

POSITION DESCRIPTION

CONFLUENCE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The Confluence AmeriCorps Program advances environmental equity through innovative partnerships with local organizations in the Portland metropolitan area. We offer life changing service opportunities that engage Members at the intersection of environmentalism and social justice while promoting individual leadership and development. This position is a dynamic combination of serving with a Project Partner on a dedicated project (80%) and engaging in professional and leadership development opportunities, alongside a Member cohort (20%). www.confluencecenter.org

EQUITY & INCLUSION

Confluence does not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, expression, pregnancy, parents/guardians with children, or veteran status. Confluence is committed to a diverse workplace, and to supporting our Members and staff with ongoing equity trainings and career development opportunities. Confluence, like many environmental programs, is a predominantly white space, and in an effort to decolonize dominant structures of oppression, we encourage people of color to apply.

Confluence provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

DATES OF SERVICE

February 9, 2022 – July 29, 2022 (5 ½ months – 900 hours)

POSITION TITLE

Program Instructor

PROJECT PARTNER

Wind & Oar Boat School
<https://windandoar.org/>



POSITION SUMMARY

This position is in partnership between the Confluence Environmental Center, AmeriCorps Program, and Wind & Oar Boat School. Wind & Oar Boat School is a unique educational organization that uses boat building as a platform for engaging and inspiring youth in grades 5-12 to “own” their education. The project-based learning approach asks them to reflect, reason, and collaborate in an environment where failures are as important as successes. Our hands-on, minds-on programs offer an integrated curriculum linking math, science, and art and design, with a focus on the Willamette River watershed and ecology, encouraging students to connect with the outdoors. This AmeriCorps Member will serve as an assistant program instructor and curriculum builder, while developing their own woodworking skills and guiding students through related side projects (80%).

The Member will also participate in Confluence led leadership development activities which include: Leadership

Development Training Series, completing a Change Agent Project (CAP), team meetings, National Service events and other self-directed development opportunities (20%).

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (to include, but not limited to):

- Develop a stronger environmental education curriculum by planning and leading activities for all age levels to enhance the hands-on, project-based, boat-building curriculum by integrating topics related to watersheds/water, wood/forestry, math, physics, engineering, geography, and navigation.
- Understand and complete the various processes Wind & Oar uses to build a skiff while under classroom, personnel, and time constraints.
- Demonstrate creativity and adapt to the needs of the students as they gain problem solving skills.
- Participate in professional development to understand and demonstrate competency of the Wind & Oar pedagogy, philosophy, and values.
- Cultivate relationships with Wind & Oar employees, students and partners.
- Develop community partnerships that serve youth who may benefit from our program by participating in partner meetings, coalition meetings, and professional development opportunities. These include periodic meetings of NE STEAM coalition, the Portland Metro STEM Partnership, and activities presented by NAO and Institute for Youth success.
- Source volunteers through local outreach, online outreach and through new and existing partnerships.
- Listen to the communities with which Wind & Oar works to understand their concerns, assuming nothing.
- Complete and submit all necessary paperwork and reports in a timely manner; attend and complete all training and service requirements; wear Confluence uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.
- Abide by program and AmeriCorps policies. Under no circumstances will Members be asked to perform prohibited activities outlined in the approved grant.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Open-minded sensitivity to students with diverse backgrounds, who may not interface with the dominant culture.
- Ability to meet students where their coming from and continuously ask for their input and ideas.
- Practice self-reflection and self-awareness.
- Serve as an ambassador for Wind & Oar and represent W&O as a caring and responsive institution.
- Respect materials and tools required for craftsman level workshop.
- Contribute to staff discussions about formative assessments of student performance
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations, such as project partner(s), staff, stakeholders, volunteers, youth and the general public.
- Effective, respectful communication in-person and via Zoom, email, phone, presentations, and written reporting.
- Coordinate and support the work of volunteers and staff.
- Sensitivity to diverse communities and patience with students who may be struggling for any number of reasons.
- Willingness/openness to learn about and discuss racial equity and social justice issues.
- Regular and reliable attendance and dependability.
- AmeriCorps Members must be: 18 years of age or older at beginning of service term; U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident; in possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving award; able to commit to the full term of service; able to successfully pass a fingerprint criminal history background check and satisfactory report from the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) prior to the start of the position.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience working with diverse populations
- Experience teaching in educational settings both indoors and outside, and with youth ages 9-20
- Some woodworking skills, preferably boat building
- Comfortable working individually and as a team member
- Bilingual in Spanish

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE

- \$8,000 living allowance paid over the 5 ½-month term of service (approx. \$1,454 monthly, before taxes).
- \$3,172 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Access to Health Insurance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- \$100 Training Fund
- Professional Leadership Certificate, Trainings and Networking opportunities.
- May be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Opportunity to be hired on in staff role after successfully completing term of service.

PROJECT LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

- Office and shop are located at 2303 N. Randolph Ave., Portland, OR 97227
- Close to Max and bus routes:
 - Bus #35 – 7 min. walk from Interstate and Tillamook
 - Bus #85 – 8 min. walk from Interstate and Albina
 - Max Yellow line – 8 min. walk from Mississippi and Albina transit Station

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1: Apply to Project Supervisor: (Conducts first round interviews and recommends top candidates to Confluence)

Email the following items to Peter Crim at peter@windandoar.org or call (503)-709-4337:

- **Résumé**
- **Cover letter (1 page)**
- **Contact information for three references (name, title, relationship, email & phone)**

STEP 2: Apply to Confluence: (Completes final interviews and offers position)

- **Complete [AmeriCorps Application](#)**

QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFLUENCE OR AMERICORPS?

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