



AmeriCorps Member Position Description



Member Position / Title: Oyster Shell Recycling Technician

Member Immediate Supervisor Name: Deborah Visco Abibou

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: Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals:

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

Purpose: To sustain as much of Louisiana's coast as possible despite climate change and other factors causing land loss. In pursuit of this overarching goal, we build support for restoration, increase public awareness of CRCL in order to extend our influence, and strengthen our organizational capacity.

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 OSRP recycles oyster shell from New Orleans-area restaurants and uses it to restore oyster reefs that protect Louisiana's eroding coast line. The OSRP also engages volunteers and stakeholders to participate in the process of constructing shoreline protection projects at sites across our coast.

Community Need: CRCL's Oyster Shell Recycling Program (OSRP) has developed a successful volunteering experience and viable option for local restaurants to participate in. As events have become more popular, and as more restaurants join the program and require staff trainings, we have reached a limitation in our capacity to offer programming at the frequency that we need to efficiently build future oyster reef restoration projects. Over the next few months, CRCL expects to develop a new shell curing site that is closer to the city and that will increase event accessibility to diverse volunteers. When the new site comes online, we expect demand for volunteer events to increase. We wish to build in additional capacity to develop and offer more programming to meet this need.

Member Position Summary: The Oyster Shell Recycling Technician will add capacity to CRCL's OSRP (part of the Restoration Program). The Technician will primarily 1) organize and operate volunteer Oyster Shell Bagging events in Buras, LA, 2) assist in developing programming for a new shell curing/volunteer event site (location TBD), 3) conduct pre-shift meetings with partner restaurant staff to orient them to the OSRP, and 4) help increase the amount of shell captured by identifying efficiencies. The Technician will also periodically assist with Habitat Restoration events, outreach activities, and meetings.

Member Impact: The Oyster Shell Recycling Technician will enable CRCL to bolster our outreach capacity by reaching more—and more diverse—volunteers and restaurant staff. The Technician will be guided to develop programming that is accessible to a broad suite of participants. The Technician’s work with partner restaurants will raise the profile of the OSRP—and hence coastal land loss and restoration solutions—with restaurateurs, waitstaff, and customers. CRCL’s vision is that after this engagement, volunteers and/or restaurant staff will become supporters of coastal restoration and furthermore, will take action such as increasing their involvement with CRCL or responding to action alerts to express issue support to their representatives. By identifying ways we can increase the amount of shell captured, CRCL can achieve larger restoration impacts and pass along lessons learned to inspire similar programs across the coast.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Implement volunteer events that will prepare recycled shell for use in restoration projects.
- Assist with program development of oyster shell recycling events
- Coordinate and run educational pre-shift meetings with partner restaurant staff
- Work strategically to increase shell captured by adding additional restaurants, identifying cost-savings, and engaging seafood processors to determine their potential to recycle shell.
- Assist staff with other volunteer restoration projects, the State of the Coast Conference, Stewardship Awards Gala, and tabling at festivals

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Interest in coastal restoration
- Strong leadership skills with ability to prioritize the safety of large groups
- Exceptional communication skills, including public speaking and ability to communicate technical concepts in laymen’s terms
- Operational knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 software
- Independent and self-motivated –must be comfortable working without constant supervision
- Enthusiasm for physically demanding work outdoors in various weather/site conditions
- Comfort working in an office
- 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
- Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:
- Coursework or experience in a related field such as Coastal/Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Ecology, Outreach & Engagement, or Business
- Leadership experience
- Valid driver’s license, safe driving record, and reliable transportation.