FoodCorps Oregon Service Site Descriptions

Below you will find detailed descriptions of all of the service sites located in this state. Each description includes details about the community where the service site is based, the overall work and mission of the organization, and what an incoming service member can expect to do on a day-to-day basis at this site. We hope this document will help you to best determine where you are most interested in serving!

Please note that this is a list of current FoodCorps service sites in the 2019-20 service term, and is likely to change for the 2020-2021 service term. Some of the sites listed here may no longer host service members next year, and new sites may come on board. You can reach out to Aaron Poplack (aaron.poplack@foodcorps.org), Oregon Program Manager, with any questions regarding service sites for the coming term.
Umatilla School District

Umatilla

Community Description
McNary Heights Elementary is a Prek-5th grade Elementary school that currently serves 642 students Kindergarten through 5th grade. We have amazing collaboration between, staff, administrators, students and families.

McNary Heights Elementary we currently do cafeteria tastings, have two raised garden beds and offer hands on afterschool nutrition, cooking and gardening classes. Our district also works with community partners to provide screen free week activities and walk and bike to school events for families and the community. We have a small but very impactful wellness committee that consists of staff, administrators, parents, students and community partners. A couple of our recent wellness successes were to increase community, family and student excitement in regards to our McNary Marathon that has been a 30 year long tradition. As well as add a staff excise group afterschool. Our current and upcoming goals are to complete a walking path around the perimeter of the property, staff exercise room, healthy celebration carts and guidance. Increase tastings and use of the raised garden beds and complete a food waste survey. McNary Heights won the ODE Wellness award in the 17-18 school year and the 2017 School Breakfast Challenge through Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon. We increased our Breakfast participation from 54% 2016 to 92% of students in attendance in 2017. We collaborate with OSU extension for many amazing opportunities, including cooking matters for families and cafeteria tastings and surveys.

Organization Description
Umatilla School District Mission is building bridges to the future. Our purpose is to provide students with top quality public education so that they may become successful, contributing citizens of the future. We are a Pre- k-12 grade School District with three schools: elementary, middle and high school. We currently are serving approximately 1375 students. We serve a diverse population with approximately 67% Hispanic. This includes a high percentage of Migrant, English Language Learners and English Second Language Students.

Umatilla School District and our Child Nutrition team strive to feed every student a healthy nutritious and desired meal. As well as offer as many meals to our students and families as possible. In the 2017-2018 school year we served 390,072 meals at no cost to students with Community Eligibility. We serve Breakfast after the bell, Lunch after recess, Snack and Dinner to afterschool students. We have a large summer feeding program with 5 open locations free to all children and a low cost meal is available for adults. At each of our summer feeding sites with collaboration with community volunteers and Child Nutrition staff we offer activities to encourage family and community engagement. Some activities include hands on planting, Physical activities, Tastings, Learning picnics, Safety, health and nutrition information as well as Dental screenings.
Food Corps mission goals and placement aligns perfectly with our district goals and would allow us to expand these amazing opportunities and reach more students and families.

Service Activities Description
The Service Member will be assigned to our one Elementary school mentioned above.

Hands on Learning-
Grade level lessons on a rotation to reach every student at least one time throughout the school year
Afterschool lessons
Gardening lessons

Healthy School meals-
Food waste survey/ composting
Signage/ meal encouragement
Customer service spend time with students
Tastings and surveys Student voice for menu production
Farm to school activities- Local farms & tastings
Increase scratch cooking
Cafeteria marketing and website

School wide culture of health-
Introduction of services at District all staff meeting
In depth site specific introduction of services to staff at McNary
Family engagement activities
Engage in wellness committee and activities
Involvement in daily classrooms and cafeteria as well as in afterschool environment

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
Experience in working with a diverse population of staff, students, and families, including families who are experiencing poverty. Friendly and easy going with a go-get it mindset and a smile and the child/family's best interest at heart.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required
Oregon State University Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center

Klamath Falls

Community Description
Klamath County, Oregon is a rural county with 65,946 people living in 6,136 square miles. At an elevation of 4000 feet, the growing season is short and crops are limited. For last 5 years there has been a growing local food movement in the Klamath Basin fueled by a vibrant Saturday Farmers Market, CSAs and other direct sales, online year round Farmers Market, Meet Your Farmer events, Farm to School funding and Blue Zones project oversight, leading to a Food Policy Council, Food Assessment and Food Hub Feasibility Assessment.

