

FoodCorps Arkansas 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

Van Buren School District- King and Tate

Van Buren

Community Description

Located in the beautiful River Valley of Northwest Arkansas, Van Buren has a population of 24,000 and neighbors Fort Smith, the 2nd largest city in Arkansas. The Main Street Historic Downtown offers many tourist attractions including antique stores and the Old Frisco Train Depot. The Van Buren area also offers a variety of environments from the rural countryside to the more urban city life.

Organization Description

Tate Elementary's mission is to provide students with purposeful information concerning nutrition. Tate is an elementary school ranging from Pre K to 5th grade and currently has 464 students. It is located in a rural/farming community and has 80% free/reduced lunches.

King Elementary serves 522 Pre-K to 5th grade students in a lower socioeconomic part of Van Buren. King is more ethnically and culturally diverse. It was renovated in 2011 and is one of very few LEED schools in Arkansas. It has an 85% free/reduced lunch status.

Service Activities Description

Service activity goals are to teach students how to develop a garden, maintain a garden and grow healthy foods in the garden. The service member also teaches students about nutrition choices and preparing healthy foods. Our service members help enthusiastically communicate the benefits of healthy lifestyles to students, parents and community members. The service member is an integral part of the Coordinated School Wellness Committee.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

An enthusiastic interest in growing gardens, teaching students about nutrition, and communicating healthy food choices to the Van Buren schools and community.

Service Members Need Car? Required

Van Buren School District- Rena and Parkview

Van Buren

Community Description

Located in the beautiful River Valley of Northwest Arkansas, Van Buren has a population of 24,000 and neighbors Fort Smith, the 2nd largest city in Arkansas. The Main Street Historic Downtown offers many tourist attractions including antique stores and the Old Frisco Train Depot. The Van Buren area also offers a variety of environments from the rural countryside to the more urban city life.

The Van Buren community is very giving and supportive of the schools. Each school knows several businesses and/or individuals it can depend on for volunteers of their time, talents and resources.

Organization Description

The Van Buren School District hosts two service members who each serve at two schools. One service member serves at Parkview and Rena Elementary.

Parkview houses around 463 K-5 students and 49 faculty members.

Rena houses around 440 K-5 students and 44 faculty members.

These sites are subject to change.

Service Activities Description

Our service activity goals are to teach students how to develop a garden, maintain a garden and grow healthy foods in the garden. Service members teach students about nutritional choices and preparing healthy foods. They also enthusiastically communicate the benefits of healthy lifestyles to students, parents and community members.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

An enthusiastic interest in growing gardens, teaching students about nutrition, and communicating healthy food choices to the Van Buren schools and community.

Skills:

Garden planning and maintenance

Cooking

Loves kids

Teach nutrition

Service Members Need Car? Required

Conway Public Schools

Conway

Community Description

Conway is a growing community of approximately 65,000 people and is located just 30 miles north of Little Rock, the state's capital. Toad Suck Park is located on the Arkansas River and borders the western side of the area, which gives reason for the annual Toad Suck Daze festival. Conway is home to three colleges, which include the University of Central Arkansas, Hendrix College, and Central Baptist College. Conway has a small town feel, but has many shops, places to eat, and a great downtown area with a Farmers' Market during the warm weather months. There are many apartment complexes as well as houses for rent around Conway!

Organization Description

Conway Public Schools serve just over 10,000 students, housed in 16 school buildings including one pre-k, nine elementary schools, four middle schools, one junior high, and one high school. Under the direction of Food Service, Conway Public Schools hosts two FoodCorps service members, one at Theodore Jones Elementary and Florence Mattison Elementary, and one at Carolyn Lewis Elementary and Ida Burn Elementary. All four elementary schools serve grades K-4 with 400-500 students at each school. With the help of Food Service, all schools in the

district have implemented a school garden to extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Service Activities Description

Under the direction of Food Service, one service member serves at Theodore Jones Elementary and Florence Mattison Elementary while the other serves at Carolyn Lewis Elementary and Ida Burns Elementary. The 2018-2019 school year is the second year of FoodCorps presence in Theodore Jones, Florence Mattison, and Ida Burns, while it is the third year of FoodCorps presence at Carolyn Lewis. Theodore Jones and Florence Mattison serve the highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price school meals within the district, with Ida Burns a close third. All four schools are dedicated to student learning and are always looking for ways to engage students outside the classroom! Thus, all four schools have implemented school gardens! With the help of USDA, Captain Planet Foundation, and other grants, all four school gardens have been able to grow and expand over the past few years! At the school level, service members engage students with garden lessons, taste tests, after school clubs, and be able to serve alongside food service staff to encourage students to consume more fruits and vegetables, especially with the Harvest of the Month Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. At the district level, service members serve alongside Food Service and have the opportunity to attend district wellness committee meetings and district garden champion meetings.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The service members should have a basic knowledge of gardens and enjoy working with children in a high energy environment. We also prefer someone who exhibits good team work practices, as the service members serve in two schools each, along with Food Service, another FoodCorps service member and other district personnel.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required

Springdale School District - Hellstern and Elmdale

Springdale

Community Description

Our schools are made of 6-7th graders and K-5th graders. The community in which all this takes place has a diverse population mainly of Caucasian, Hispanic, and Pacific Islanders. Over half of our students are on free or reduced lunches and are in need of nutrition education.

