



# CAREER AND EDUCATION OPTIONS

WHAT CAREER  
PATHS ARE YOU  
INTERESTED IN?

DISCUSSION

# DIFFERENT SECTORS

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## NON-PROFIT

- Organization dedicated to furthering a certain cause or advocating a viewpoint
- International, national, regional, or local

## PRIVATE

- Focus on solutions for client or company
- Private industry/manufacturing or consulting
- Private green energy companies

## PUBLIC

- Various duties to work in the public's interest
- Regulation enforcement
- Federal, state, regional, county, local

# PROS OF EACH SECTOR

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## NON-PROFIT

- Freedom and flexibility
- Focus on your passion

## PRIVATE

- Higher paying
- Can change things from the top
- Opportunity for growth and advancement

## PUBLIC

- Good Benefits
  - High job security
  - Work your way up
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# CONS OF EACH SECTOR

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## NON-PROFIT

- Limited funding
- Lower pay compared to private and public jobs
- Lower job security

## PRIVATE

- Competitive and fast-paced
- Could be employed at a harmful company

## PUBLIC

- Hard to secure a job at first
  - Often slow progress
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# OTHER SECTORS

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- Academia
  - Professors, Authors, Teachers
- Independent Work/Freelance
  - Consulting
- Media
  - Photography, Environmental Journalism, Film
- Environmental Law
- Much More!





# HOW TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES

# PASSIVE VS ACTIVE

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## PASSIVE JOB SEARCH

- Find jobs that fit your existing skills

## ACTIVE JOB SEARCH

- Find out what you want to do
- Find out what you need to do to get that job
  - Education
  - Certification
  - Experience



# CAREER RESEARCH TIPS

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- Request Informational Interviews
  - Seek advice from a mentor
- Seek internships/Volunteer Opportunities
- Career Services at your school
  - Resource available up to one year after graduation
- Join webinars/online events
- Sign up for newsletters

# WHERE TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES

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- Bookmark job boards
  - Document on [schuylkillriver.org/seco](http://schuylkillriver.org/seco) with environmental specific job boards
- Use google maps
- General Job Boards
- Sign up for newsletters

# FEDERAL AND STATE JOBS

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- [Employment.pa.gov/](http://Employment.pa.gov/)
- [Nj.gov/dep/jobs/](http://Nj.gov/dep/jobs/)
- [Usajobs.gov/](http://Usajobs.gov/)



**USAJOBS**



# OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

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- Community Water Advocate – The Watershed Institute (Pennington, NJ)
  - Education, community engagement, and policy development
- Hydrologist/Geologist – ERM (Philadelphia, PA)
  - Site investigation and remediation projects
- Part Time Community Organizer – Clean Air Council (Upper and Lower Chichester, PA)
  - Implementing outreach, organization, and education

# OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

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- Geologist/Environmental Scientist - EnviroSure Inc. (Westchester, PA)
  - Conduct field work, prepare lab samples, and write technical reports
- Assistant, Lead Counselors/Assistant Camp Coordinator – Riverbend EEC (Gladwyne, PA)
  - Create/support educational programming
- Animal Care/Part time Educator – Center for Aquatic Sciences (Camden, NJ)
  - Daily animal care schedule and educational programming

**QUESTIONS BEFORE WE MOVE ON?**

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EDUCATION

# FURTHER EDUCATION OPTIONS

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## **Certifications**

Green Infrastructure, GIS, Education,  
Sustainability

Online, local colleges/universities



## **Graduate School**



# CERTIFICATIONS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL

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- Education
  - Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree
  - Teacher certification
- Consulting and Sustainability
  - LEED Green Associate Certification
  - OSHA Safety Certificate
- General
  - GIS Certification
  - Remote Sensing
  - Other Software

# BE CONSIDERATE

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- Talk to other professionals
- Look into many programs
- Looks for student deals, scholarships, etc...



# INTERNSHIPS

# INTERNSHIP BENEFITS

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- Looks great on a resume!
  - Resume builder
- Learning experience
- Networking
- Pay possible
- Learn what you like and don't like about positions
- **Could lead to a full-time position**

# WHERE TO FIND INTERNSHIPS?

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- Organization's website
- Colleges and Universities
  - Postings on websites
  - Career Fairs
  - Career Center
- Other websites and Job Boards
  - LinkedIn
  - Handshake
  - Internships.com

# OPEN INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

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- Summer Habitat Management Internship – Riverbend EEC (Gladwyne, PA)
  - Planting, maintenance, and clean up
- Clean Air Council