Klamath County has two school districts that serve 9,481 (2017-18) in 32 schools, 65.8% free and reduced rates. Both school districts participate in Oregon’s Farm to School procurement grant that helps them purchase Oregon grown foods for school meals. Since 2016, Klamath Basin Extension and Research Center has received state funded Farm to School grant with focus on elementary schools. With this funding OSU educator’s partner with 9 schools in Klamath County and City School Districts to educate over 3000 youth annually on the value of agriculture, where food comes from and how it is grown. Components of this model, particularly the cafeteria/school educational displays, are ready to be scaled up for larger reach to more schools in both districts through a consolidated effort between OSU KBREC and school district food supervisors.

Organization Description
Oregon State University Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center (OSU KBREC) is part of the Extension Service that serves in all 36 counties in the state. We engage the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources and promote healthy families and communities. We value community partnerships, measurable outcomes and respect diversity. We deliver relevant education programs and are responsive to community needs. In Klamath County, our program areas include: 4-H Youth Development, Family and Community Health/Nutrition, SNAP Education, Horticulture and Master Gardeners, Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources.

Patty Case directs the Family and Community Health (FCH) program at OSU KBREC, under which this program would reside. FCH helps individuals, families and communities improve access to healthy food and physical activity opportunities and facilitates the development of system and environmental supports to sustain these opportunities. The FCH program is affiliated with OSU College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

FoodCorps aligns with our longstanding effort to partner with schools through our SNAP-Ed program and enhances our linkages to Farm to School as well as food systems efforts through Blue Zones Project.

Service Activities Description
At both Shasta and Henley Elementary Schools
– Deliver at least 10 hours of evidence based science lessons (meet state curriculum standards) to a minimum of 80 students. In partnership with classroom teachers nutrition, garden or agriculture
related topics would be selected that will strengthen the scope of programming being delivered throughout the school year.
- Bridge classroom lessons into cafeteria setting with visuals to benefit all students of the school.
- Partner with district and school food service staff to explore ways to increase fruit and vegetable consumption during lunch and breakfast.
- Partner with school food service and OSU Extension nutrition education team to provide a monthly tasting activity to experience new foods and/or as taste tests of potential new menu options.
- Partner with the school wellness team to creatively communicate wellness messages to students and their families.

At Shasta Elementary specifically:
- Work with school staff and parents on school garden and composting project.

At Henley Elementary specifically:
- Work with school staff and parents to explore readiness for school garden activities, egg production project with High School FFA program, potential to work with TAG program students.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
A knowledge of and ability to present well designed science based learning activities. Ability to work as a team member with school administrators, staff, students and parents in moving forward wellness efforts of the schools.

Strong organizational and communication skills to build support and enthusiasm for the educational activities and programs developed for the students, staff and families.
Appreciation for rural community strengths and opportunities.

Helpful Languages: N/A

Service Members Need Car?: Required
Growing Gardens

Portland

Community Description
Portland is a city located in the northwestern United States, near the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers in the state of Oregon. A city of half a million people, Portland has been referred to as one of the most environmentally friendly or "green" cities in the world. The Growing Gardens office is located in inner Northeast Portland, and our school partner sites are located throughout the city. We work with diverse school communities where the free and reduced price lunch rates range from 50-100%. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description
Established in 1996, Growing Gardens' mission is to promote home-scale organic food gardening to improve nutrition, health, and self-reliance while enhancing the quality of life and the environment for individuals and communities in Portland, Oregon. We organize hundreds of volunteers to build organic, raised-bed vegetable gardens in backyards and schoolyards. Through our Lettuce Grow program, we provide educational and gardening experiences to people who are incarcerated in the state of Oregon. Our Youth Grow program develops three-year partnerships with low-income school communities to build strong school garden programs that will encourage the next generation of veggie eaters and growers to be healthy. Our programs improve nutrition and decrease the risk of food insecurity by teaching children lessons about where food comes from, the importance of eating fruits and vegetables, and how to grow food through fun, hands-on activities. We offer schools technical support and resources as well as in-class garden experiences, after-school garden clubs, and summer camps.

