California Climate Action Corps Full-Time Fellowship

Forest & Climate Resiliency Fellow at Watsonville Wetlands Watch

POSITION LOCATION: Watsonville, California

TERM OF SERVICE: Full-time; serve 1700+ hours from September 18, 2023 - August 15, 2024

TIME REQUIREMENTS: Serve 40 hours per week, Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm; occasional weekends depending on the project

ABOUT CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION CORPS (CCAC):
California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) is a national service program led by California Volunteers and implemented by Bay Area Community Resources (BACR) dedicated to advancing climate actions that engage community members, cultivate change, and leave a lasting impact.

CCAC is part of a larger statewide initiative to address the climate crisis by placing emerging leaders with local organizations to mobilize community members on direct climate action through education, volunteer engagement, and assessment with projects focused on urban greening, organic waste and edible food recovery, and wildfire resiliency.

Selected Fellows will serve 1700+ hours as AmeriCorps members over approximately eleven months, supporting community climate action, education, or assessment projects in target regions across the state. CCAC meets Californians where they are and provides meaningful opportunities for everyone to take climate action. For more information, please visit: https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/about-california-climate-action-corps

ABOUT HOST PARTNER SITE:
Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW) is a non-profit organization, established in 1991, with the mission to preserve, restore, and foster the appreciation of the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley. The Watsonville Sloughs are one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the California coastal region, a system of six interlinked sloughs comprising about 800 acres. We advocate for the preservation of this unique resource and act on behalf of the local environment, envisioning a thriving wetland ecosystem, with the community at the center of its conservation. WWW addresses the current restoration needs of the Watsonville wetlands and ensures their on-going care and stewardship by educating and engaging students and residents and developing future environmental leaders. In 2018, WWW launched the on-going Watsonville Community Forest project to expand the local tree canopy, increase carbon capture, clean the air and water, and reduce urban heat island effects in the local community. Our work reflects our core values of community-led environmental stewardship and data-driven environmental science. Our organization's headquarters are the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center, on the campus of Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville. Each year, our restoration programs restore and enhance over 1,000 acres of wetlands, their associated uplands, and recreational trails throughout Watsonville and the greater Pajaro Valley, and our education programs provide dynamic outdoor field experiences for over 6,000 Pajaro Valley youth.

SITE SUPERVISOR NAME(S):
Cara Clark

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:
The Watsonville Community Forest and Climate Resiliency Program engages local students and community members in tree planting, urban and school greening projects, and wetlands restoration to restore and conserve the environment of the Pajaro Valley. We promote, design, and implement projects and policies that allow us to adapt to projected sea level rise and climate change. Our projects are increasing carbon capture and flood capacity within local wetlands and grasslands through our native plant propagation and habitat restoration programs. Our goal is to create a thriving local environment that’s healthier, more equitable, and more climate resilient. Our program is closely aligned with our local climate action and urban forestry plans and goals, including the expansion of the tree canopy and the restoration of our local wetlands. This work is integral to our organization’s mission. We have been restoring the local environment for over 30 years. Climate Corps Fellows will work with our Restoration team to engage local students and community members in tree planting, urban greening projects, and wetlands restoration—participate directly—and provide climate education to local students and community members at our school programs and community events. We work to create a thriving local environment that supports the health of local residents, climate resiliency, and equitable access to the outdoors. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Implement urban forestry and habitat restoration projects, including public trail maintenance work, tree planting, watering, and tree care in neighborhood and park locations, planting native plants, removing invasive plant species, and nursery propagation
- Lead volunteer and community outreach to engage local students and community members in tree planting, urban greening projects, and wetlands restoration
- Teach climate curriculum to educate local students and community members at our school programs and community events
- Lead community outreach efforts to plant over 600 trees through our Resident Adoption Program and urban greening efforts in the City of Watsonville and on Pajaro Valley Unified School District campuses
- Increase capacity for edible food recovery and composting programs in local schools
- Host tree adoption and care workshops for local residents
- Implement monthly community and student habitat restoration projects in the local wetlands, including some weekend work for community volunteer days
- Conduct water quality sampling and participate in other monitoring efforts
- Track program data and analyze results to quantify climate impact
- Participation in training not to exceed 20% (340-hours) of total service hours
- Fellow duties will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities per 45 CFR § 2520.65

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS/CHARACTERISTICS:

Experience in Volunteer Engagement; Event Coordination; Community Outreach; Environmental Education; Field Experience; Public Speaking/Facilitation; and Bilingual in Spanish is a plus

- A college degree, work experience, and/or an interest in climate change mitigation, volunteerism, or public service is preferred, other relevant experience is considered
- Experience with outreach, education, training, or community behavior change
- Fundamental understanding of climate change science, environmental policies in California, and/or environmental priorities focused on urban greening, organic waste and edible food recovery, and wildfire resiliency
- Excellent organizational, writing, interpersonal, and speaking skills

BENEFITS OF SERVICE:

Our staff is committed to environmental and climate justice, and we work with local students and community volunteers to make a difference for our community. WWW provides and supports training and professional development opportunities for its staff and supervision and mentorship by senior staff with advanced degrees and considerable experience in their fields. Fellows will have the opportunity to develop environmental restoration and urban forestry skills, receive training on related tools and techniques, participate in environmental data collection and surveys, and develop their skills in education, outreach, and volunteer engagement. The Fellow will have hands-on leadership development opportunities, with staff support, to deliver environmental and climate education to local students and residents, lead workshops, and plan events.

California Climate Action Corps Fall Fellows will receive the following benefits during their service term:

- Receive up to $33,000 stipend (before taxes) distributed evenly over the service term
- Receive $10,000 combined Segal Education Award and California For All Education Award (before taxes and upon completion of service)
• Participation in 170-340 hours of training and professional development
• Receive food assistance via CalFresh (for those eligible)
• Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and interest payments accrued during the service term
• Health plan benefits
• Child care assistance from AmeriCorps to qualifying Fellows paid to an eligible provider of their choice

ABOUT BACR:
As the program implementation lead, Bay Area Community Resources (BACR) is responsible for the member’s (Fellow’s) recruitment and placement at the Host Partner Site listed above. BACR is the Implementing Agency that manages the Fellows’ payroll and benefits. We cultivate an environment that encourages fairness, teamwork, and respect among all employees and National Service members.

We are firmly committed to maintaining an atmosphere in which people of diverse backgrounds and lifestyles may grow personally and professionally. Therefore, we enthusiastically accept our responsibility to make decisions without regard to race, religion or religious creed, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, marital status, medical condition, disability, military service, pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local laws or ordinances.

Our management team is dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of this equal opportunity policy with respect to hiring, placement, promotion, transfer, demotion, layoff, termination, recruitment advertising, pay, and other forms of compensation, training, and general treatment during a Fellow’s term of service.

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