

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 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

Corvallis Environmental Center

Corvallis

Community Description

Located about 85 miles southwest of Portland, Corvallis is a small university town surrounded by farms. It has two thriving farmers markets, eight active community gardens, and a large community of folks interested in gardening and food security. It is centrally located and less than two hours from a lot of things--the coast, the mountains, and the big city. Home to Oregon State University and a variety of nonprofits working on food systems issues, Corvallis has strong community support for local food and agriculture. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

The mission of the Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) is to educate, engage, and inspire people to create a healthy, sustainable community. The Edible Corvallis Initiative (ECI) is one of the three programs of the CEC, which has 20 full and part time staff. The ECI has a staff of 5-6 team members who mobilize the community to make fresh, local, healthy food available to all. We have been providing programs and services to the Corvallis School District for the past 9 years. Our FoodCorps service member serves as a key part of the ECI's farm to school team.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps service member will be serving primarily at Wilson and Garfield Elementary Schools. Both schools are Title I schools: at Wilson Elementary School 50.1% of students utilize the free and reduced lunch program; and at Garfield 64.6% of students utilize free or reduced lunch. The service member will support efforts to impact the whole school food environment by teaching monthly food and cooking classes at each grade level, assisting with monthly tasting tables, modifying and developing lessons to support teachers efforts to incorporate food and nutrition into classroom curricula, spearheading cafeteria-based initiatives, assisting with on-site school gardens, and engaging parents and volunteers in school-wide efforts.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

While not unique to our site, the following skills would be preferred:

Experience teaching children, particularly in a school setting.

Experience with standards-based lesson planning.

Proficient in Spanish (Garfield is a dual-immersion school).

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Curry Soil and Water Conservation District

Gold Beach

Community Description

Each of our very rural communities are separated by about 30 miles of stunningly beautiful, winding coastal Hwy. 101. Our food access is limited to small rural grocery stores that can sustain a small population. Historically our communities are agricultural, fisheries, and forestry based, which are mostly run by generous, community minded, small family businesses. Our communities struggle with poverty; including families, and our population of aging citizens. Lately we have been transitioning into a tourism economy, who's foundation will be small farms, fisheries, artists, musicians, eateries, and miles of trails in our front and back country. Our communities are bordered by hundreds of miles of accessible public lands, with pristine rivers, old growth forests, spectacular coastal environments, and some of the best surf spots on the Oregon Coast!

Organization Description

The Curry Soil & Water Conservation District is one of three small organizations that work together to:

Conserve, protect and develop soil & water related resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the people of Curry County

We work to protect and enhance South Coast farms, fish, and forests.

We offer robust, activity based, hands on Watershed & Foodshed education in Curry County School Districts.

Service Activities Description

Driftwood School – Place-based, Oregon focused farm & food related education for K-8 students that often involve community in a school garden setting during and after school. Classroom education including nutrition, taste testing, & cooking classes that eventually involve community leaders to help guide middle school students to locally source and prepare a Farm to School Community Fundraising Dinner. Farm/Ranch/Port field trips. Work with Cafeteria Manager to source, and support local food purchasing, including recipe ideas. Assist students with community outreach presentations.

Riley Creek School - K-8 School Garden focused education including worm composting, hydroponic lettuce, and harvest festivals, working with School Garden Coordinator & Master Gardener volunteers. Assist with garden produce for school Cafeteria. Oregon Food Systems

Education Unit for 5th grade, Farm/Ranch field trips, also taste testings, & nutrition classes. Participate in community planned events like 4H Camp & Natural Resource Day with food & gardening related activities. Assist students with community outreach presentations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Knowledge or willingness to learn Oregon State Education Standards to align local food education & school garden activities to school requirements using established curriculum. Willing to work with cafeteria manager & school staff to source local food & school garden produce for the school cafeteria.

Ability to network with local producers, local food business owners, the community, including the school staff, for assistance with local food education & opportunities for building a sustainable program. Strong communication skills are required. Interest in leading engaging, hands on, experiential food & farm education in the classroom, in school gardens, on field trips to farms, ports, and local food businesses. All experiences lead to a final community outreach project.

Helpful Languages:

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Food Roots

Tillamook

Community Description

We are located in Tillamook County, a geographically large, rural county on the Northwest Coast of Oregon with just over 25,000 residents. The region has historically been a region with natural resource-based economies of timber, fisheries, and dairy production. Now, seasonal tourism is a large part of Tillamook County's economy, and most of the living wage jobs are gone. Yet the county is still rich in natural resources; agriculture and food production holds promise for our future. The town of Tillamook (population 4,400) is minutes from the Pacific Ocean. Outdoor activities abound: hiking, fishing, hunting, kayaking, surfing, and foraging. We are 76 miles due west of Portland, Oregon, and there is a good bus system that travels to Portland and back daily. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

Food Roots' mission is to grow a more robust food system on the North Oregon Coast by engaging our community, supporting farmers and entrepreneurs, and improving access to local food. Our vision of a robust food system is one in which everyone in Tillamook County will be able to eat good, local food every day. Many residents will grow their own food, have a greater understanding of their roles in the local food system, and will have the resources to make more empowered decisions. Our key programs include: Farm to School, Access to Local Food, and Farm and Food Business Support.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving at Nehalem Elementary School (NES) and Nestucca Valley Elementary School (NVES). Both NES and NVES have existing school gardens, garden committees, teachers who are excited about gardening education in their classrooms, and administrators who actively support the program. At NES, the service member will teach regular hands-on classroom lessons that connect gardening and healthy eating, engage directly with families through events focused on local food and gardening, encourage students to eat more fruits and vegetables through tasting tables, assist with garden maintenance and volunteer recruitment, and further connect students and families to local food producers through farm field trips and farmer visits to classrooms. At NVES, the service member will do similar things as NES, but one particular program component they'll support is School to Market. This is a project for fifth grade students to participate in a micro-enterprise from seed

selection and crop growth to summer sales at the Pacific City Farmers Market while also learning about Tillamook County's diverse food system.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Experience living and working in a rural community; excellent interpersonal communication skills; ability to motivate others; experience working in a school environment and engaging school administrators; passion and enthusiasm for working with students of all ages.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

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 shuttered 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 be 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 asked to collaborate 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 asked 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