



## Ogden Nature Center

### AmeriCorps Habitat Restoration and Environmental Education

#### Individual Placements

#### ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

##### Mission & History:

Our mission is to unite people with nature and nurture appreciation and stewardship of the environment. Since it was founded in 1975 as Utah's first nature center, the Ogden Nature Center has provided a place where people can go to enjoy and learn about the natural world.

##### Education:

The 152-acre preserve is our foundation, but education is our focus. Each year the Ogden Nature Center brings more than 50,000 children, teachers, and adults together with nature through hands-on field classes. Participants in our education programs, both for school groups and for the community, observe and learn about plants and animals up-close, discovering the pleasure of being in nature and realizing their own connection to the environment.

##### Open to All:

The center is open to the public for discovery and exploration. Visitors enjoy meeting bird of prey, snakes, tortoises, salamanders, and other native animal species. Outside there are picnic areas, treehouses, bird blinds, a spotting tower, and 1.5 miles of walking trails. The Nature Center boasts two of Utah's greenest buildings, with hands-on nature exhibits and a unique gift store.

##### More Ways to Experience Nature:

The Ogden Nature Center offers a wide variety of community programs for all ages including art, photography, birding, wildlife in Utah, outdoor recreation, conservation, sustainable practices, and more. During the summer, week-long nature camps are taught by our team of teacher/naturalists. Several community events are held each year including an Earth Day Celebration and Creatures of the Night at Halloween.

##### Healthy Habitats:

The Ogden Nature Center is committed to protecting and restoring critical native habitats that benefit wildlife and the community. Our habitat restoration program ensures that invasive species are actively managed and countered with revegetation and reseeding efforts using

native species that bolster habitat value and provide green spaces. Ogden Nature Center is also dedicated to the health of the watershed and actively works to improve water quality and quantity and the landscape by restoring streams and wetlands on the property.

#### POSITION OVERVIEW

The Ogden Nature Center (ONC) is a nonprofit nature education center and nature preserve. Our mission is to unite people with nature and nurture appreciation and stewardship of the environment. In collaboration with Utah Conservation Corps (UCC), we are recruiting two AmeriCorps Individual Placement members for 11 months of service to begin January 2024 through December 2024.

These positions offer a unique opportunity to gain experience and practice a wide range of skills including habitat restoration, noxious weed management, environmental education, curriculum development, volunteer supervision, and community event management.

The Individual Placements will spend approximately 50% of the placement period working with the ONC Conservation Ecologist to assist with habitat restoration duties including invasive weed control, native habitat restoration, and volunteer mobilization. The other 50% of the period will be used to support the education and outreach team at ONC. The Individual Placements will lead outreach events, develop materials for programming, and lead different educational programs including on/offsite programs, community programs, and field trips. The positions are supervised by the Conservation Director.

#### PRIMARY DUTIES

- Develop, plan, and support events related to environmental stewardship or environmental education.
- Develop a data tracking plan and collect and report AmeriCorps impact data timely and accurately.
- Work closely with the conservation ecologist and volunteer coordinator in habitat restoration and noxious weed management.
- Plan and lead volunteers in planting and seeding project areas, release of biocontrol agents, mechanical/chemical removal of weeds through digging, mowing, and pruning, water quality monitoring, and conducting pollinator surveys.
- Map native and invasive species using ArcGIS and EddMapS.
- Record keeping, monitoring, and report writing.
- Assist with summer camps, homeschool, preschool, community programs, outreach, and school field trips.
- Onsite School Programs - Conduct environmental education programs for school children; assist in the development of curriculum, activities, and exhibits.
- Offsite School Programs - Work with the outreach team to lead science programming to first-grade students throughout the state of Utah.
- Summer Camps – Assist in camp planning and implementation.
- Community Education - assist with community program development and implementation and strengthen community awareness.
- Assist with the planning and organizing of special events.
- Provide programs for groups with special needs, such as underserved populations, the elderly and developmentally disabled.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (20% maximum time served can be member development and training)

- Data collection, validation, and report training.
- Volunteer Management Training
- Training on Native and Invasive species on the property.
- Non-Commercial Pesticide Spray license.
- Experience/Training in various land management techniques and standard practices.
- Beaver Dam Analog construction.
- Training on classroom management and environmental education.
- First Aid/CPR.
- Wildlife and pollinator species survey techniques.