Service Activities Description
The FoodCorps service member at Growing Gardens will be serving in depth at 2 schools. The FoodCorps service member will teach after school garden club through the Schools SUN program throughout the year, as well as offering cafeteria tastings, cooking demonstrations at food pantries co-located in the schools, and teaching garden lessons with interested teachers. The FoodCorps service member will collaborate with the school community and garden stakeholders to build capacity within the school for sustainable garden education programming. The FoodCorps service member will utilize the Healthy School Toolkit to organize a school community and make goals for their term of service.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
The FoodCorps service member should be fluent in Spanish. We are looking for service member who enjoys cooking and gardening, has demonstrated experience engaging with a diverse population, and loves working with children.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required
KairosPDX Learning Academy

Portland

Community Description

KairosPDX is located in the Humboldt neighborhood in North Portland, the historic heart of Portland's African American community. We are the first organization to reside in a school which, throughout its tenure from 1960-2012 served predominantly African American students. The school was shuddered in 2012 and we are the first school to open its doors back to the community it has always served. Our organization is intentionally diverse. KairosPDX works diligently to ensure its staff members mirror its student population and the community.

The community is changing rapidly through gentrification and KairosPDX is honored to anchor the remaining African American community.

Organization Description

KairosPDX was founded in 2012 by a group of educators and policy-makers with 75 years of collective experience who saw that Portland’s schools were not equitably serving students of color. We began as a resource for early education providers and families with pre-school age children. With tremendous support from families, neighbors, and educators, we have grown rapidly into an inclusive culturally-responsive focused school and hub for our community.

The mission of KairosPDX is to eliminate racial achievement and opportunity gaps by cultivating confident, creative, compassionate, leaders. Our vision is to engage and empower under-served children ages 0-10 and their families. We support them in pursuing their own goals and dreams and envisioning themselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and change-makers in the community. KairosPDX takes a multi-generational, multi-cultural approach to supporting children to be their best selves. Our goal is to provide a model of high-quality trauma-informed education that specifically targets historically underserved children, while also affecting change through education policy and advocacy to better address the needs of ALL children and families. Our beginnings as a grassroots education organization have helped establish KairosPDX as not only a school, but also a versatile community resource.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps service member will work within the KairosPDX Learning Academy and Family Connections Programming. The FoodCorps service member will assist with our school garden in planning, curriculum development and implementation of experiential learning drawing from NGSS and STEM best practices to highlight the cycle of planting, growing, caring for, harvesting and preparing food for market and for meals. The service member will familiarize themselves with the ODE Child Nutrition Programs School Garden Food Safety Training Manual in order to assure students can safely participate in the growing, harvesting and processing food they will
then consume in daily nutrition breaks, school meals, tastings and cooking classes. The service member will assist in facilitating a small farm stand at the school as well as assisting in nutrition programming for our family engagement and early learning events. The service member will work with staff to organize and deliver quality field experiences with our partner farm Mudbone Grown as well as working to arrange experiences at other sites when needed. The service member will engage with families and the community through our Family Engagement and Early Learning Network Events.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

We prefer a FoodCorps service member with knowledge of social justice and the historically underserved population we work with. The service member should be interested in offering culturally specific services surrounding healthy food initiatives. We prefer a service member with experience serving in a fast paced organization and willing to be a part of the community.

**Helpful Languages:**

**Service Members Need Car?:** Helpful
La Grande School District
La Grande

Community Description

The city of La Grande has a population of approximately 13,300 and is located in the Grande Ronde Valley of Union County, Oregon. The School District boundaries also include the communities of Island City (population 1,016), Starkey (unincorporated, population less than 50) and Perry (unincorporated, population 50 to 100) and extend into the rural and mountainous areas of the valley. Ranching, logging and farming are primary industries within the district boundaries. The Grande Ronde Valley is surrounded by national forest and La Grande serves as the primary hub for forest support organizations, as well as manufacturing facilities and medical treatment facilities for North East Oregon.

Organization Description

La Grande School District is a public education entity serving approximately 2,350 students in grades K through 12. Our district consists of three (4) elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. A fourth 1920's vintage elementary building serves as the District Office and service point for our online program, plus a portion of this building is home to early intervention program (3-5 year olds) operated by the local education district.

