



AmeriCorps Member Position Description

**Pontchartrain
Conservancy**



Member Position / Title: Water Quality Technology Coordinator

Member Immediate Supervisor: Brady Skaggs

Days / Hours of Service: Business hours are Monday – Friday (8 hours a day, exact schedule can be of member’s choosing). Some Saturdays may be required. If this occurs, the member will be given a week day off prior or following the Saturday.

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Water Quality Program Director

Partner Organization Name: Pontchartrain Conservancy

Address: 2045 Lakeshore Drive

City: New Orleans, LA **Zip Code:** 70122

Website: scienceforourcoast.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals:

The focus of the Water Quality (WQ) Program is to enhance one of the region’s best assets by monitoring water quality, tracing sources of pollution, assisting in the correction of failing wastewater systems, and by advocating for innovations in and implementation of green infrastructure and watershed management. Scientific research, education, and advocacy are the cornerstones of the department’s work, implemented through its three focus areas: Wastewater Technical Assistance Program, The Basin Pollution Source Tracking Program, and Basin Monitoring Program.

Member Position Summary:

Specific tasks that will occur throughout the member’s term include:

- Website design
- WQ sampling/recording tool development for use on iPad or similar device
- Assistance in health and safety plan development and implementation
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures, results and reporting documentation, and Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) documentation for the sampling program;
- Assisting the WQ Program Director or an LPBF educator in an ongoing project built on Citizen Science: the member will be asked assist in building project data management systems (project examples include wastewater system inspection & quantification of plastics and algae by citizen participants);
- Water sample collection from water quality sites utilized in the Basin Wide Monitoring Program (microbiological samples, as well as water temperature, turbidity, salinity, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen are collected in situ); and
- Development of promotional materials for initiatives within the WQ program. The member would gain experience in developing print and electronic promotional items, the scientific data collection process and the scientific method.

These tasks will be completed over the 11 months and not all tasks listed above will be worked on every day/week.

Member Impact:

The member would meet the growing community need of environmental stewardship. By understanding the science conducted at Pontchartrain Conservancy, the member will then be able to translate that science to materials that enhance environmental stewardship on the Greater New Orleans region and beyond. The focus of the Water Quality Program is to enhance one of the region's best assets by monitoring water quality, tracing sources of pollution, assisting in the correction of failing wastewater systems, and by advocating for innovations in and implementation of green infrastructure and watershed management. Scientific research, education, and advocacy are the cornerstones of the department's work, implemented through its three focus areas: Wastewater Technical Assistance Program, The Basin Pollution Source Tracking Program, and Basin Monitoring Program. Our goals with this new member is to empower the next generation of innovative thinkers, particularly those who may be socioeconomically disadvantaged and have limited exposure to available options for careers in STEM.

Essential Functions of Position:

1. Water Quality technology development

- Improve WQ webpage
- WQ sampling/recording tool development for use on iPad or similar device
- Improve WQ data management

2. Conduct Water Quality programs, as appropriate:

- Field work for scientific data collection at water quality sites;
- Continue refinement and digitalization of Pontchartrain Conservancy's WQ reporting tools
- Development of social media materials and formulation of print materials (such as fact sheets);
- Development of STEM teaching tools for laboratory instruction of WQ program curriculum; and
- Increase awareness of WQ science conducted by Pontchartrain Conservancy through tabling events, social media, etc.

3. Serve as a program support to Citizen Science Programs at the New Canal Lighthouse, as needed:

- Assist Citizen Science participants with sample analysis and data logging;
- Give tours and assist with presentations to adult, school, and camp groups, as requested.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint);
- Experience building webpages and webforms;
- Experience with Adobe or other illustrator programs;
- Ability to code or program (preferred);
- Willingness and capability to conduct field work, where conditions may include inclement weather (high heat and humidity, possible exposure to insect bites and sun);
- Suitable oral and written communication skills
- Communicate effectively with all parties
- Ability to stay organized, multitask and be efficient;
- Experience using social media;
- Willingness to be adaptable; and
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment.

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

Undergraduate degree in Science (Environmental Science or Computer Science focus preferred)

Required Transportation Needs:

Pontchartrain Conservancy offers private work vehicles available for travel to and from field locations. It is possible to travel around the Greater New Orleans Area to and from the office via bicycle or public transportation. However, Pontchartrain Conservancy's new offices are located in a busy commercial corridor (Causeway Blvd), and commute via bike and/or public transportation may be long or indirect.