



## AmeriCorps Member Position Description



Member Position / Title: Program Coordinator

# of Member Slots in this Position:1

Member Immediate Supervisor: Cheryl Giles

Days/Hours of Service: M-F 8-5 with flexible hours. Some weekends and night required.

Partner Organization Name: Slow Food Baton Rouge

Address: LSU Campus

Website: [www.slowfoodbr.org](http://www.slowfoodbr.org)

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

Slow Food Baton Rouge is dedicated to the promotion and development of a secure, just, and sustainable local food system. Slow Food Baton Rouge seeks to facilitate greater understanding about the environmental, economic, nutritional, cultural, and social impacts of food choices, the local culinary arts and food traditions, and support the production, consumption and purchase of locally produced food to benefit the health of consumers, the farming community, while strengthening the local economy. Slow Food Baton Rouge is the local chapter of Slow Food USA whose mission is "seeking to create dramatic and lasting change in the food system, Slow Food USA reconnects Americans with the people, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils and waters that produce our food. We work to inspire a transformation in food policy, production practices and market forces so that they ensure equity, sustainability and pleasure in the food we eat. "

### Program Mission and/or Goals:

The Local Food Systems Program Coordinator will facilitate activities among community members related to local foods systems with a focus on farm to school in Baton Rouge. The overall program goal is to provide leadership in the area of local food systems, food access, food literacy and specific farm to school programming (Greaxing Healthy Baton Rouge) in the schools affiliated with Slow Food Baton Rouge. The corps member will be actively involved in facilitating coordination of the farm to school programming which includes: weekly garden, food literacy, and nutrition lessons and tastings, farm field visits, farmer school visits, and possible school produce markets as well as recruitment of volunteers.

### Community Need:

There is great community need in Baton Rouge in terms of developing and sustaining a more healthy, sustainable local food system. Farm to school is a community-based strategy that includes a focus on creating a healthy school food environment. Farm to school activities support development of healthy eating habits for children while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.

The Healthy BR 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment indicates serious health issues that are directly related to food issues. One in two children in Louisiana is overweight or obese. Obesity related medical expenses cost Louisiana more than \$3 billion annually. As cases of obesity rise in Louisiana and the U.S., so do the cases of related chronic diseases like diabetes. Obesity is a significant risk factor<sup>1</sup>for diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Lifestyle factors such as physical activity, healthy eating, and monitoring caloric intake can

decrease the risk of obesity. This program specifically addresses several of the specific areas of need such as food access, food literacy, and nutrition education. Farm to school programming, a component of a local food system, impacts positively numerous health outcomes relating to 3 components.

- Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria, as a snack or in classroom taste-tests.
- Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health and nutrition.
- School gardens: Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening

This program will specifically work with East Baton Rouge Parish Schools and long standing partner school Dufrocq Elementary (and others as needed).

#### Member Position Summary:

This position is a combination of Program Development Coordinator and Technology and Social Media Coordinator. The Slow Food Baton Rouge Corps Member position is to support the nonprofits' efforts in developing a more sustainable local food system and in particular farm to school programs in Baton Rouge. The Corps Member will coordinate SFBR's farm to school program Greauxing Healthy Baton Rouge, Urban Agriculture Workshops, and the Snail of Approval program. In addition, the Corps Member will support the social media and program outreach to community partners and members.

#### Necessary Training:

The Corps Member will be offered trainings periodically that relate to local food systems / farm to school such as the annual Louisiana Farm to School Conference and the Southern Sustainable Working Group annual meeting. The Corps Member will also be invited to engage with the LSU AgCenter's Farm to School / Institution Team and take part in the numerous activities and trainings and their resources.

#### Member Impact:

The Slow Food Baton Rouge program has the potential for great impact on the school children involved in the farm to school program. The impact of the programs will be measured following standard quantitative and qualitative measures per farm to school guidelines. The member's service will directly impact the program's outcomes, and the nonprofit's mission. In addition, the programming is an example to other schools in effective farm to school and local food system programs. In East Baton Rouge Parish all of the students receive a free lunch funded by the USDA. An example of the target population is that the demographics of Slow Food Baton Rouge's main partner school (Dufrocq Elementary) is 86.5 % African American, 7.3 % white, 3.3 %, and 53.5 % of the students are free or discounted lunches which is based on income guidelines.

#### Essential Functions of Position:

- Farm to School

The Corps Member will be the coordinator of the farm to school pilot program and oversee the implementation of the program, enlist volunteers, and coordinate weekly activities with teachers, and engage students. The corps member will adapt the Slow Food USA's farm to school curriculum to the needs of the local public schools engaged with SFBR. It is expected that a minimum of one lesson plan is implemented per school and a tasting each month and a school garden maintained at the SFBR partner schools.

- Snail of Approval

The Corps Member will implement the pilot program Snail of Approval starting in January 2019 using previously established criteria and application materials. It is expected that most of the eligible businesses (those that are sourcing local) will be enrolled in the program.

- Urban Agriculture Workshops

The Corps Member will develop and organize a fall and spring workshop series with a minimum of 4 separate trainings each season. In addition the goal is to rebuild partnerships with other similar organizations and to reach out to the community.

The Corps member will responsible for promoting weekly updates via social media (FB, Instagram, Snapchat) and the website for all 3 projects as well as work with board members on general SFBR social media/communications, and networking.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of gardening is essential and previous experience teaching gardening is an asset. Basic computer skills and knowledge of various software systems and platforms as well social media and website software. A valid driver's license and dependable vehicle is required.

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

Minimum BS/BA degree, preferred in agriculture/horticulture, and experience in gardening and working with youth.