

Highwater Farm's Youth Program Lead AmeriCorps position takes place on site in Silt, Colorado. This position is made possible through a partnership with Mountain Roots Healthy Futures.

AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: Youth Program Lead

Field of Service: Agriculture, Farm to School

Service Site: Highwater Farm

Address: 7001 Co Rd 346, Silt, CO

Site Supervisor's Name: Sara Tymczynsyn, Executive Director, Highwater Farm

Slot Type: Quarter Term

Term Length: 3-3.5 months (450 hours)

Start Date: May 20

End Date: August 15

Healthy Futures Program Overview

AmeriCorps service with Mountain Roots Healthy Futures Program builds social, economic, and environmental health for rural communities across the central Rocky Mountains and southwestern Colorado.

Highwater Farm Overview

Highwater Farm is growing food, empowering youth, and fueling community on 3.5 acres in Silt, Colorado. Using sustainable agricultural practices, we steward public land, increase access to healthy local food and engage teens in meaningful work. The Youth Program Lead position serves the Summer Youth Program, a job-training program for local teens ages 14-17 that helps youth develop critical job and communication skills.

Service Description

The Youth Program Lead position is a full-time, 12-week commitment between May 15 – August 15, 2024. The Youth Program Lead will work closely with the entire Highwater team, to lead 20 teens through agricultural tasks and educational experiences in the Summer Youth Program. The YPL's primary responsibility is to directly lead and mentor youth crew workers on the farm.

This position includes two weeks of on-farm orientation and training prior to the start of program where leaders are oriented to the mission and vision of Highwater Farm, including service expectations, program structure and schedule, and leadership and safety training. It is critical that the YPL is available and committed to serving the entire 12 weeks.

We seek enthusiastic, organized and motivated individuals with a strong desire to become fully invested in service during their time with us. Ideal candidates possess enthusiasm for the outdoors, a strong work ethic and a good sense of humor.

Commitment:

The Youth Program Lead must be available Monday through Thursday for 12 weeks between May 20th–August 15th, 2024 from 7am-4pm and Fridays from 7am-12pm. May include occasional weekends or evenings for an average of 35-40 hours/week.

Location and Service Conditions:

This position is based at Highwater Farm, 7001 Co Rd 346, Silt, CO 81652. Position involves daily service outdoors and/or in a community building.



What You Gain:

- Learn about sustainable agriculture and food access
- Job experience in alternative education, vegetable production, and anti-hunger work
- Leadership and public speaking skills
- Learn about local food systems and build relationships with partner organizations

AmeriCorps Member Duties

- Participate in farm tasks throughout the season, including but not limited to: seeding, bed prep, irrigating fields, trellising, weeding and maintaining crops, harvesting, processing and packaging produce.
- Serve closely with the Highwater Farm staff to coordinate and facilitate summer program daily and weekly logistics, including: work hours, morning meeting, on-site workshops, off-site cooking classes and farm tours, service opportunities and farmers market participation.
- Uphold and train youth in work standards, mentorship, feedback strategies (Real Talk) and basic agricultural work practices.
- Lead select workshops, games and activities focused on building introductory knowledge of social justice and food justice issues; communication skills; and relationship building across social barriers.
- Provide on-site supervision of youth and volunteers, ensuring all participants are safe and experience positive personal growth. This includes serving alongside crews to model behavior and check-in.
- Assist with facilitation of two on-farm Community Lunch events during the summer season that incorporate Highwater Farm produce and youth program participants.
- Participate in program/season review upon completion of program to inform and guide subsequent programs.

Qualifications & Expectations:

- Arrive to the farm on time, prepared and ready to learn
- Model hard work ethic for youth crew workers and lead by example
- Engage and mentor youth participants through field work and off-site activities
- Take initiative and problem-solve in a group setting
- Receive positive and critical feedback from supervisors and peers
- Be an ambassador of the program to the wider community
- Maintain professional work boundaries with program participants and staff
- Ability work under pressure in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work outside in extreme weather conditions and maintain a positive attitude.
- Commit to the entire 12-week position
- Spanish language skills a plus.

AmeriCorps Required Qualifications:

- At least 18 years old at start of service
- Must be a high school graduate, GED recipient, or working toward attaining a high school diploma or GED during the term of service. Members must obtain either a diploma or GED before using an education award.
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident of the United States
- Able to pass a National Service Criminal History Check (state, FBI, and National Sex Offender Public Website checks) per 45 CFR 2540.202



Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Program Benefits

- \$5,034 Living Allowance - AmeriCorps Member(s) will receive a total stipend paid out bi-weekly at \$800 (before taxes) over the course of the term.
- \$1,8204.07 Education Award / Tuition Assistance - AmeriCorps Member(s) can receive an Education Award upon successful completion of service. This can be used to pay back student loans, or to further your education.
- Housing stipend of \$400/mo provided to all serving members directly by Highwater Farm
- Members receive professional development and training, plus covered travel costs for attendance at state or regional conferences.
- Members may be eligible for Federal program assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)
- Members may qualify for student loan forbearance (postponing the payment of loans) while in service.
- Alumni benefits may include priority hiring with organizations that are part of Employers of National Service and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to eliminate educational debt.

About the Living Allowance

An AmeriCorps Living Allowance is not a wage, salary, or hourly pay. The Living Allowance is a stipend designed to support the basic necessities of the individual while in service, such as room and board, utilities, and transportation.

EDUCATION PREFERRED FOR THIS POSITION	
X	High School Diploma or equivalent
X	Technical / Vocational School or Apprenticeship
X	Some College or AA Degree
	Bachelor's Degree
	Master's Degree

ESSENTIAL SKILLS																						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Youth Education / Teaching</td> <td>X</td> <td>Communications</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment / Conservation</td> <td></td> <td>Community Organizing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Services / Health & Human Services</td> <td>X</td> <td>Teamwork</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agriculture, Farming, & Gardening</td> <td>X</td> <td>Outreach & Engagement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Animal Husbandry</td> <td>X</td> <td>Working with vulnerable populations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade / Construction</td> <td></td> <td>Language <i>[specify]</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cooking</td> <td></td> <td>Other <i>[specify]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Youth Education / Teaching	X	Communications	Environment / Conservation		Community Organizing	Social Services / Health & Human Services	X	Teamwork	Agriculture, Farming, & Gardening	X	Outreach & Engagement	Animal Husbandry	X	Working with vulnerable populations	Trade / Construction		Language <i>[specify]</i>	Cooking		Other <i>[specify]</i>
Youth Education / Teaching	X	Communications																				
Environment / Conservation		Community Organizing																				
Social Services / Health & Human Services	X	Teamwork																				
Agriculture, Farming, & Gardening	X	Outreach & Engagement																				
Animal Husbandry	X	Working with vulnerable populations																				
Trade / Construction		Language <i>[specify]</i>																				
Cooking		Other <i>[specify]</i>																				

OTHER	
X	Car Recommended
X	Permits attendance at school during off hours
	Permits working at another job during off hours
X	Typical schedule, Monday-Friday
X	Flexible hours are required, including some weekends or evenings
	Remote / teleservice is allowed

