

# 2022-2023 AmeriCorps Member Position Description



**Partner Organization Name:** Pontchartrain Conservancy

**Corps Member Position Title:** Museum Program Educator

**Supervisor:** Kate Tannian

**Days/Hours of Service:** Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday 9-5 Wednesday 12-8

**Physical Location:** 8001 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70124

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## **Organization Mission and/or Goals:**

Pontchartrain Conservancy's mission is to drive environmental sustainability and stewardship through scientific research, education, and advocacy.

The Pontchartrain Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of a 14-member board of directors representing Basin parishes and regulatory agencies.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin is a 10,000 square mile watershed encompassing 16 Louisiana parishes. The land use of the region is both rural and urban and is the most densely populated region in Louisiana, including metro New Orleans and the state capital, Baton Rouge. It is one of the largest estuarine systems in the Gulf of Mexico containing over 22 essential habitats. The Basin's topography ranges from rolling woodlands in the north to coastal marshes in the south, with the 630 square mile Lake Pontchartrain as its centerpiece.

## **Program Mission and/ or Goals:**

Our museum offers programs that focus on the ecology of the Pontchartrain Basin, and the critical coastal issues we face today in South Louisiana. Guests can enjoy a tour as well as immersive environmental science and engineering activities. Our goal is to allow individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and become stewards of Louisiana's beautiful and unique ecosystem.

## **Member Position Summary:**

Program Design and Evaluation Coordinator. In collaboration with the Visitor Services Manager, the Program Design and Evaluation Coordinator, plans and runs museum interactive

programming including the Underwater Robotics Program, the Seed Station and Seed Library, and the Lakeview Learning Lab.

Once familiarized with the programs, the coordinator will evaluate and work to improve exhibit flow. The Coordinator will assist in recruiting and training program specific volunteers. They will work with the museum team to develop new STEM programming for a variety of ages, experience and group sizes as well as help create an evaluation process to measure the program's effectiveness.

### **Essential Functions of Position:**

#### *Set up the exhibits:*

- Place challenge course obstacles for the underwater robotics in the canal,
- Set out gardening equipment in the Seed Station.
- Guide walk-in guests through the interactive exhibits
- Explain the steps and order to each exhibit
- Explain the STEM concepts at each step and answer questions the guests might have

#### *Break-down the exhibits at the end of the day:*

- Pull obstacles out of the canal.
- Water seedlings if dry and put away gardening tools.
- Assist in recruiting and training volunteers using our volunteer software and reaching out to local colleges and universities.
- Go through guest surveys with museum staff and discuss improvement to the programming based on the information there-in as well as observations while running the programs.

### **Ideal Candidate Qualifications**

- Is comfortable with and excited about discussing STEM concepts with a wide range of ages, educational backgrounds and life experiences.
- Works well with a team but is also comfortable working independently.
- Able to stay on task and on schedule with minimal supervision.
- Comfortable with learning new technologies and scientific concepts.
- High School Degree required

### **Required Transportation Requirements (ex: own vehicle or able bike to site)**

No transportation other than being able to get to the Museum for the work day.