Service Activities Description

The schools the service member will primarily serve in will be Central Elementary (CE) and Island City Elementary (ICE) Schools, with occasional support to Greenwood Elementary, if requested and if time permits. At Central, the service member will Coordinating with teachers to create a peer mentoring program between Central Elementary and LHS Ag program where elementary students learn to plant garden vegetables in the LHS Greenhouse. In addition, plans are underway to create an outdoor structured learning center in the form of a sensory garden where the service member would be integral in the establishment of this space. At both schools we would work with the service member on development of outdoor spaces around the schools and would leverage the opportunity to secure grants for vegetable gardens, greenhouses, and native habitat for wildlife and discovery based learning. The service member will also be ask to Collaborating with LGSD’s Food Service program and OSU’s Family and Community Health / SNAP-Ed program to increase food literacy, healthy eating habits, and nutrition education at the elementary level. In addition to supporting teachers with standards based education, the service member will be ask to provide educational lessons on nutrition and assist with healthy food alternatives during snack time and lunch, plus the service member would be asked to provide nutritional information to our families in the form of newsletters and possibly team up with family involvement activities.
Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We would prefer a service member who is willing to collaborate with others while sharing existing skills and developing new ones, thus this person needs to be comfortable speaking and working with groups of individuals from diverse backgrounds. The service member must be comfortable with elementary students and able to teach with enthusiasm and maintain the interest of their student audience. This person needs to be passionate about wellness and nutritional foods and willing to spend adequate time in the cafeterias providing taste testing and getting to know the students while they are eating, while providing an exceptional role model and developing a positive culture in the cafeteria. The service member will have a passion for gardening and be able to help the schools develop programs that can be used to leverage grant opportunities for onsite green houses.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required
Lake Health District

Lakeview

Community Description

Lake County is located in the high desert, frontier region of South Central Oregon with a total population of about 8,000 people. Lakeview, the largest town and county seat, is considered the "Tallest Town in Oregon" due to its location at 4,802 feet in elevation. With a population of a little over 2,000 people, Lakeview is a former mill town that now serves as the county center and location for Lake District Hospital. With majestic natural scenery and access to skiing, hiking, fishing, and hot springs, Lake County is a beautiful place to serve.

Organization Description

Lake Health District is the county's largest employer with over 200 employees coming from all over the world. Our mission is to "care for our community with respect and compassion through excellence and teamwork." The FoodCorps service member will work directly with the Community Health Improvement Program (CHIP). CHIP works with area schools to provide multiple health-related programs for grades K-12, such as dental screenings, a girls empowerment group, and a peer-to-peer youth health ambassador program. For the FoodCorps program, CHIP will be partnering with the newly-formed elementary school garden program, which is the first in the county.

Service Activities Description

At Fremont/AD Hay and Union Elementary, the service member will help to establish and expand the county's first school garden program, which is being installed this spring. At these schools, the service member will also assist with garden-based instruction, agricultural field trips, "Harvest of the Month" local food tastings, and an Earth Day celebration. At Lakeview High School, the service member will help with incorporating more fruit and vegetable production information into the existing horticultural program, with the possibility of some after-school and summer instruction, in addition to helping with the annual Ag Awareness Day. The service member will also assist with including gardening and nutrition education into existing CHIP youth programs with a range of age groups, as well as determining the feasibility of increasing local food procurement by working with a nearby food hub project in Surprise Valley, CA. The service member will also work with wider community partners, such as CHIP's Community Advisory Council, the Outback Food Initiative, a community group focused on improving access to fresh food in Lakeview, and the Lakeview Saturday Market, where the school garden program will sell excess produce in summer months. Additionally, the service member will help in planning a Seed-to-Supper event to raise support for the program within the wider community.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
For this placement, an ideal service member will be interested in living in a small, remote community and working with a diverse group of community partners. We would also prefer a candidate with some grant writing experience and/or strong writing skills. Service members who enjoy outdoor recreation such as hiking, camping, and skiing during winter months would also be a good fit for a placement in Lake County.

