



AmeriCorps Member Position Description



Member Position: Monitoring & Science Communication Coordinator **# in this Position:** 1

Member Immediate Supervisor Name: Kellyn LaCour-Conant

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

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Restoration Program Director

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

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals: Mission: Drive bold, science-based action to sustain a dynamic coastal Louisiana through engagement and advocacy.

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 Habitat Restoration 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 Restoration Program. The Restoration Program builds support for coastal restoration amongst 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 Restoration Program includes the Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) and the Oyster Shell Recycling Program (OSRP). The HRP 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 understand which restoration methods are most effective and why. Developing and sharing these approaches and their results with landowners and other stakeholders will help coastal residents make more informed decisions for reducing land loss and flood risk in their communities. In the past three years, CRCL's HRP and OSRP have modernized their scientific monitoring techniques to better assess the effectiveness of our restoration projects. For the last two years, resulting from the work of a Serve Louisiana project, CRCL has been using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, or more commonly, drones) to gather additional monitoring data with minimal habitat disturbance. As CRCL restores more acres of wetlands and oyster reefs, our capacity to conduct long-term monitoring of these projects declines. One way to boost our effectiveness as a small, non-profit team is to increase capacity for data collection, analysis, and reporting. Increased capacity for CRCL to collect and interpret monitoring data would benefit the community by helping us to (1) understand restoration project successes or areas for improvement, (2) develop advocacy plans for coastal protection that are based in sound science, and (3) produce high-quality educational and engagement content featuring CRCL projects.

Member Position Summary: The Monitoring & Science Communication Coordinator will add remote sensing and outreach capacity to CRCL's Restoration Program. Under the guidance of the Restoration Programs Director, the Monitoring & Science Communication Coordinator will primarily 1) assist in developing an annual Science Communication Plan for the CRCL Monitoring Program, 2) implement on-the-ground and aerial monitoring of vegetation and reef restoration projects, 3) collect, analyze, and organize data using mapping and statistical platforms, 4) produce aerial imagery and monitoring graphics for completed restoration projects, 5) summarize and report on monitoring data for outward-facing communications as well as internal updates, 6) periodically assist with Habitat Restoration events, meetings, and outreach, and 7) support State of the Coast Conference planning and development.

Member Impact: In the short-term, the Coordinator will enable CRCL to more efficiently monitor our restoration work in coastal forests, marshes, beaches, and oyster reefs along Louisiana's vulnerable coastline. With accurate and timely data, we can better assess project, adaptively manage when areas of improvement are identified, and communicate results and recommendations to the public.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Assist in developing an annual Science Communication Plan through synthesis of project monitoring timelines, data analysis protocols, social media templates, and outreach calendars
- Conduct annual monitoring thru soil, vegetation, and reef development surveys
- Implement UAV-based remote sensing using drone technology, flight mapping and imaging applications, and digital shoreline analysis system (DSAS) software
- Collect, digitize, and organize monitoring data using virtual file sharing platforms
- Analyze and interpret results using programs such as ArcMap, Excel, and R
- Communicate results internally to CRCL staff and Restore the Mississippi River Delta Partners
- Work with Communications, Engagement, and Development teams to produce informational material and outreach opportunities to disseminate monitoring results to a wide audience
- Maintain all equipment used in ecological monitoring and data analysis
- 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 Gala, Restoration on the Half Shell, etc.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Interest in coastal restoration, community engagement, and science communication
- Independent and self-motivated, with strong leadership and communication skills
- Comfortable working in office, remote, and field work settings
- Enthusiasm for physically demanding work outdoors in various weather/site conditions
- Ability to serve full time for 11 months (1700 hours)
- Ability to work atypical hours, weekends, and travel for sometimes several days at a time
- Valid driver's license, safe driving record, and reliable transportation

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

- Coursework or experience in a related field such as Marine Biology, Geomatics, Environmental Science, Engineering, Ecology, Forestry, Natural Resource Management, or others
- Familiarity with data entry, basic statistics, or statistical programs, such as R, SAS, and Excel
- Familiarity with GIS and remote sensing software, such as ESRI ArcMaps and Google Earth
- Operational knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 software