training days will require a minimum of two overnight stays.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities & Qualifications:

- The member must have a good knowledge of conservation and natural resources.
- A good knowledge of agriculture and/or conservation easements is a plus.
- Computer skills, especially web site development and management, writing and speaking skills are assets.
- The ability to be a good communicator is essential.
- Must be willing and capable of physical work throughout the year.
- The person must have a high school diploma and preferably registered or graduated from a 4 year college with a compatible degree and courses with this position. For example a degree in agriculture and natural resources would give a solid knowledge base, while a degree in education would be good for communication and teaching.
- An eligible member must be 18 years of age and have documentation of citizenship / naturalization / resident alien status.
- Driver's license required.