

# AmeriCorps Watershed Steward



## 2026 Position Description

Host Site: Newfound Lake Region Association

Program Year 2025-26 | Term of Service: May 18-October 28

## POSITION OVERVIEW

The Newfound Lake Region Association is a mission-driven, member-supported environmental nonprofit committed to protecting Newfound Lake and its watershed. The Association – through education, programs, and collaboration – promotes conservation and preservation of the region’s natural, social, and economic resources.

Newfound’s AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards advance the mission of the NLRA while developing skills and experience necessary for a career in conservation through hands-on training and service learning. Over a five-month term of service, crew members serve alongside NLRA staff and volunteers, gaining experience in watershed management, public engagement, professional communication, environmental education, and freshwater ecology. The work of Watershed Stewards includes collecting water quality data, leading environmental education programs, preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, engaging with the public and other community members, and implementing projects throughout the watershed that improve water quality. NLRA’s AmeriCorps members support growing environmental stewardship in the Newfound Watershed and leave a measurable impact upon program completion.

## THE NEWFOUND WATERSHED STEWARD EXPERIENCE

NLRA’s AmeriCorps members serve the community as Watershed Stewards, advancing NLRA’s conservation mission while gaining important skills and experience to further their careers. Watershed Stewards spend an impactful season working with local partners and community members— growing the stewardship of our lake, rivers, forests, and mountains— and leave the program with the confidence to make an impact wherever their conservation journey leads them.

## CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

### Water Quality Monitoring

Watershed Stewards contribute to a 39-year record of water quality. Through weekly sampling of seven lake sites and monthly sampling of 35 tributary sites, Stewards develop an understanding of aquatic ecology and monitoring techniques and support data-driven management of a high-quality natural resource.

### Invasive Species Prevention

Invasive species pose a significant threat to the health of Newfound’s ecosystems.

Stewards learn how to identify common and invasive aquatic plants and animals of the Northeast and prevent the spread of invasives to Newfound by participating in the Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs.

### Environmental Education

Stewards lead impactful environmental education experiences that engage participants of all ages with conservation work and connect them to the environment in new ways. Through monthly guided exploration programs, Stewards help community members and visitors of all ages to become life-long caretakers of the Newfound Watershed.

### Stormwater Management

Watershed Stewards protect water quality and get hands-on experience in stormwater prevention and management. Watershed Stewards learn how water moves across the landscape and to site stormwater control structures while installing stormwater management projects.

## Public Engagement & Communications

Stewards serve as an ambassador for NLRA throughout the watershed and engage with the wider Newfound community by leading volunteer events and working with NLRA staff to produce professional communication materials that are published regularly across diverse platforms.

## Grey Rocks Conservation Area

Make an impact while playing an active role in the stewardship of our unique 30-acre conservation property. Watershed stewards promote access, biodiversity, and environmental awareness by maintaining trails, tending conservation plantings, and engaging with diverse user groups at Grey Rocks.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Newfound AmeriCorps members/Watershed Stewards receive the following over the course of their service:

- Career-building mentorship experience
- Wilderness First Aid & CPR certification
- Housing provided
- Eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest repayment on qualifying loans
- Living allowance of \$864.40 biweekly (pre-tax; \$10,200 aggregate)
- AmeriCorps Segal Education Award of \$3,697.50 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of program

## EXPECTATIONS

- This is a seasonal, full-time capacity AmeriCorps position requiring 900 hours over the 22.5 week service term to be fully eligible for all member benefits.
- Watershed Stewards typically serve five days per week, averaging 40 hours per week with rotating weekend coverage.
- Collect and report data, including but not limited to record-keeping, field data collection and entry, and biweekly timesheets.
- Participate in weekly meetings with NLRA's Host Site supervisor, including two performance evaluations at the mid-point and end of the term.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Newfound AmeriCorps members/Watershed Stewards must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age by May 18, 2026
- Able to work independently and with a group
- Must be covered by health insurance for duration of program
- Available from May 18, 2026 through October 28, 2026
- Must apply online
- Must pass all certification exams
- Must meet the Corporation for National Community Service's minimum requirements:
  - Must clear all required National Service Criminal History Checks as outlined in the 45 CFR §2540.200-206
  - Must be a US citizen, US national, or legal permanent resident of the US
  - Must be high school graduates, GED recipients, or must be working toward attaining a high school diploma or GED before term of service start

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Our Mission: NLRA protects and improves the health of the Newfound Lake Watershed. We support ecosystem resilience and natural resource conservation through focused programs and community engagement.