



AmeriCorps Member Position Description

Member Position / Title: Program Coordinator

Member Immediate Supervisor: Marion Martin **Days / Hours of Service:** Monday-Friday - 8:00 - 5:00

Partner Organization Name: Dat School

Website: dat.schoolnola.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals:

Dat School is a full-time learning center where children ages 5-12 in New Orleans learn essential life skills through the exploration of their interests. Most of the instructional experience is student-led. Staff and volunteers are present to keep learners safe, to assist, to offer various activities, and to facilitate life as a community.

As a learning center, Dat School provides resources that allow curiosity, playfulness, and sociability to flourish, because we know that children are naturally curious and learn better when making their own decisions about what, when, how and with whom to learn. Dat School helps students from all socioeconomic backgrounds explore their strengths and pursue their interests. We do this by providing a diverse environment, organizational and research tools, and the opportunity to play, interact, collaborate, discover, learn, make mistakes, solve problems and make decisions.

Program Mission and/or Goals:

For its third year of operation, Dat School would like to place the emphasis on its values: environmental sustainability and racial/gender/class equity and social justice.

Aligned with our mission of sustainability, we would like to keep developing our community garden that was started by our first member.

Additionally, Dat School relies on a group of volunteers from the community who come with their skills and knowledge. Our students also love to go into the community and meet people who have something to share: a story, a talent, a project.

Community Need:

We believe that there is a great need for child-centered learning spaces like Dat School in New Orleans and especially for spaces accessible to children from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

While conventional education is mostly focused on preparing students for standardized testing, we place the emphasis on values that are essential to present and future times. New Orleans is a

unique place where unfortunately, we witness a lot of inequalities when it comes to access to opportunities and respect. We raise awareness among our students about the systemic racial/class/gender divides and help them become engaged citizens. Louisiana has been particularly impacted by the overuse of its natural resources and the effects of climate change. It is crucial to raise awareness among the young generations.

Member Position Summary:

Dat School Volunteer & Program Coordinator will serve in multiple capacities, namely:

- 1. Volunteer Coordinating-- About 20% of the member's role (approximately 8 hours/week) will include coordinating volunteers.** The Serve Louisiana member is reaching out to the community to find volunteers who are willing to come to Dat School to give their time and share their knowledge but also find people who are willing to welcome our students into their world. The member will also assist older students to find professionals in town with whom they would like to do an internship. The goal at the end of the service year is for the Serve Louisiana member to leave Dat School with a database of volunteers and possibly other systems that the member determines will build our capacity to utilize volunteers to support students' interests and learning.
- 2. Program Outreach & Community Awareness-- The member will spend approximately 20% of their time.**
Cultivating relationships with community partners and planning and implementing Dat School community events. The time spent on program outreach may flex each week. Some weeks a member may spend 0-1 hour on this. Other weeks a member may represent Dat School at a community event or coordinate an educational community film night at Dat School and spend 7-10 hours on prep and outreach.
- 3. Program Development-- The member will spend the majority of their time, at least 50% (or 20+ hours/week), of their time developing Dat School's programs.**
The Serve Louisiana member will be in charge of creating and offering activities for the learners. The member will choose and design offerings (activities) that align with our values (equity, environmental sustainability, and racial, gender and social justice).
The member will be a good role model for the learners, facilitate learning and keep learners safe.

Member Impact:

The activities offered by the member will considerably shape Dat School's atmosphere of learning, joy, respect and equity.

We believe that the programs developed by the member will help our students, their families and the larger community have a better understanding of our society and encourage them to have a positive impact through their actions.

Dat School is a very small structure and having a Serve Louisiana member is a tremendous help.

Essential Functions of Position:

The Serve Louisiana member will be part of the first team supporting Dat School learners, serving multiple roles, the main ones being: help develop our programs and organize volunteers.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Organized and proactive.
- Interest in sustainable ways of living.
- Commitment to advancing racial, gender and social justice.
- Proficiency with Google apps (Drive, docs, sheets, presentation) and/or Microsoft (word, excel, powerpoint).
- Ability to quickly familiarize yourself with apps.
- The ability to serve in the above coordinator roles in a shared work space where the sounds of laughter, play & excited learning co-exist.
- Gardening experience and knowledge of a second language are a plus.
- Must enjoy the outdoors.

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

- Experience with (and enjoyment of) working with children.