



NOWCorps UA Field Station Assistant

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 nonprofit, 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, **The University of Akron Field Station** 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:

The University of Akron Field Station (UAFS) at Bath Nature Preserve is a living laboratory for the advancement of knowledge through ecological research, education, and stewardship of the natural world. Our main base of operations is the Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education located in the 411-acre Bath Nature Preserve. We have two other field sites, Steiner Woods and Panzner Wetlands Wildlife Reserve where activities may take place.

Basic Position Information:

Location: **Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education, 4240 Ira Rd. Akron, Ohio 44333**
Reports to: **Field Station Director, Dr. Lara Roketenetz**

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 M-F during the hours of 8:30am-5:30pm. 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 Holden Forests & Gardens and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Holden Forests & Gardens 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 outdoor education, sustainability, biology, environmental science, natural resources, wildlife management, or related field.
- 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
- Experience communicating with diverse audiences and ability to work well with learners of all ages and abilities.
- Some knowledge and strong interest in the natural history of Northeastern Ohio preferred.

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

Field Station Responsibilities

- Strengthens program development and delivery
- Supports the efforts of The University of Akron Field Station by assisting with education programs which may be held at Bath Nature Preserve, Steiner Woods, Panzner Wetlands Wildlife Reserve and other off-site locations, including but not limited to Northeast Ohio K-12 schools, libraries, and The University of Akron Main campus
- Assists with field trips and camps, exhibit creation, and with the preparation and implementation of special events
- Communicates natural and cultural history, environmental, park related information to the public in person and through telephone, internet, park publications, social media, etc.
- Assists in maintaining a safe, clean work environment for one's self, co-workers, and the public. Responds to hazardous situations and emergencies by taking corrective actions as capable and promptly notifying appropriate individuals and supervisory personnel
- Plans and participates in stewardship activities and events including tree plantings, stream cleanups, and invasive vegetation removal
- Performs daily operational duties including, but not limited to, opening and closing building(s) and recording walk-in and program attendance
- Assists in maintaining nature viewing areas and garden maintenance at the center
- Citizen Science activities and monitoring (including, but not limited to, vegetation monitoring, pollinator surveys, amphibian and bird monitoring)
- Participates in field study activities e.g. bog monitoring and reptile/amphibian/mammal surveys
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, perform light lifting and set up and tear down tables and chairs • Physical ability to lift equipment up to 30 lbs, hike over uneven ground, dig, climb ladders, etc.
- 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 by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus
- Ability to work outdoors and in inclement weather conditions
- Ability and license to drive a vehicle to and from school sites or around the nature preserve properties

Additional information: The University of Akron Field Station is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The University of Akron Field Station, 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