



AmeriCorps Member Position Description Culinary Education Program Coordinators



Member Position / Title: Arthur Ashe Charter School Culinary Education Program Development Coordinator

of Member Slots in this Position: 1

Member Immediate Supervisor Name: Harry Alper

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Lead Chef Educator

Days / Hours of Service: Monday-Friday school hours (e.g. 7-3:30 or 8:00-4:30); occasional Saturdays

Partner Organization Name: Edible Schoolyard New Orleans at FirstLine Schools

Website: www.esynola.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals:

FirstLine Schools is a New Orleans based charter management organization committed to helping New Orleans become the first city in the country where every child attends a great school. Our mission is to create and inspire great open admissions public schools in New Orleans. FirstLine's leaders started New Orleans' first charter school in 1998, and have been transforming the academic expectations, achievement and aspirations of our students ever since.

We operate five K-8 schools -- Arthur Ashe Charter School, Phillis Wheatley Community School, Langston Hughes Academy, Samuel J. Green Charter School, and FirstLine Live Oak in New Orleans. Our focus is turning around struggling schools through a culture of high expectations for academic achievement and behavior. Our schools also provide students with a variety of enriching experiences, including our signature program, the Edible Schoolyard New Orleans (ESYNOLA).

All FirstLine schools share a vision of providing an “Education for Life” in the following areas:

1. College Preparatory Curriculum - We equip every child with the skills and mindsets to succeed in college preparatory high schools.
2. Rigorous and Engaging Classes - We create environments with strong work ethics while offering classes that have a healthy dose of fun.
3. Enrichment - We offer a wide variety of enrichment activities to expand young people’s sense of life’s possibilities and to allow every child to pursue activities that develop into lifelong interests.
4. Nurturing Community - We create a caring environment where teachers and administrators know the students well and special events bring together parents, teachers, students, and members of the school community.
5. Partnership with Parents - We develop a strong partnership with parents based on shared expectations, regular communication, and a shared commitment to creating a strong school community.

Program Mission and/or Goals:

ESYNOLA’s mission is to teach children to make healthy connections through food. Our aim is to ensure the long-term well being of students, families, and school communities by:

- Integrating hands-on kitchen and garden classes into the school curriculum and culture
- Inviting students, families, and the community to experience local food through joyful events involving chefs, farmers, and community partners
- Supporting core academic learning in garden and kitchen learning environments
- Maintaining beautiful school gardens that stimulate students’ curiosity and desire to learn about the natural world
- Cultivating safe spaces for social and emotional development
- Collaborating to provide healthy nutritious food in welcoming school cafeterias

Community Need:

Historically underserved due to racial, economic and social inequity, FirstLine students are among the most resilient in the nation. They live in areas still emerging from decades of economic and educational depression, intensified by expansive devastation after hurricane Katrina. At least 80% of the students qualify for SNAP and Medicaid benefits, 100% receive free meals based on the schools' participation in the federal Community Eligibility Program, 99% are children of color (95% African American, 4% Latino), and 15% of FirstLine students qualify for special education services.

Employment and income disparities between African American and white individuals in the city are starker than national disparities, and poverty is increasing in surrounding parishes. It is well-established that poverty directly correlates to malnutrition and food insecurity, that malnutrition often contributes to chronic nutrition-related diseases, and that African American children (one in two) are more likely than their white peers to develop diabetes and other nutrition-related diseases in their lifetimes. Our students come from some of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, and our incidence of crime is one of the highest in the U.S. Our lack of safe streets and

sidewalks increase stress while discouraging outdoor physical activity.

The long-term success of our community depends upon the investment in our children. Through our academic model and programming, FirstLine aims to ensure that every child is equipped with the skills and mindset needed to succeed in college, career, and life.

Member Position Summary:

The culinary program development coordinators will assist in teaching K-8 culinary classes and create one or two of the capacity building projects listed below:

- Support the development and pilot of a student internship program
- Collect, organize, format, and archive recipes to create a recipe database for use by all ESYNOLA culinary education staff, families, and students

Teaching will include team preparation of ingredients and class setup, leading a small group cooking activity, and assisting with cleanup and preparation for the next cooking class.

