

Watershed Education & Outreach Coordinator

Memphremagog Community Maritime, Inc. (MCM), Newport, Vermont



Experience the natural world, create lasting memories, and make a positive impact in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom - and beyond! We are pleased to invite a talented nature lover to share sunsets on the Lake, inspire children with games and creativity, and become part of the legacy of the Memphremagog Science & Education Center (MemSEC). Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM) seeks a motivated Watershed Education & Outreach Coordinator to contribute to the development of the Memphremagog Science & Education Center (MemSEC) on board The Northern Star (US Coast Guard approved cruise ship vessel) and at Newport's Gateway Center. This position offers an exceptional opportunity to gain valuable professional experience in water science education, citizen science projects, volunteer management, community outreach, events, and more.

This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps (VHCB AmeriCorps). The VHCB AmeriCorps program supports the innovative dual-goal approach to creating stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape. VHCB AmeriCorps is a national service program that places members with non-profit housing or land and energy conservation organizations around the state.

MCM's mission is to develop, enhance, and protect the Lake Memphremagog experience. MCM's Memphremagog Science & Education Center (MemSEC) provides lake-based education, maritime history and opportunities for stewardship of Lake Memphremagog through hands-on programs for students, teachers, local community organizations, tourists and visitors to our area. We're seeking a talented and passionate Watershed Education & Outreach Coordinator to perform a key role in watershed-focused environmental education programs and public engagement. Serve the public with place-based, hands-on science information in a culturally sensitive way. Address critical issues like land use, environmental impacts, and climate change. Develop innovative solutions for environmental literacy and community resilience within our watershed. Living and serving in Newport is a meaningful way to engage in a profound year of service.

Essential Functions:

- Assist in the delivery of the Floating Classroom water quality programs
- Expand the population of students and communities through on-going recruitment and engagement efforts.
- Track and report environmental education & outreach data for sharing the impact and effectiveness of MCM programs.
- Greet and interact with guests and participants at the Science & Education Center to promote increased engagement with exhibits and our programs.
- Inventory, manage, and utilize educational supplies and teaching materials.
- Create and facilitate three teen programs, to include lesson plans.
- Plan and implement five watershed community events.
- Recruit, train, and support volunteers for lessons, programs, and events.



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- Establish a “Friends of MemSEC” group for community volunteers.
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps
- Participate in all VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Secondary Functions:

- Attend organization-wide meetings, conferences, and community events.
- Support the development and expansion of the Science & Education Center, to include contributing to and maintaining exhibits, interpretive panels, informative signs, and brochures.
- Sharing informal talks and presentations with visitors and participants.
- Develop social media/outreach content to promote events, opportunities, and online courses.
- Contribute information and material to report outcomes of direct service on a monthly, semi-annual, and yearly basis.
- Support partner organizations, such as Newport Community Sailing School, UVM Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Memphremagog Watershed Association, Memphremagog Conservation (MCI), Green Mountain Farm-to-School, and others.

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge, skills, and experience in delivery of environmental education programs, coordinating community events, and volunteer recruitment and management.
- Curiosity in local and international efforts for solving complex environmental problems.
- Interest in environmental and social justice, climate resiliency, and community development.
- Professionalism in communicating complex topics with a variety of stakeholders.
- Ability to communicate in French is strongly desired.
- Adult and Child First Aid/CPR with AED.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Commitment to a schedule that is most appropriate for program operations with travel/weekends/evenings occasional required.
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and public speaking.
- Knowledge or interest in learning local history, ecology, and issues in the watershed.
- Desire to share information with the public, such as reporting to tourism inquiries, environmental topics, and MemSEC displays, educational lessons, and programs.
- Proficiency in web-based tasks, including Google apps, social media, Excel, etc.
- Ability to serve in the outdoors in harsh/severe weather.
- Be US citizen or have permanent resident status;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation or 17 years of age with verified parental permission;



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- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards a GED as part of the service-term. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps.
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo an National Service Criminal History Check;
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program's ethic of service, appreciation of diversity, and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in all required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Available to regularly serve 40 hours per week



Additional Information:

We are a small but growing organization that strives to meet the needs of the public year round. With a focus on community engagement events, organizational development in the off season, and opportunities for education and recreation early spring - late autumn. Expect to serve during a fixed Monday-Friday schedule with occasional evenings/weekends and travel. Be ready to serve in a dynamic environment with a fun cast of characters: you may be on the boat with the crew in the morning and then meeting with an important partner organization in an office in the afternoon.

Position begins September 9th, 2024 and ends August 8th, 2025.

This position is **Full Time**: Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 47 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of **\$30,000** (pre-tax) for the service term. Member will receive an education award of \$7,395 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.

Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.

To Apply: <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

John Aldridge

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Application deadline: **XX**. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled.

Additional information on the AmeriCorps is available at www.americorps.gov.



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The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is sponsoring this AmeriCorps position through their AmeriCorps Program. VHCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

