

# FOODCORPS GEORGIA SITE PARTNERS 2021

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## Baldwin County School Nutrition

Milledgeville, GA

### Service Site Description

Our mission is to ensure every one of their students receive fresh, nutritious meals during their day at school. Baldwin County provides food for the entire community in the summer as well, serving 47,000 last summer. We are working hard to bring fresh, local foods to our district and teach our students where their food comes from. As a recipient of the Golden Radish Award for the last 3 years, receiving Platinum level in 2019, we take our jobs seriously when it comes to student nutrition and overall wellness. FoodCorps works with Baldwin County's program by bringing nutrition awareness into the classrooms.

### Site Community Description

Baldwin County is a predominantly African American community with a high poverty rate. The community is a college town, with GA College and State University, Georgia Military College and Central GA Tech in the community. Baldwin schools have around 5300 students with 7 schools, Pre K - 12.

### Service Activities

The two school clusters selected are the Lakeview cluster and the Midway Hills cluster, one each being a primary school of K- 2 the other is the Academy, grades 4th & 5th. We would like support with implementing school gardens at both, providing learning labs in the garden, harvesting items and either using in the nutrition department and/or providing classroom cooking opportunities. All four schools have very supportive teachers and administrators.

### Preferred Skills, Interests or Knowledge

- Confidence speaking in large groups
- Some knowledge of nutrition and gardening
- Ability to communicate with students and teachers
- Readiness to take some initiative in finding opportunities to be involved in school events

### Helpful Non-English Languages

None specified

### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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## Burke County School Nutrition

Waynesboro, GA

### Service Site Description

Burke County Georgia is a predominantly agricultural community. We want to celebrate that and seamlessly incorporate agriculture and garden-based educational opportunities into instructional time for our students. Our middle school is working towards achieving STEAM certification, and we feel very strongly that a FoodCorps member could play a vital role in not only assisting teachers with lesson plan ideas, but also in getting our primary school students involved in STEAM-based learning at a younger age. This past school year, we received a Georgia SHAPE Grant to re-do the garden beds at the middle school. With the assistance of a FoodCorps member, we believe we can create a seamless transition from the classroom to outdoor space and provide teachers and students with the resources necessary to be successful.

### Site Community Description

Burke County is the second largest county in Georgia by land mass, but with a population of 22,522, it is a spread-out, rural district. Waynesboro is a small, close-knit community where families have resided for generations. Although the graduation rate is 80%, only 11% of Burke County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. Work opportunities in Burke County are largely based in the nuclear power plant as well as Walmart or various chain restaurants in the area. These work opportunities are evident in the lower than average median household income of \$38,707 and a poverty rate of 23%, much higher than the state average. While it is a large agricultural area, our students are largely exposed to a variety of fast food restaurants available to them and their families. By educating students about agriculture and nutrition in school, we hope to open their eyes to strategies to not only nourish themselves, but also the idea of potential career opportunities within agriculture.

### Service Activities

Waynesboro Primary School: This is an exciting time for a FoodCorps member to join our schools! WPS is planning to build garden beds this year. Their teachers are driven to provide their students with a hands-on education, and the gardens are an excellent place for our children to learn. The FoodCorps member would be hands-on with the outdoor garden education and with our existing 5 Tower Gardens in classrooms throughout the school. This provides an opportunity for cafeteria taste tests using items grown by students as well as from our local farmers. The FoodCorps member will also be trained to use the Charlie Cart, a mobile cooking cart used to provide education-based, hands-on nutrition lessons that will spend time at WPS.

Burke County Middle School: The FoodCorps member will primarily assist in garden-based education opportunities at the middle school. They will become a great addition to the Farm to School Committee to assist with promoting garden-based learning and advancing our

plans for an outdoor learning facility. Here, taste tests and nutrition-based wellness initiatives will also be executed.

WPS and BCMS have a relationship that the FoodCorps member will help to foster.

Teachers in each school are currently taking courses in STEAM education with a desire to incorporate those practices into their classrooms. Additionally, the two schools partner each year for educational garden-based events; the FoodCorps member will play a role in this programming.

#### Preferred Skills, Interests and Knowledge

Interest in Farm to School and conducting cooking classes.

#### Helpful Non-English Languages

None specified

#### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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## Carrollton City Schools Nutrition

### Carrollton, GA

#### Service Site Description

Carrollton City Schools is a city school district with >5400 students enrolled. Our current free and reduced level is 54.62% for the district. Our district is focused on educational excellence and supports healthy initiatives in our schools. The school district is an active partner with multiple community organizations and businesses.

