

2024-2025 AmeriCorps Member Position Description



Partner Organization Name: Louisiana Sea Grant

Corps Member Position Title: Education & Outreach Coordinator

Supervisor: Dani Dilullo

Days/Hours of Service: M-F 8:30 - 4:30, some evening/weekend work

Physical Location: Sea Grant Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Organization Mission and/or Goals:

Louisiana Sea Grant's mission is to generate and provide science-based information and tools that support the state. The program envisions resilient and sustainable coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems that are supported by engaged and informed public and decision-makers. Louisiana Sea Grant achieves their work by participating in projects around four broad focus area (1) Resilient Communities and Economies, (2) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, (3) Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development, and (4) Healthy Coastal Ecosystems.

Program Mission and/ or Goals:

The Department of Education and Engagement at Louisiana Sea Grant is a cross-cutting department that collaborates with research, extension, and policy. The E&E Program provides strong educational support and stakeholder engagement about issues facing our coast and research attempts to address these challenges. The goal of this department will be to increase environmental literacy in all the groups worked with: K-12 schools, teachers, research faculty, graduate students and build new collaborations with agency partners.

Member Position Summary:

The Education and Outreach Coordinator will work directly with Louisiana Sea Grant's Department of Education and Engagement. The member will assist in educational programming, event coordination, outreach, K-12 lesson development, and other events/needs. The items will include: (1) assistance with the EnvironMentors/GeoStewards High School program; (2) Ocean Commotion coordination, serving as the lead on volunteer registration/communication; (3) develop and deliver Wetland Days content and programs with the Education Coordinator; (4) conduct school visits with Coastal Roots and Consider Litter programs, and (5) assist in the development of lesson plans focused on

environmental literacy. There is some travel associated with this position, as Louisiana Sea Grant frequently has programs in different coastal parishes.

Essential Functions of Position:

The essential functions of the coordinator entail:

- (1) creating interactive school and community engagement events;
- (2) facilitating educational programming to a variety of students, educators, and community members;
- (3) developing educational content and investigations that are aligned to Louisiana-based phenomena that serve a variety of grade levels and needs;
- (4) building a network of community members that can support educational opportunities throughout coastal Louisiana;
- (5) maintain a database of educational partners;
- (6) becoming familiar with coastal Louisiana challenges and achievements;
- (7) keep records of educational events;
- (8) evaluating the efficacy of programs;
- (9) maintaining a non-advocacy stance when presenting information;
- (10) developing some content for the website and social media, and
- (11) assisting other Louisiana Sea Grant's departments with tasks around policy, research and communications.

Member Impact

Most of our efforts culminate in some sort of education event—in schools, universities, or in the field. The coordinator works both independently and as part of a team to develop content for these events. Short term goals that can be evaluated on are: (1) an increased familiarity with Louisiana environmental phenomena, (2) a growing awareness of the K-12 educational framework, and (3) an increased comfort with public speaking. In the long-term the member can be evaluated on (1) their ability to coordinate an activity from start to finish, (2) their ability to develop of standards-aligned lesson materials, and (3) their familiarity with careers in coastal science and their interest in continuing in the field.

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

Skills/ Knowledge

The corps member will gain:

- (1) new insights in coastal challenges,
- (2) educational programming development and planning skills,
- (3) educational event coordination experience,
- (4) program evaluation practice, and
- (5) exposure to careers in coastal Louisiana.

In any given year, Louisiana Sea Grant participates in at least a dozen place-based education activities.

These require understanding the needs of participants', working within a budget, setting realistic expectations, making, and meeting deadlines, and assessing programmatic impacts. This is done in conjunction with multiple partners across the state in local, state, and federal agencies along with non-profits and NGOs.

Training

Louisiana Sea Grant provides opportunities for professional enrichment through quarterly extension meetings, bi-annual education meetings, and the attendance of local conferences. Additionally, being located on the LSU campus, provides the opportunity for other networking and training opportunities.

Ideal Candidate Qualifications

Strong communication skills are essential. Experience with community and outdoor outreach is a plus. An undergraduate degree or background in education, environmental science, oceanography, resource management of other related fields is preferred, but not required.

Reliable transportation to the Louisiana Sea Grant office and a valid driver's license.