PLEASE NOTE: All applications must be submitted through this link - https://form.jotform.com/StewardsIPP/cva-member-application-2027

Position Title: Community Volunteer Ambassador – AmeriCorps

Conservation Legacy Program: Stewards Individual Placements

Site Location: De Soto National Memorial

8300 Desoto Memorial Hwy, Bradenton, FL 34209

Terms of Service:

- **Start Date: 2/22/2027**
- **End Date: 2/4/2028**
- **AmeriCorps Slot Classification: 1700 Hours (50 Weeks)**

Purpose:

Stewards Individual Placements (Stewards), a program of Conservation Legacy, provides individuals with AmeriCorps service and career opportunities to strengthen communities and preserve our natural resources. Participants serve with federal agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofits to provide institutional capacity, develop community relationships, and support ecosystem health. The Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) Program combines the strength of a national leader in conservation service with the National Park Service to train emerging leaders to assist park units in building lasting connections to communities.

De Soto National Memorial is a 26-acre National Park Service site on Shaw's Point in Bradenton, Florida. The park preserves a coastal landscape of mangrove wetlands, sandy shoreline, and upland forest while interpreting thousands of years of local history. Visitors can explore the Memorial Trail, Camp Uzita, and exhibits examining Indigenous communities, Hernando de Soto's 1539 expedition, and the expedition's lasting effects on the peoples and landscapes of the American Southeast.

Description of Duties:

The Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) supports the mission of De Soto National Memorial by strengthening connections between the park and the surrounding community. The CVA assists with recruiting, onboarding, and retaining volunteers who support park programs, special events, interpretation, and resource stewardship activities.

The CVA develops and maintains relationships with community organizations, schools, civic groups, and partner agencies to expand public engagement and volunteer opportunities. Responsibilities include conducting outreach presentations, representing the park at community events, and promoting volunteer opportunities through various communication channels.

The CVA also coordinates and tracks volunteer schedules, assists with event staffing, and supports volunteer recognition efforts. In collaboration with park staff and partners, the CVA schedules, attends, and participates in community stakeholder meetings to foster partnerships, identify collaborative opportunities, and enhance awareness of park programs, resources, and initiatives.

Through volunteer engagement and community outreach, the CVA helps build lasting connections that support conservation, education, and stewardship at De Soto National Memorial. Based on our event planning document, the park regularly works with partners such as the Friends of De Soto and local community organizations, making stakeholder engagement and volunteer coordination key components of the position.

Responsibilities:

- Volunteer Recruitment
    - Review current volunteer recruitment strategies
    - Serve with park volunteer coordinators on methods to improve volunteer recruitment
    - Devise multimedia/ social media strategies and campaigns for volunteer recruitment
    - Attend offsite events and programs with the purpose in implementing these volunteer recruitment strategies
- Community Outreach
    - Review current community outreach programs and look for ways to improve and prepare for offsite community events and outreach.
    - Schedule and attend outside community events for the purpose of increasing park outreach and volunteer recruitment.
- Gateway Community Involvement
    - Review current park gateway community and shareholder strategies.
    - Improve Park gateway community relationships.
    - Create strategies and identify new possible park partnerships and

gateway communities.

Qualifications:

- Must have completed or is currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree seeking program.
- Great communications skillsexperience with Microsoft office products, CANVA, and Adobe products (photoshop, acrobat)
- Social media experience in writing and editing posts in Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.
- Willing to serve with close knit team.
- United States citizen, United States national, or a lawful permanent resident alien
- Applicants must be between ages of 18-30 years old, or up to 35 for veterans, based on Public Land Corps Act of 1993 authorizing this AmeriCorps opportunity.
- Has received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate; or has not dropped out of elementary or secondary school to enroll as an AmeriCorps participant, and agrees to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to using the education award
- Agrees to provide information to establish eligibility and to complete a National Service Criminal History Check.

Preferred Qualifications

- Local applicants in area housing preferred.
- Has current Driver's License.
- Public Speaking
- Social Media
- Effective communication skills
- Takes initiative with minimal supervisionwilling to learn and try new things
- CPR/AED/First Aid training

Our Commitment:

Conservation Legacy is committed to the full consideration of all qualified individuals and will ensure that persons with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to perform essential job functions. Physical requirements may include periodic overnight travel, non-traditional work hours, ability to move across varied terrain, use program-specific tools and a range of technology on an infrequent or frequent basis. Exerting up to 25 pounds of force occasionally to lift, carry, push, pull, or otherwise move objects. The ability to safely drive an organizational vehicle may also be required for some positions. If you need assistance and/or reasonable accommodation due to a disability during the application or recruiting process, please send a request to Vanessa Morrison at vmorrison@conservationlegacy.org

Time Requirements:

- Typically, this position is expected to serve 40 hours per week, but exact service schedules may vary. A half hour lunch break will not be counted towards AmeriCorps service
- Member may be required to participate in national, state, or local service projects or events as part of their service term.

Orientation and Training:

- Member will receive an orientation that includes training on AmeriCorps prohibited and unallowable activities.
- Week-long, in-person training on NPS Volunteer Program Management and leadership schools.
- Year-long Continuum of Learning supporting participant professional development.
- $750.00 in Professional Development Funds for travel and training.

Additional Position and Community Information:

Willing to serve weekends and some holidays

Will learn living history and historic weapon demonstration and safety

Park special event planning and incident command

No NPS Housing Available

Benefits:

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of $7,395.00
- Living Allowance of $700.00 per week.
- Additional Benefit of $200.00 per week (if housing is not provided)
- Healthcare Coverage if Eligible
- Childcare Coverage if Eligible
- Loan forbearance if Eligible

- Interest Payments if Eligible
- 10 Federal Holidays, 10 Days Personal Leave, 10 Days Sick Leave

Evaluation and Reporting:

As an AmeriCorps member, performance will be evaluated on whether the member has completed the required number of hours, the member has satisfactorily completed assignments, and if the member has met other performance criteria that were clearly communicated at the beginning of the term of service.

Reporting requirements include, but are not limited to, bi-weekly timesheets and accomplishment tracking.

Program Contact Information:

Please contact James Gasaway at the contact information below with any questions.

Stewards Contact information: James Gasaway, jgasaway@conservationlegacy.org

Conservation Legacy is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

We also consider qualified applicants regardless of criminal histories, consistent with legal requirements. If you need assistance and/or reasonable accommodations due to a disability during the application or recruiting process, please send a request to the hiring manager.