



Soil Health & Urban Forestry Specialist

Contact for interested Members: Claire Ilersich, NOWCorps Member Coordinator at claire@tinkerscreek.org or 330-963-6863 x5104. Applications preferred by August 1, 2024, but position is open until filled.

About Us:

Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is a State and National AmeriCorps program, funded by AmeriCorps and ServeOhio, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. *This is a paid service year position.* The NOWCorps program is sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization, whose mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. NOWCorps partners with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits who serve as host sites for our members. Through the host site, members facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. NOWCorps position descriptions vary depending on the host site and service year focus and prospective members may apply to multiple NOWCorps positions at the same time.

Together with our partners, **Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)** recognizes the importance of maintaining water quality throughout Northern Ohio. We also believe in educating the public and regional leaders to support behavioral changes that positively affect our water resources.

Host Site Information:

Cuyahoga SWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio with a mission to provide educational and technical services for the conservation and protection of soil and water resources.

Basic Position Information:

Location: Cuyahoga SWCD, 3311 Perkins Ave., Suite 100, Cleveland, OH 44114

Reports to: Cuyahoga SWCD Deputy Director - Education & Watersheds

Member position begins October 8, 2024 and ends September 30, 2025. Mandatory orientation is scheduled October 8-11, 18, 2024, which will occur in person in Twinsburg, Ohio. This position is a **Full-time member** position and requires a minimum of 1700 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$22,000, and the stipend will be paid bimonthly.

Usual hours of service will be Monday - Friday during the hours of 8:30am – 5:00pm. The ability to serve flexible hours, including weekend days and some evenings, is needed. Scheduled hours may fluctuate, increase, or decrease in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities.

Benefits:

- Paid Orientation and training included
- Programmatic and site-specific training. Content may include but is not limited to: First Aid, CPR, native species identification, hand and power tool training, volunteer engagement, and more
- Federal Loan Deferment
- Full-time members eligible for health insurance
- Full-time members may qualify for childcare assistance
- May be eligible for education award of \$7,395.00
- Additional training reimbursement stipend of \$125/quarter (\$500 total)
- Eligible mileage reimbursement
- Ample opportunity for professional development and networking
- Free attendance to the Ohio Stormwater Conference

The member will not be an employee of Cuyahoga SWCD and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Cuyahoga SWCD provides to its employees.

AmeriCorps Requirements:

- Must have a GED or high school diploma
- Must be 18 or older by October 8, 2024
- Must successfully pass a comprehensive National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC)
- Must be a US citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Possess a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation
- Have an interest or plan to pursue a career in education, biology, environmental science, forestry, natural resources, planning, marketing, or similar.
- Be self-motivated and able to work independently and on a team
- Strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate maturity and cultural competency
- Desire to serve the local community
- Bachelor's or Associate's Degree in Forestry, Agriculture, Environmental Science or a related field.

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member:***General Member Responsibilities***

- Promote the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps through education and outreach activities
- Enhance skills and knowledge applicable to position through participation in related workshops, conferences, and training

- Plan, facilitate, and participate in group service projects for National Days of Service
- Attend all NOWCorps required meetings and trainings
- Complete activity & data reports monthly, required timesheets weekly, and any other reporting in a timely manner.
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description

Host Site Responsibilities

- Conduct field monitoring and mapping of trees planted through the County's Healthy Urban Tree Canopy program and other SWCD initiatives.
- Maintain and expand Cuyahoga tree stock and live stake materials for use in district programs.
- Assist district staff in tree planting programs.
- Establish new and maintain existing urban agriculture and soil health demonstration plots.
- Expand existing Cuyahoga SWCD soil health programming, including organic waste diversion and urban cover crop establishment.
- Organize and maintain equipment and materials needed for programs and activities.
- Oversee interns and volunteers in outdoor education and off-site field activities.
- Serve as a liaison with environmental organizations, government agencies, and local leaders to connect Cuyahoga SWCD programs with partner initiatives.
- Assist staff in communicating with the public about programs and initiatives.

Additional activities that fall within the goals of the program may be assigned with approval of the member, site supervisor, and NOWCorps staff.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment

The physical requirements and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an individual to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the following:

- Manual dexterity sufficient to operate telephones, computers, and other office equipment.
- Physical ability to kneel, bend, and perform light lifting.
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions and to traverse uneven terrain while carrying up to 25 pounds.
- Ability to write and speak clearly using the English language to convey information and be able to hear at normal speaking levels both in person and over the telephone.
- Specific vision abilities required include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Valid driver's license and acceptable/insurable driving record.

Additional information: Cuyahoga SWCD is accessible to individuals with disabilities. **Cuyahoga SWCD**, Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners, and the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps will adhere to all regulations concerning nondiscrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital or parental status, genetic information, military service, and religion.

The below signed recognize this as the Member Position Description and that the Member is to perform the duties detailed above during their Member Service Year. The below signed recognize that activities outside of the scope of this description require prior written approval by all the below signed prior to execution of those activities.

NOWCorps Member Signature

Host Site Supervisor Signature

NOWCorps Staff Signature