**Service Members Need Car?:** Required
Rogue Valley Farm to School
Ashland

Community Description

The Rogue Valley is situated west of the Cascades along the north side of the Siskiyou Mountains and is separated from the nearby coast by a high section of the Coast Range. The Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion is rich and diverse, boasting vegetative types ranging from coastal temperate rainforest to fire-dependent oak savannas. The forests and rivers of the region provide an unparalleled variety of niche habitats and recreational opportunities. Clear streams still flow, old-growth forests still stand, salmon still spawn, and rare wildflowers still bloom. Located along the middle section of the Rogue River and its tributaries in Josephine and Jackson counties, the valley forms the cultural and economic heart of Southern Oregon. Characterized by a mild climate that provides a long growing season for many varieties of row crops, grapes, fruits, and nuts, the rural Applegate and Williams Valleys are filled with orchards, wineries, small farms, and historic sites. Interstate 5 follows the Rogue Valley through its largest communities of Medford, Ashland, and Grants Pass. The community of Ashland is famous for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, and is home to Southern Oregon University. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

The mission of Rogue Valley Farm to School (RVF2S) is to educate students about the food system by teaching hands-on farm and garden programs and by increasing local food in school meals. We inspire an appreciation of local agriculture that improves the economy and environment of our community and the health of its members. RVF2S is a small organization with a big mission. We offer a variety of educational programs to students across two counties and six school districts. We offer on-farm Harvest Meals and Pumpkin Tours at five local farm sites, Tasting Tables in three school districts, and a School Garden Coordinator program that supports over 25 school gardens. Our staff varies with the season from 3-6 employees and also includes a FoodCorps service member as well as other a UCAN AmeriCorps service member.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps service member will be serving in Central Point Elementary school located in the Central Point school district, and Kids Unlimited Academy located in the Medford school district. The service member will be supporting teachers to utilize skills learned from professional development workshops to integrate weekly garden activities into class time. Each school has identified two grade levels that will focus on utilizing the school garden. These grade levels will also participate in two farm field trips with which the FoodCorps member will assist. The service member will also coordinate the Harvest of the Month Tasting Table program in both cafeterias, and offer food and garden activities at school events.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences
A successful FoodCorps member will have excellent communication skills, be highly organized, and have a deep passion for educating students of all ages. Basic knowledge and skills related to gardening, season extension and crop planning are important. Experience and ability to manage multiple projects and allocate time and resources efficiently is preferred.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?:** Required
The Environmental Center
Bend

Community Description

Our FoodCorps member may be serving up to 3 distinctly different communities in Central Oregon, from suburban to rural. All sites are located in Deschutes County Oregon, and will be based in Bend. Bend is an outdoor recreation destination, and attracts residents and tourists for its outdoor opportunities like skiing, climbing, whitewater sports, biking etc. Surrounding communities are smaller sized and serve a more rural population. Central Oregon is a high desert climate, with hot summer days and cool nights, contributing to our challenging short growing season. Despite our local challenges, school gardens and farms exist and even thrive.

Organization Description

The Environmental Center is on a mission to embed sustainability into daily lives in Central Oregon. We do that through a variety of programs that work with youth, residents and businesses to think global and act local, recognizing that big changes come from small everyday actions. We work with youth through our classroom presentations in schools, on outdoor schools days, community field trips and here in our Learning Garden. We also run programs to assist residents on reducing energy consumption and waste, assist our city with policy that guides our community towards sustainability and livability, and celebrate and showcase our connection and stewardship of the natural world through many community events.

Service Activities Description

During the course of the year, a FC member will work with:

-Bear Creek ES is a low income Title 1 school in Bend with a large Spanish speaking community and Spanish immersion program. They have an under-utilized garden space, but a new Friday Elective "Garden Club". The FCSM will assist with garden initial infrastructure needs, assist with Garden Club activities, assist with new staff Wellness/Garden Committee, and help to connect to classroom use. Our plan is for the student engagement requirements to happen at this school.

-Three Rivers Community School is a Title 1 school in Sunriver, a rural school located next to a destination resort 20 miles south of Bend. The FCSM will continue working with the Wellness Committee to offer technical assistance for their new indoor mobile garden project that is currently underway.

-Sisters ES - Sisters ES is a community eligible Title 1 rural school 20 miles west of Bend where the previous 2 FCSM's have served for a year each. There may be some additional work to ensure sustainability of Garden Club and the new outdoor garden beds currently being constructed.
- Bend LaPine School District - work with BLPSD Sustainability Coordinator research current challenges and opportunities at the admin/district level to determine best practices and policies that help us get a garden for every school.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

Someone with a passion for food, gardens, nature and the outdoors would do well here in Central Oregon. We have a culture of enjoying all that our area has to offer. A self-directed person, who has experience working with youth and adults alike, would be suited to this position, as activities will require working with youth in both an already established garden, and helping to build and get a garden off the ground, as well as working with nutritional staff, principals, teachers and district department heads.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?:** Required