AMERICORPS

# AMERICORPS

## NCCC

National Civilian Community Corps

10-month program

Direct Service

18-26 year-olds

Living at project site

Living and working with a small team

Assigned to different projects to help

Most intense experience

## State/National

10-month program

Direct and Indirect Service

Designed to engage members to complete unmet community needs

Focuses on health, education, public safety, and environment

## VISTA

10-month program

Indirect Service

Working with an organization to build up an organizations capacity to deliver direct service

Capacity Building



Photo: UW Oshkosh



# BENEFITS AMERICORPS

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- Living stipend
- Health care
- Segal Award about \$6,000
- Valuable career and life experience
- Non-competitive Eligibility

# NJ WATERSHED AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

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- College degree required
- 10-month state program
- Field work, community organization, education, restoration projects
- Travel throughout NJ, learn, gain professional skills
- Great transition opportunity



Photo: NJDEP

# SRG VISTA PROGRAM

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- The VISTA will support SRG's work in the five counties while also serving needs concerning food insecurity, health, and youth unemployment across the Appalachian Region in Pennsylvania.
- Other projects include expansion of the Schuylkill River Trail and the coordination of volunteer events—ex. trail cleanups, mulching events, and weeding events for the Pollinator and Rain Gardens.
- Full-time, one year service period



# OTHER AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

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- Anti-Hunger Corps
- Habitat for Humanity
- Individual schools with VISTA programs
- FEMA
- Traditional Corps (NCCC)

# HOW TO APPLY?

- Visit <https://americorps.gov/join>
- Select criteria
- Search through listings
- Click Apply!

## Advanced Search

You may select any of the following criteria to narrow your program search.

### AmeriCorps Program Type <sup>?</sup>

Do you already know the name of the project where you would like to serve?

- AmeriCorps NCCC
- AmeriCorps NCCC Team Leaders
- AmeriCorps State / National
- AmeriCorps VISTA
- AmeriCorps VISTA Leaders

### Service Terms

Are you looking to serve full time, part time, or just over the summer?

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Summer

### Education Level <sup>?</sup>

A few of our projects require a certain level of education in order to serve. What is your highest level of education completed?

### Choose Where to Serve:

#### State

  
ALASKA  
AMERICAN SAMOA  
ARIZONA

#### Metro Areas

  
Boston  
Chicago  
Cleveland/ Akron

### Service Areas <sup>?</sup>

Please select one (or more) areas of service that you'd be interested in:

- Community and Economic Development
- Community Outreach
- Children/Youth
- Disaster Relief
- Education
- Entrepreneur/Business
- Elder Care
- Ex-Offender Reentry
- Environment
- Health
- Hunger
- Hurricane Katrina

### Languages <sup>?</sup>

Do you speak any languages that might be required for a service project?

- Arabic
- American Sign Language
- Chinese
- Creole
- English
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hmong
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Polish

### Skills <sup>?</sup>

Do you have any specialized skills that you would like to use during your service?

- Counseling
- Architectural Planning
- Business/Entrepreneur
- Communications
- Community Organization
- Computers/Technology
- Conflict Resolution
- Education
- Fine Arts/Crafts
- First Aid
- Fund raising/Grant Writing
- Law



**VOLUNTEERING**

# WHY VOLUNTEERING

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- Looks great on a resume
- Networking opportunity
- Find out what you like to do/don't like to do

# OPEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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- Local Training Coordinator – PA Master Naturalist
- Graphic Designer for Climate Action Week – Art Sphere Inc
- Visitor Assistant – NPS at Valley Forge



# WHERE CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

- Local nonprofits, like SRG!
  - Trail maintenance, water quality monitoring, special events, and more!
- Urban farms and gardens (Greensgrow Farms)
- Nature Centers (Pennsylvania Horticulture Society)
- Citizen Science Projects
- Check AmeriCorps events if you live in or want to volunteer in NJ
- Regular volunteering or single events
- [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org)



**I'M NETWORKING!**

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# NETWORKING

# LINKEDIN

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- Connect and add a ***personalized*** note
  - Show you researched them
- Join groups
  - University department/alumni
- Look at a professional's career history
- Search for connections under “People”
- InMail (premium subscription)

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# CONNECTIONS



1<sup>st</sup>

Your connections



2<sup>nd</sup>

The connections of your connections



3<sup>rd</sup>

Those connected to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree connections



## NOTE

Introduction to form a connection  
(300 characters)



## MESSAGE

Message someone you are connected to



## INMAIL

Available for premium members; message  
someone you are not connected to



QUESTIONS?

# ASSIGNMENT

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- Informational Interview!!
  - Follow the pdf information
  - Start with any family member/friend (career doesn't matter)
  - Write questions you want to ask
  - Schedule time to talk
  - 1 page or less description of their answers, the experience, and what you learned by **March 9th**

**NEXT SESSION: RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS,  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> | 6:00-7:00PM**