



AmeriCorps Member Position Description



Member Position: Oyster Shell Recycling Community Development Coordinator # **in this Position:** 1

Member Immediate Supervisor Name: Kellyn LaCour-Conant

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

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Restoration Program Director

Partner Organization Name and 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: CRCL's OSRP provides a source of natural material to construct habitat and shoreline protection features, a viable option for local restaurants to limit their landfill footprint and contribute to sustainable fisheries, and a unique experience for volunteers to participate in "boots on the ground" coastal restoration work. As our OSRP has expanded, volunteer events have become more popular, and more restaurants have requested staff trainings to join the program. In the past six months we have opened a new shell recycling center in Violet, nearer to our New Orleans restaurants and volunteer base, and have established a partnership with local glass recyclers, Glass Half Full, to accept oyster shell directly from the public. These new developments create great opportunities for increased community engagement, but at our current organizational capacity we have reached a limitation in how frequently we can offer staff trainings, volunteer events, and other targeted outreach opportunities. We wish to build in additional capacity to develop and offer more community programming to meet this need.

Member Position Summary: The Oyster Shell Recycling Community Development Coordinator will add capacity to CRCL's OSRP by designing and implementing guidelines, curriculum, and timelines for more robust community participation in oyster shell recycling initiatives. The Coordinator will primarily 1) assist in developing an annual OSRP Operating Guideline, 2) organize and operate volunteer oyster shell bagging events, 3) conduct pre-shift meetings with partner restaurant staff to orient them to the OSRP, 4) plan and implement community awareness events, 5) cultivate and maintain community partnerships, and 6) periodically assist with Habitat Restoration events, outreach, and meetings.

Member Impact: The Oyster Shell Recycling Community Development Coordinator will enable CRCL to bolster our program capacity by reaching more—and more diverse—audience and volunteer bases. The Coordinator will be guided to develop programming that is accessible to a broad suite of participants. The Coordinator's work with partner restaurants will raise the profile of the OSRP—and hence coastal land loss and restoration solutions—with restaurateurs, waitstaff, customers, and seafood purveyors. CRCL's vision is that through OSRP participation, volunteers and/or restaurant staff will become informed supporters of coastal restoration and will be empowered to act in support of coastal causes, such as by increasing their involvement with CRCL or by responding to action alerts to express concerns for coastal issues to their representatives. The Coordinator's work will contribute to CRCL's larger restoration impacts by building community awareness and support for the OSRP.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Assist in developing an annual OSRP Operating Guideline through synthesis of shell collection timelines, outreach trackers, educational materials, volunteer surveys, and metrics of success.
- Implement volunteer events that will prepare recycled shell for use in restoration projects.
- Coordinate and lead educational pre-shift meetings with partner restaurant staff.
- Maintain OSRP StoryMap, including updating graphics, restaurant partners, and narrative.
- Work strategically with Outreach, Communications, and Development teams to cultivate and maintain engagement opportunities and community partnerships.
- Support other Restoration Program projects, which may include volunteer tree or grass plantings, monitoring, or informational outreach opportunities, such as tabling at festivals.
- 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
- Detail-oriented, organized, and capable of advancing multiple project concurrently
- 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
- Operational knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 software