

2024-2025 AmeriCorps Member Position Description

**Pontchartrain
Conservancy**



Partner Organization Name: Pontchartrain Conservancy

Corps Member Position Title: Museum Program Educator

Supervisor: Kate Tannian

Days/Hours of Service: M-F 9-5 occasional nights and weekends (rare)

Physical Location: New Canal Lighthouse, 8001 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70124

Organization Mission and/or Goals:

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

Program Mission and/ or Goals:

Pontchartrain Conservancy's Education Center is housed in the New Canal Lighthouse. We offer programs that focus on the history and ecology of the Pontchartrain Basin, and the critical coastal issues we face today in South Louisiana and in coastal communities around the world. 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:

In collaboration with the Visitor Services Manager, the Museum Program Educator, 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 corps member will evaluate and work to improve exhibit flow. They 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.

Member Impact

The New Canal Lighthouse receives over 11,000 visitors per year both in-person and virtually. We engage community members in conversations and provide interactive experiences with the second largest saltwater body in the United States, Lake Pontchartrain. Our programming ranges from environmental science STEM classes for k-12 to Green Infrastructure Classes to help community members mitigate flood damage in their neighborhoods. We try to remove barriers to learning and being a part of the conversation by offering free programming to students who attend Title 1 schools and library card holders. The Program Design and Evaluation Coordinator will help us expand our programming and community partners to help meet the needs of a community and pursue Pontchartrain Conservancy's Mission.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Learn and present our 12 basic programs and Museum Tour
- Develop a new program complete with community partners and curriculum
- Help us move past, "drive-by" programming to provide a multi-layered more thorough learning experience
- Help organize and maintain our current exhibits including our rain garden
- Help us increase our capacity to reach more community members through outreach and partner building

Skills, knowledge and trainings the corps member should expect to gain from this position

- Program and Exhibit development
- Community Engagement
- A thorough knowledge of the geological history of Louisiana, water quality issues in the Basin and how to test for them
- coastal issues in Louisiana and mitigation techniques
- A surprising amount about Lighthouses
- The AmeriCorps Member will be invited to participate in any conferences PC attends in their service year

Ideal Candidate Qualifications

- A comfort working with the public generally and children specifically
- Either knowledge of or desire to learn about local ecosystems
- Basic computer skills are necessary

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

Reliable transportation to the New Canal Lighthouse, be that car, bike or public trans