FoodCorps Georgia 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 servicemember 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 FoodCorps service sites in the 2018-19 and is likely to change for the 2019-2020 service term. Some of the sites listed here may no longer host service members next year, and new sites may come on board.
Athens Land Trust

Athens

Community Description

Athens is a mid-size town of approximately 120,000 people and is known for its diverse music scene. It is home to the University of Georgia, which has over 34,000 students. Athens is 65 miles from Atlanta and features a vibrant downtown with nationally-known restaurants and music venues. Athens is a great place to be, especially if you like outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and swimming. Athens is also very supportive of and active in the local food movement.

Organization Description

Athens Land Trust (ALT) conserves, empowers, and sustains communities through responsible and visionary land use. ALT has three interconnected branches of work: Community Agriculture, Land Conservation, and Affordable Housing. ALT has 15-20 staff. Our two FoodCorps service members serve within the Community Agriculture department. The Community Ag mission is to promote sustainable agriculture, increase access to healthy food, and support entrepreneurial and economic opportunities for underserved youth and adults. Community Agriculture has several programs and projects. Our FoodCorps service members have a hand in many of them (the Community Garden Network, our two urban farms, our West Broad Farmers Market), but their primary responsibilities are with the following two programs: 1) Farm to School - ALT is working with the local school system to expand school gardens and incorporate fresh food grown on school grounds into cafeteria meals. Our FoodCorps service members use this program to engage students in learning experiences around gardening, nutrition, and food justice. 2) Young Urban Farmers (YUF) - In partnership with the Clarke County School District, ALT established the YUF program in order to provide underserved high school students with sustainable agriculture education/employment, hands-on experience and leadership development. Students work at ALT’s two urban farms, develop business plans for sustainable agriculture-based businesses, and sell their products at the West Broad Farmers Market.

Service Activities Description

ALT’s 1 service member will serve in Clarke County School District in Gaines School Elementary. Service members will serve with partner teachers to implement experiential garden, nutrition, and cooking lessons. Service members will also help with longer term, whole school projects
that support healthy school food environments. Projects in the past have included building pollinator gardens and related curriculum, building outdoor classrooms and facilitating after school programs. Family engagement activities, such as family learning in the garden and cooking classes, are also part of the service members' responsibilities.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

We desire service members with strong problem solving skills, social justice orientation and approach to local food system and community work, and a commitment to learning about the history of Athens communities and our work within them. Experience and/or interest in working with children is a plus. Interest in micro enterprise, entrepreneurship, and economic development useful. Knowledge of/familiarity with agricultural science, family and consumer science, and related school based clubs such as FFA, FCCLA and 4H helpful in service here.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful

---

**Carrollton City Schools**

**Carrollton**

**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).

**Organization Description**

Carrollton City Schools is a city school district with <5100 students enrolled. Our current free and reduced level is 59.62% 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.

**Service Activities Description**

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 also 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 also 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 Middle School will be expanding their STEM program next year and the focus will also be on agricultural so implementing a stronger focus at that school to support that initiative with nutrition education would very timely. 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 culinary and garden lessons for 4th - 6th grade teachers. Additionally we will be adding an after school Culinary Club for CMS 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.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

The ability to work well with children, especially delivering nutrition education and doing cooking lessons would be beneficial. Being comfortable working with children, teachers and also community members is also important. Having an interest in nutrition would also be helpful.

**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful
International Rescue Committee
Atlanta

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. 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.

Despite economic and language barriers, the traditional diets of newly-arrived refugees are generally much healthier than the US diet. But when refugee youth begin attending school, they become quickly acculturated to unhealthy American eating habits. Minority teens in DeKalb County, GA are significantly more likely to suffer from obesity and a sedentary lifestyle than their white peers. As a result of this rapid acculturation, a knowledge and values gap may arise between youth and elders, leading to youth becoming disengaged from their community and losing valuable food and agricultural knowledge.

Organization 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.

Service Activities Description

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.

At Indian Creek Elementary School (ICES) in Clarkston, Georgia the IRC in Atlanta works towards developing a relationship centered around the garden and STEAM education. The FoodCorps Service Member collaborates with the ICES Science Lab Specialist, Health & Physical Education instructors and a number of grade-level teachers to provide nutrition and garden education to a wide variety of students. The FoodCorps member at ICES will build on the efforts of the New Roots program at ICES and will work towards ICES' strategic goal of integrating more STEM education into their K-5 classrooms. They will connect both faculty and students to food and agricultural education opportunities by facilitating and increasing teacher and administrator participation in the newly constructed school garden as well as its monthly garden work days. They will work with the science chairs throughout the school year to provide weekly garden- and food-based experiential learning, delivering hands-on lessons through a newly established 'STEM in the Garden Club' and assisting each grade with a year-long STEM project.

Helpful Languages: French, Swahili, Arabic, Burmese, Nepali, Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required

Jackson County Schools
Jefferson

Community Description

Jackson County is a rural area situated between two large cities. We have an abundance of cattle and poultry farms in our area.
**Organization Description**

We are a rural school system of 7800 students with a focus on farm to school in our school nutrition programming.

**Service Activities Description**

The service member at Jackson County Schools will serve in two elementary schools, Maysville Elementary School, and North Jackson Elementary School. - a continuation of the work that began this year. The focus has been on pushing in for classroom instru Service activities for this service member include, maintaining school gardens, hands on experiential learning opportunities in the classroom and garden, and leading cafeteria taste tests.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

- Ability to teach hands-on food and nutrition lessons in the classroom and garden
- Desire to promote healthy school meals and develop an interest in students toward making good food choices
- Ability to organize community support toward establishing a school-wide culture of good health

**Service Members Need Car?** Required

**Marietta City School District**

**Marietta**

**Community Description**

Marietta City Schools is a suburban Metro-Atlanta district. It's about 20 miles northwest of the city of Atlanta. The District has strong connections to the community and while the demographics has changed in the past few years, it's ethnic demographic is diverse as well as the socio-economic demographics.

