

2018 Penn State AmeriCorps Service Opening

sustainable food systems program

The Sustainable Food Systems Program (SFSP) at Penn State enables student initiative, hands-on learning and service across the food system. The SFSP includes a one-acre Student Farm, course-client collaborative projects, the Student Farm Club, and community partnerships. More information: studentfarm.psu.edu.

Sustainable Food Systems Program AmeriCorps

The SFSP is seeking a half-term AmeriCorps member to build capacity in support of our goals to 1) educate about food system sustainability and health, and 2) strengthen the local community through growing, marketing and donating local foods. Under supervision of the SFSP Program Manager, the AmeriCorps member will collaborate with students, faculty, community organizations and volunteers to design, implement and evaluate programs that support food security, local economic development and personal engagement with the food system.

AmeriCorps responsibilities include:

1. Collaborate with community partners, students and faculty to develop and sustain SFSP programming.
2. Support SFSP course-client collaborations by developing and coordinating partnerships between university faculty and courses, and local food and agriculture systems organizations, such as area food banks, the local food cooperative and Central PA Community Action.
3. Recruit, train and provide support to volunteers serving with the SFSP and community partners.
4. Coordinate and lead tours of the Student Farm for students, youth, community members and others.
5. Assist and support student leaders with farm and program tasks, trainings and events.
6. Research, develop and conduct educational and outreach initiatives on topics such as gardening, healthy food access and market opportunities for local producers.
7. Coordinate with the Centre County Food Systems Coalition and partners to plan and carry out county-wide events and activities focused on enhancing the food system.
8. Develop and implement tools for continuously tracking program outcomes. Present program outcomes and data to university, governmental and community stakeholders.
9. Complete various other projects that help to develop and sustain the SFSP.

Qualifications:

1. Must meet all Penn State clearance and background check requirements.
2. Superb written, interpersonal and oral communication skills.
3. Able to learn quickly, prioritize multiple projects, manage schedule independently, meet deadlines and enjoy a fast-paced work environment.
4. Able to work with diverse groups and individuals in indoor and outdoor settings.
5. An interest in and knowledge about food systems concepts and/or community organizing preferred.
6. Valid driver's license, own transportation.
7. Bachelor's degree preferred. Current Penn State students are eligible as well.

Position location: Penn State University in State College, PA

Service term: January 16, 2018-August 10, 2018; avg. 32 hours per week (900 hours total)

AmeriCorps stipend: \$302 distributed biweekly over the term, and a \$2907 education award upon service term completion. Office space provided at University Park campus. Please see <http://www.pmsc.org/become-a-member/> for additional information about AmeriCorps service.

To apply: Submit a resume, cover letter and two references' contact info with the subject line 2018 SFSP AmeriCorps Application to Leslie Pillen at studentfarm@psu.edu. Interviews will begin December 18.



PennState