## POSITION REQUIREMENTS

AmeriCorps Requirements (all below required):

- Be a United States citizen, U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Eligible to serve in an AmeriCorps State/National term. Please note that AmeriCorps rules limit members to a maximum of four AmeriCorps terms in a program such as UCC. AmeriCorps also limits the number of education awards an individual may earn. This rule states that "although an individual can serve more than two terms, a person cannot earn more than the aggregate value of two, full-time education awards."
- It is a requirement to obtain a high school diploma or GED before one is eligible to use the Education Award.
- Must submit to and pass a background check. Must be clear of any record on the National Sex Offender Public Registry. Must have a criminal record clear of any conviction(s) for murder.
- Schedules that include a 30-minute lunch break does NOT count toward term of service hours.

Position Specific Requirements:

- College graduate preferred. Science or teaching degrees preferred.
- Interested in conservation and environmental education.
- Love working and being outdoors.
- Articulate and an excellent writer.
- Computer proficiency (Word, Excel, email).
- Interested in pursuing a career in conservation, land management, or environmental education.
- A valid driver's license and good driving record.
- Ability to perform strenuous outdoor work.
- A positive and professional manner with diverse populations.

## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

These are 1700 hr. AmeriCorps positions that come with the following benefits:

- \$19,000 living allowance (taxable; paid in even bimonthly (TWICE per month) disbursements throughout the term of service).
- \$6,895 education award (available to members upon successful completion of service term hours AND dates).
- Federal, student loan forbearance and, workers compensation for all members. More information can be found [here](#).
- Insurance benefits for 1700 hr. members. More information can be found [here](#).
- Opportunity to develop job skills in environmental education and nonprofit fields.
- Discounts at the Nest Gift Shop.
- On-site subsidized housing is available for interested AmeriCorps members (\$300 per month includes all utilities except internet/tv). Housing is a shared living space with one

to two other Ogden Nature Center employees. Private furnished bedroom in a large farmhouse. The lease term runs the length of the AmeriCorps program. There are currently two dogs on the property, no other pets are allowed while those live onsite.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Research shows that candidates from underrepresented populations often don't apply for positions if they don't meet all the position qualifications and skillsets. We strongly encourage you to apply if you are interested!

Email the following to [jobs@ogdennaturecenter.org](mailto:jobs@ogdennaturecenter.org) with "LastName\_UCC" in the subject line.

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. List of 3 professional references (phone and email)

Preference will be given to complete applications received by 11/24/23. Questions? Email Maya Pendleton, [mpendleton@ogdennaturecenter.org](mailto:mpendleton@ogdennaturecenter.org)

#### About the Utah Conservation Corps

The Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) is an AmeriCorps program dedicated to developing the conservation leaders of tomorrow. We're a non-residential AmeriCorps program composed of AmeriCorps members, staff, and partners dedicated to service to our community, the environment, and regions requiring disaster response efforts.

Additionally, as an organization, we seek to provide a more welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds and experience levels to ensure a healthy, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable corps. The UCC is committed to an inclusive culture of community and service and to recognizing and addressing our shortcomings. Our goal is to help our members become the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

#### UCC's Zero Tolerance Policies

The following behaviors will result in immediate termination. At no time may the UCC AmeriCorps member:

- Engage in activities that pose a significant safety risk to others or physically or emotionally damage members of the program or community, such as harassment, hostile work environment, or bullying;
- Possess, consume, or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol during the performance of service activities or while living and working at the UCC project site, campsite, or in UCC vehicles (which includes showing up to work hungover); and
- Fail to notify the UCC of a criminal arrest or conviction during their term of service.

#### Land Acknowledgement Statement

As part of Utah State University, a land grant institution, UCC acknowledges Utah State University campuses and centers reside and operate on the territories of the eight tribes of Utah, who have been living, working, and residing on this land from time immemorial. These tribes are the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indians, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, and White Mesa Band of the Ute Mountain Ute. Along with USU, we acknowledge these lands carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity. We recognize Elders past and present as people who have cared for, and continue to care for, the land. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous self-governance history, experiences, and resiliency of the Native people who are still here today.