**Organization Description**
Marietta City Schools' School Nutrition Program is led by 2 Registered Dietitians, the Director and Assistant Director. Our district is comprised of 11 schools (1 high school, 1 middle school, 1 sixth grade academy, 8 elementary schools and 1 Pre-Kindergarten program.

**Service Activities Description**

The service member at Marietta City Schools will serve two schools, Park Street Elementary School and Hickory Hills Elementary School. At both of these schools, the Foodcorps Service Member will engage our teachers, the cafeteria managers and our students to enhance the gardening, STEM and nutrition education programs that are currently being implemented.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

In order to be successful with our team, this person must be a self-starter, must have good communication skills to get into the schools independently to build relationships with administration and staff and must have a strong work ethic to get the job done.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Required

---

**Richmond County Board of Education Nutrition Services**

**Augusta**

**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.

**Organization Description**
The service site will be one or two elementary schools within Richmond County. The district school nutrition program will oversee the service member responsibilities while serving in our schools. Bayvale Elementary School is openly accepting of a new elective class on agriculture and gardening education. Many of the students within this school are Hispanic. The school has begun a gardening project earlier this year, and the students, administration, and teachers are excited about the farm to school movement. If a second school site is selected, the service member will be set up with their own elective classroom time just as with Bayvale.

**Service Activities Description**

The schools in which a service member will serve are Bayvale Elementary School and potentially another Richmond County School. The administrators will set a specific elective class time for the service member. For example, students will rotate through Food Corps agriculture, gardening, and nutrition class just as they do through P.E., art, or computer. 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.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

- Classroom management and elementary education skills
- Strong gardening development skills
- Passion for local food movement and nutrition education within the Augusta community

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Helpful

---

**Walton County Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Monroe**

**Community Description**

Walton County is a rapidly urbanizing with strong agricultural routes. The county has three larger urban towns, all of which qualify as food deserts.
Organization Description

Our district is one of the 40 soil and water conservation districts in Georgia that together cover all 159 counties in the state. The Walton District works to set the priorities and direction for the needs of Walton County’s soil and waterways and to educate Walton’s citizens on the importance and practices of conservation. A key focus of the Walton Conservation District is preserving and enhancing local citizens (and particularly students) understanding and connection to local agricultural systems and wise land stewardship.

Service Activities Description

Service members will serve in either Walker Park Elementary and Harmony Elementary Schools where they will build on the efforts of 2016-2017 service members. A primary activity of the service member will be responsible for maintaining and expanding established school gardens and helping teachers incorporate these outdoor spaces in to their regular teaching. Additionally, the service member will engage students in the cafeteria, helping with taste tests of new recipes and building enthusiasm for monthly Harvest of the Month. Another important aspect of the member's service will be engaging teachers directly by providing opportunities to expand their knowledge of healthy food and gardening. The service member will be part of a county-wide local food effort and will partner with the area Monroe Farmers Market and a local health non-profit Walton Wellness on outreach and education efforts around the county.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

To thrive in our community, a service member must possess enthusiasm, creativity and a desire to keep learning. Service member should have a strong knowledge-base in either food/cooking or gardening/farming. Knowledge of the local sustainable food movement as well as general environmental sustainability trends would be an asset. It takes a lot of different folks to get stuff done at a school, an ability to relate well to youth, teachers, administrators, parents, and to proactively advocate for yourself and the FoodCorps program is critical.

Possess some knowledge of the local, sustainable food movement.

Enthusiasm, creativity, and a desire to keep learning.

Service Members Need Car? Required
Wylde Center
Decatur

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.

Organization Description

The mission of Wylde Center is to educate, cultivate green spaces 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 was founded in 1997 out of a need to provide opportunities to experience nature in an urban environment. As a result of the community’s involvement and commitment, the organization has evolved into a large and active nonprofit organization operating five greenspaces (Oakhurst Garden, Sugar Creek Garden, Hawk Hollow, Edgewood Community Learning Garden, and the Mulberry Fields Garden) in four different Decatur and Atlanta neighborhoods, open year round for the community, for events and for Wylde Center’s educational programs.

Additionally, Wylde Center provides one of the largest youth environmental and science 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.

Service Activities Description
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). During the summer, I hope that they will support out summer camps that reach under-served populations, and perhaps work with the district summer school program.

We are still waiting on confirmation from another school, but the service member will definitely be serving in Benteen Elementary, which has very actively taken advantage of our programming in the past. We have a wonderful relationship with several key stakeholders at the school, and the Assistant Principal came from another school that had FoodCorps and was very enthusiastic when we offered FoodCorps to her current school. Benteen is a small neighborhood school that consistently provides outreach and support to its students' families, so the service member will have ample opportunities to support those efforts.

**Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences**

We strongly prefer a candidate who has experience with working with children and knows that they enjoy working with children. Experience growing food and working in under-served populations is also important to us. Patience and flexibility would also be important, as the APS school district can, at times, be frustrating to work with. It is likely that the SM will work with at least some Spanish-speaking students, so that could also be helpful, though certainly not required. Self motivation, follow-through, and a willingness to ask for help will be key.

**Helpful Languages:** Spanish

**Service Members Need Car?** Required