#### Site Community Description

Carrollton, Georgia is located 50 miles west of Atlanta. Our city population is about 26,000 people with 115,000 people living in Carroll County. There is a state university located in Carrollton (University of West Georgia) with enrollment of 13,300 students. We have a diverse population. We have a Green Belt that is about 18 miles in length that circles Carrollton and has added great access to our community for walking, running and bike riding (recent addition of a bike share program).

#### Service Activities

Carrollton Elementary School (CES) has a focus with their STEM program on agriculture so incorporating additional nutrition education in that area fits very well. The hands-on learning associated with food based educational lessons allows the students to learn important practical knowledge that not only helps them with curriculum based learning but also teaches them how to make healthy food choices, understand where food comes from and how to prepare food. There are multiple classrooms doing raised bed and tower gardens. There is an excellent foundation under school nutrition to support the nutrition education with taste testing and application with foods served as part of school meals. The after school CES Culinary Club will also be a focus. It meets once weekly and provides basic culinary skills to 2nd and 3rd grade students while exposing them to fresh and local foods along with taste testing and recipe development.

Carrollton Upper Elementary School has expanded their STEM program next year and the focus will also be on agriculture so implementing a stronger focus at that school to support that initiative with nutrition education would be appropriate. There are already raised beds and composting being done as part of 6th grade science classes and tower gardens are being implemented for 4th and 5th grades. We would also like to model standards based in culinary and garden lessons for 4th - 6th grade. Additionally, there will be an after school Culinary Club for CUES next year.

The school meal program also has a garden bar that features multiple fresh vegetables everyday as part of school lunch which will allow us to expand offerings based on student exposure.



### Preferred Skills, Interests and Knowledge

The service member should be self motivated and comfortable working with children. Service member should be dependable and able to create and keep a schedule for classroom lessons.

### Helpful Non-English Languages

Spanish

### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Strongly suggested

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## International Rescue Committee

Atlanta, GA

### Service Site Description

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. The IRC in Atlanta creates opportunities for refugees and immigrants to integrate and thrive in Georgia communities. The FoodCorps Service Member would work as an integral part of the IRC Atlanta's New Roots (NR) program, which empowers new Americans to gain the knowledge and tools they need to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. The Atlanta chapter of this nationally-acclaimed initiative works collaboratively with other IRC programs and community-based organizations to provide education around food and agriculture, advocacy and food-related assistance to improve long-term health outcomes for refugee clients throughout Atlanta.

### Site Community Description

Over 3,000 refugees are resettled in Georgia each year, with the majority resettled in DeKalb County. As a result, 16.3% of DeKalb County residents are foreign-born and 64 languages are spoken. Many refugees come from displaced persons camps or other areas where food supplies are limited, leading to high rates of chronic health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, anemia, malnutrition, and vitamin B deficiency. The city of Clarkston, where many refugee families are resettled, has a 42% poverty rate and, in families with two foreign-born parents, 76% live below the federal poverty level (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>). 31% of Clarkston residents rely on SNAP benefits. At the local schools, over 95% of students belong to ethnic and racial minority groups with approximately half born outside the U.S. and over 95% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. At DeKalb County's middle/high school for English Language Learners, the DeKalb International Student Center (DISC), 99% of students are foreign-born and 99% receive free or reduced-price lunch.

### Service Activities

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Atlanta's New Roots program empowers newly-arrived refugees to gain the knowledge and tools they need to make healthy choices and improve long term health outcomes for themselves and their families. FoodCorps Service Members become an integral part of the New Roots team, assisting with New Roots initiatives across Clarkston and participating in activities throughout the community as an IRC staff member.

### Preferred Skills, Interests, and Knowledge

Skills:

- Comfort outdoors
- Communication
- Patience
- Multi-tasking



- Planning ahead
- Flexibility
- Creative Problem Solver

Interests/Knowledge Preferences:

- Culinary
- Gardening
- Education
- Multicultural appreciation and facilitation

#### Helpful Non-English Languages

French, Swahili, Arabic, Burmese, Nepali, Spanish

#### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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## Jackson County School Nutrition

Jefferson, GA

### Service Site Description

Our mission includes increased support for student health and wellness through the evaluation and enrichment of menu offerings and enhancement of nutrition education opportunities. We constantly work to establish partnerships which increase public awareness regarding nutrition education, wellness and nutritional standards. The core values of FoodCorps, creating a future in which every school is a healthy school, and every child is well-nourished and ready to learn directly aligns with our mission.