The creation of the documentation and engagement systems will include the corps member working with ESYNOLA's teachers and program director to create or build processes and tools that reach the identified goals around family engagement and archiving/sharing ESNOLA curriculum.

Member Impact:

The culinary program development coordinators will increase the capacity of ESYNOLA teachers at two FirstLine schools to teach high-quality lessons, increase family engagement, and share nutritious recipes with chef educators, students, and families.

The support of our recipe archive creation will minimize teachers' time spent managing recipe information and enable educators to deepen their relationships with students and parents by sharing healthy recipes with families. The recipe project will also enable us to share resources with other culinary educators. Supporting a student internship program in the teaching kitchens will better equip us to meet our goals of providing students with leadership opportunities in ESYNOLA spaces, deepen our impact with middle-school aged students, and build community in our schools.

As the capacity of our program increases in these areas, we are able to further accomplish our program goals, such as improved food and nutrition knowledge, attitudes and behaviors, and increased consumption of fresh nutritious foods by our students and their families.

Essential Functions of Position:

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Lead a small group during kitchen classes, delivering content that is sensory, healthful, experiential, developmentally appropriate, and academically accurate
- Develop teaching and classroom management skills
- Guide students to make connections between the kitchen and the garden, understand local, seasonal, and sustainable culinary practices, and make healthful food choices at home and at school

- Prepare for lessons; includes reading and reflecting on lesson plans provided by the kitchen educator
- Assist in the preparation and cleanup of classes.

CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECT

Members will select a capacity building project(s) from the options listed below through a process of determining the best choice according to the Corps members' skills, desired learning objectives, and school community needs.

- Support the development and pilot of a student internship program
- Collect, organize, format, and archive recipes to create a recipe database for use by all ESYNOLA culinary education staff, families, and students.

KITCHEN/CULINARY

- Assist in daily kitchen maintenance, including sanitizing surfaces, washing and putting away dishes, washing and putting away laundry, cleaning out refrigerator drawers, cleaning out sinks, and taking out trash
- Assist with preparation and execution of food for classes and special events.

COMMUNICATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attend regular kitchen team meetings to review, prepare for, reflect on, and contribute to kitchen class and special event planning
- Participate in all ESYNOLA staff meetings and teacher development
- Maintain consistent and constructive communication/feedback with the kitchen team while working closely with chef teachers to provide/receive internal feedback
- Update chalkboards and behavior chart in preparation for all classes
- Participate in all ESYNOLA professional development sessions
- Receive and respond to teacher coaching feedback
- Participate in other school-based trainings provided by FirstLine staff
- Participate in collaborative goal setting process with lead kitchen educator to create individual benchmarks.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Ability to:

- work at a face pace with efficiency
- work with frequent interruption and to supervise a variety of tasks simultaneously
- create systems that organize and streamline existing processes
- communicate and collaborate with a wide variety of people
- problem solve complex issues

- stand for long periods of time, mobility of arms to reach, dexterity of hands to grasp and manipulate large and small objects
- find joy in all of the things listed above

Qualities:

- achievement-oriented, with a focus on goals and results
- initiative and drive for continuous improvement
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- proficient with information technology
- strong enthusiasm for experiential, sensory, and food education (required)

Willing to:

- work occasional weekends/special events when needed
- taste and prepare a wide range of foods
- manage and speak in front of groups of children

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree

Experience cooking or gardening with elementary/middle school-aged students

Experience working with children, especially in a public/charter school setting

Demonstrated interest in education, nutrition, food studies, environmental science or related field (required)

Experience in the culinary field

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

- Corps member candidates will undergo a federal and state background check and are checked against the National Sex Offender Registry. The AmeriCorps and Serve Louisiana guidelines dictate that a candidate can be disqualified for the following reasons:
- Murder conviction
 - They are registered on the sex offender registry
 - They provide a false statement in response to inquiry about criminal history (application or interview)
 - They refuse to undergo the background check

Please indicate here if your organization has any other restrictions or requirements that would deem a candidate not eligible to serve with your organization. Otherwise, please check this box:

- Our organization does not have any additional disqualifiers to become an AmeriCorps member.