

# AMERICORPS PROJECT CONSERVE MEMBER SERVICE DESCRIPTION

*September 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011 Service Year*

**Position Title:** AmeriCorps Farmland Program Member, 9:00 to 5:00 is fine, but the Program Director often works a varied schedule.

**Host Site's Name:** Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC),  
34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801, [www.appalachian.org](http://www.appalachian.org)

**Site Supervisor:** William Hamilton, Farmland Program Director, [william@appalachian.org](mailto:william@appalachian.org),  
phone 828-253-0095 fax 828-253-1248

## **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy's Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to conserve the unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, and scenic beauty of the mountains of western NC and east TN for the benefit of present and future generations. We achieve this by forging and maintaining long-term conservation relationships with private landowners, owning and managing land and encouraging strong, healthy local communities.

## **Main purpose of this position:**

The purpose for this position is to assist the Farmland Preservation Director in responding to landowner inquiries, proactively contacting owners of priority farm lands, advancing and completing specific lands projects, drafting and refining Farmlands Program policies and procedures, and handling other administrative aspects of running a farmland conservation program. In addition, it is SAHC's goal to provide the Member with many professional development and networking opportunities. Currently, the Farmland Program is in great need of someone who can make a variety of maps with GIS.

## **General Summary:**

The Farmland Preservation Member will:

- Perform intake and initial response duties related to inquiries from landowners
- Help prepare potential lands projects for review
- Work systematically to maintain the organization's Farmland Project records
- Gain field skills which include gaining an innate sense of what type of land and land ownership will make for a good conservation project
- Gain knowledge about techniques for talking with landowners and the general public about farmland conservation in this region and by helping prepare materials for landowner and community outreach and presentations;
- Interact with people who are interested in land preservation agreements on their land
- Have the opportunity to network with a variety of conservation partners including other land trusts, local, state, and federal governmental agencies, and other for-profit and non-profit groups working in the conservation field;
- Prepare maps using ArcMap to help communicate about a projects!

Services will be performed throughout the nine-county region served by SAHC, centered at our Asheville office. Some of these services will be performed outdoors on land that SAHC has protected or is working to protect. A majority of the work with this position will take place in the office but there are multiple opportunities to get out.

**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:**

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Excellent people skills;
- General knowledge of rural and farming communities;
- General knowledge of landscapes, ecology, and Appalachian history would be helpful.
- Proper perspective on the balance between conservation and preservation.
- Microsoft Word, Excel; someone who can do all these things and who also enjoys making maps on ArcMap software. An applicant with GIS skill is preferred and needed.
- A strong sense of being able to work alone under good guidance is critical.
- Four year degree at a minimum is preferable, Masters degree a plus.
- Must be willing and capable of physical work throughout the year.
- Eligible member must be 18 yrs of age & have documentation of citizenship/naturalization/resident alien status.
- Driver's license required.