### Site Community Description

The preferred schools are Title I schools in communities that faces high rates of food insecurity. Our farm to school programming supports our school's mission to provide unique experiential learning opportunities for our students. Students, parents, staff, and administration in these communities are very supportive of our farm to school efforts.

### Service Activities

Maysville Elementary as the primary site and East Jackson Elementary as a secondary site. We have found the gardens and related activities to be exceptional tools to teach our students curriculum standards from math, literacy, social studies, and science, in addition to creating fun opportunities for our students to connect with and try healthy foods. FoodCorps focus on hands-on learning, health school meals, and creating a culture of health will allow a service member to interact with students and families to create a sense of connection and ownership with their food.

### Preferred Interests, Skills, and Knowledge

- Nutrition knowledge
- Gardening skills.

### Helpful Non-English Languages

Spanish

### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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## Richmond County Nutrition Services

Augusta, GA

### Service Site Description

The Richmond County Nutrition Services Program, nestled in Augusta, Georgia, provides students breakfast, lunch, after-school snack, and supper at a few schools as well as summer meals when students are out of school. All students eat school meals at “no cost” as the district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision district wide. Community Eligibility allows schools and school districts located in low-income areas to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at “no cost.” Our progressive program takes a different approach than other programs in that our program is primarily student driven. Students help select which items will be featured on our menu, the pairings that will go with those foods, and the containers in which they will be served, as well as our cafeteria seating and the very graphics that cover our walls.

### Site Community Description

Within the Augusta community, there is a large population of poverty. Richmond County qualifies as CEP based on the high levels of poverty within the district. We host several student and community outreach programs to better the community in which we live: including parent classes on the weekends, backpack food drives, and donation closets within our schools for needy students.

### Service Activities

The school in which a service member will serve are Bayvale Elementary School. The administrators will set a specific elective class time for the service member. Our goal is for students to rotate through Food Corps agriculture, gardening, and nutrition class just as they do through P.E., art, or computer. The Food Corps member will have full access to the gardens developed at Bayvale. Within the community of Bayvale Elementary, parents are often willing to assist their classes. The service member would have the opportunities to invite parents for community engagement and outreach and continue to build on the ag education already in place from FoodCorps.

### Preferred Skills, Interests, and Knowledge

- Teaching experience
- Gardening
- Farm to school initiatives.

### Helpful Non-English Languages

Spanish

### Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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## Wylde Center

### Decatur, GA

#### Service Site Description

The mission of Wylde Center is to educate, cultivate greenspaces and build community in the areas we serve.

Wylde Center accomplishes this through educational programs, events and greenspaces that actively engage youth, families and individuals in their environment, health and community, and that develop skills in environmental science, sustainable urban living, organic gardening, health, and nutrition.

Wylde Center provides one of the largest youth environmental science and farm to school education programs in metro-Atlanta, including the Decatur Farm to School program, Atlanta Farm to School, Healthy Living by Healthy Growing at the Decatur Housing Authority, and science program and field trips linked to Common Core standards.

#### Site Community Description

Our SM will be serving in a high needs neighborhood with the Atlanta Public School district, which is becoming more and more under funded each year as wealthier communities break off and form charter schools, siphoning off time and money from neighborhood public schools. 77% of the students in the district are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, and a large percentage of the population are people of color.

#### Service Activities

The service member will be responsible for helping each school to create a strong culture around food and the environment. They will perform school-wide taste tests at least once a semester, plant and tend the school garden with students and, teach standards-aligned Farm to School lessons to at least one grade per week (many of the schools we work with only have 2 classes per grade, so they could easily see two grades in a day). They will also co-teach field trips to our community garden for their students, providing consistency across programming. During the summer, they will support summer camps and assist with our vegetable garden and donation-based farm stand.

#### Preferred Skills, Interests and Knowledge

A service member with our organization would benefit greatly from having some knowledge of the inner workings and typical culture of public schools. Having experience with managing classes of students either in a classroom, kitchen setting, or garden would also be beneficial. Many of our students do not get much time outdoors outside of school, so a genuine love of nature, the environment, and an appreciation of the work of farms and farmers is vital.

## Helpful Non-English Languages

Spanish

## Is Member's Personal Transportation Required?

Yes

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