

AGROFORESTRY AMERICORPS VISTA
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Application Due Date: January 8, 2020

Organization Description

Since 1995, **Appalachian Sustainable Development** (ASD) has been working to propel our mission to transition Appalachia to a more resilient economy and a healthier population by supporting local agriculture, exploring new economic opportunities, and connecting people to healthy food. In the beginning, ASD focused exclusively on 15 counties in northeast TN and southwest VA. Today, our work has expanded to include partners in WV and eastern KY with the creation of the Central Appalachian Food Corridor.

Agroforestry Program Description

ASD's **Agroforestry Program** was founded in 2010 with the goal of helping farmers adopt agroforestry practices that support both conservation and specialty crop production. Agroforestry is a land use management system in which trees and/or shrubs are grown with crops and/or livestock. This intentional combination of agriculture and forestry has a variety of environmental and economic benefits, including crop diversification, soil erosion reduction, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, and much more. There are several agroforestry practices, including: forest farming, riparian forest buffers, alley cropping, silvopasture, windbreaks, and food forests.

Historically, ASD has worked with government agencies to establish multifunctional riparian forest buffers with useful fruit and nut trees and shrubs along waterways, as well as food forests along public walking trails. Currently, ASD has funding to help farmers establish, process and market forest botanicals in a forest farming system. We are seeking an Agroforestry AmeriCorps VISTA to help expand this program to include more agroforestry practices.

Activity Title: Agroforestry AmeriCorps VISTA
Work Location: ASD is based in Abingdon, VA.
Hours: Full time (40 hrs/wk) with some weekend events required.
Type of Position: 1 year AmeriCorps VISTA position through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), with opportunity to renew for 1-2 more years. ASD is the sponsor organization and placement site. *Before applying*, visit the CNCS website [here](#) to learn more about AmeriCorps VISTA positions, requirements, and benefits.
Start-End Date: 2/18/20 – 2/18/21 anticipated, but start date can be flexible by 1-2 months, if needed.
Education: Bachelor's degree preferred, preferably in: Forestry, Agroforestry, (Agro)ecology, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, Conservation, Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture or related fields.

Experience: Some forestry/agricultural experience (i.e. internship, volunteer).
Travel: Driver's license and car required.
Physical: Frequent use of a computer; ability to walk and stand for up to 3 hours.

Position Description

The goal of this position will be to increase the adoption and support of agroforestry practices for environmental and economic benefits in Central Appalachia. The Agroforestry VISTA will build the capacity and long-term sustainability of ASD's Agroforestry Program by expanding the farmer, partner, and funder network. This work will involve the following activities:

- **Member Activity 1:** Identify agroforestry practices that have potential for wide-scale adoption in Appalachia by Quarter 3. A) Create and administer a needs assessment survey to identify what agroforestry practices farmers are interested in adopting and what training and resources they need to be successful. B) Assess the existing availability of technical services and/or resources from government and non-governmental agencies. C) Identify what role ASD's Agroforestry Program should serve based on service gaps.
- **Member Activity 2.** Identify and establish new and enhance existing local and regional partnerships to increase agroforestry adoption and specialty crop production in the region, including farmers, government agencies, non-profits, universities, funders, and more by Quarter 2. A) Identify multi-sector agroforestry partners. B) Strategize with identified partners to determine mutual goals, formulate project plans, and assess resources available/still needed to carry out plans. C) Implement project plan(s) if/as funding is secured.
- **Member Activity 3.** Secure resources and funding to build the financial capacity and sustainability of agroforestry programming by Quarter 4. A) Research, plan, and write grants in support of agroforestry adoption and expanded programming. B) Coordinate fundraiser(s), including GoFundMe Campaign, silent auctions, etc. as needed to increase program awareness and financial sustainability.
- **Member Activity 4.** Assist ASD's Administrative Assistant in developing and maintaining a sustainable volunteer base for ASD's Agroforestry Program; as needed and ongoing. A) Identify the skills, attributes, and experiences sought in volunteers. B) Recruit volunteers from identified community groups. C) Design outreach material detailing volunteer activities, dates, times, location, etc. D) Organize seasonal volunteer events with community partners. E) Coordinate annual fundraising activities to maintain financial viability of volunteer sites.
- **Member Activity 5.** Develop print and online resources and outreach material. A) Create press releases, quarterly newsletters, brochures, and fact sheets. B) Increase online presence, including assisting with website and social media content development.

Required Skills and Expertise

- Dependable and motivated self-starter that excels working independently or in groups
- Demonstrated ability to network and collaborate with diverse teams
- Critical thinking skills with a proven ability to identify creative solutions to problems or gaps

- Leadership skills with demonstrated project planning and management experience
- Capable of volunteer recruitment and management
- Experience with community outreach and partner engagement
- Outstanding organizational, record keeping and data management skills
- Superior listening, verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills
- Proven ability to conduct research and effectively present findings
- Eagerness to learn and commitment to asking for help when needed
- Proficiency with basic software and technology including MS Office Suite, Google Drive, smart phones, copier, webinar platforms, etc.

Preferred Skills and Expertise

- Demonstrated success in fundraising, including writing and/or managing grants
- Knowledge of and comfort with agroforestry practices

To apply: submit an application through AmeriCorps VISTA at <http://bit.ly/AgroforestryVISTA> and a cover letter to kcommender@asdevelop.org or 1096 Ole Berry Drive, Suite 100, Abingdon, VA 24210 by **January 8, 2020**. Please note in your cover letter where you saw the job announcement.

Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy: Appalachian Sustainable Development and parties associated with ASD will not discriminate in any way against a potential candidate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical disability, medical condition, age, physical characteristics or marital status.