Organization Description

At Hellstern, we are a public school made of 6-7th grade students in Springdale Arkansas. At Elmdale, we are an elementary school of K-5th grade in Springdale, Arkansas.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We believe an interest in children and their actual well being as a human is most important. Knowledge in gardening is also important, along with a knowledge of nutrition and balance.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Springdale School District - JO Kelly and Harp

Springdale

Community Description

Springdale, a community of about 70,000, is a lively diverse community in Northwest Arkansas just north of Fayetteville, the home of the University of Arkansas. Northwest Arkansas has the best of all worlds, there is still a small town feel however there is no lack of services, restaurants or other amenities. Northwest Arkansas is one of the most beautiful areas of the country with the scenic Boston Mountains and beautiful Beaver Lake just on the edge of

Springdale. The City of Springdale is central to the Northwest Arkansas Corridor allowing access to beautiful national forests, multiple state parks and the beautiful Buffalo National River. There is also easy access to miles of paved bicycle and walking trails, the University's entertainment district, minor league baseball, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, outstanding local dining, several full service shopping malls, libraries and much, much more. There will be at least three FoodCorps service members serving in Springdale School District.

Many of our families fall below the poverty line (89%) and face food insecurity. We see the community garden project, in conjunction with our EAST initiative of container gardening, providing students with a life-long skill to help sustain themselves and their families.

Organization Description

This position is shared between JO Kelly Middle School and Harp Elementary School.

Harp Elementary School is a neighborhood school that is central and focal to the surrounding community. It is situated in a residential area. There are 600 students who attend Harp School, the majority of whom are English Language Learners. Of those 600 students, 364 are Hispanic and 55 are from the Marshall Islands. Seventy three percent qualify for free or reduced price lunch. In addition to the students and staff at Harp, we also host a group of parents who are involved in the family literacy program and attend school 4 days a week to learn English and other skills. They benefit greatly from lessons involving the Community Garden. The mission of the Harp Elementary School staff, parents, and community is to ensure that grade-level standards and expectations are achieved by all children in a child-centered learning environment.

J.O. Kelly is a middle school which serves 700 6th and 7th grade students. The vast majority (89%) live below the poverty line. JO Kelly's minority group makes up 86% of the school population. Sixty five percent of our students are English Language Learners of Latino, Marshall Islanders, Caucasian, Asian, African American, Chuukese/Turkic descent, who, all come together to make for a beautifully diverse school population. We have a 21st CCLC grant and run an after school program for 150 students. We feed students breakfast and lunch, and after school program provides a snack and the evening meal to students.

Service Activities Description

Our service member spends their time at Harp Elementary coordinating the planting, maintaining, harvesting, and selling/serving of the produce from our two gardens and greenhouse. Our service member is also responsible for developing lessons and implementing

them within the classrooms, aiding teachers in their own implementation of lessons or garden planting, and leading student groups in order to maintain the garden and increase school-wide health. Our service member is also expected to coordinate with fellow Springdale service members to provide district-wide activities (such as Harvest of the Month) and workshops.

JO Kelly Middle School- Grades 6-7 - The FoodCorps service member collaborates with teachers to provide lessons that incorporate a healthy lifestyle and healthy eating habits. They also lead students to help provide community service in the areas of food insecurity (teaching residents how to build container gardens at apartment complexes), how to prepare tasty treats from the community garden, nutrition, gardening techniques, etc.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We are looking for a service member who is self-starting, takes initiative, able to take on programming in addition to new goals he or she may have. We are looking for a member who can inspire and motivate faculty/staff to participate. Many of our families are Spanish speakers, but Spanish is certainly not a requirement. The main thing is the desire to serve alongside teachers and staff to provide great learning experiences for young adolescent students.

Helpful Languages: Spanish, Marshallese

Service Members Need Car? Required

Springdale School District - Bayyari and Parson Hills

SPRINGDALE

Community Description

Bayyari Elementary School is located in a remote area of Springdale. It is surrounded by a subdivision of small homes and duplexes. The city's Growing Healthy Communities Committee has identified the area as a food desert. There is no place within the attendance zone where a person could purchase healthy food. Springdale is a tight-knit community. The schools are a big

reason why many elect to live in Springdale. There is a lot of diversity and growth, and there are plans to reconstruct the downtown area. The community is very supportive of the schools in this area.

Organization Description

This position is shared between Bayyari Elementary School and Parson Hills Elementary School.

Bayyari Elementary School has embraced FoodCorps, and we are excited to continue our relationship. It has been a great partnership and one that we value. We have seen our students' excitement for learning come alive because of this partnership. We have developed community partners that will be long-lasting. We are excited to see where next year will take us! It takes more than a year to promote the kind of integration and change in a school that we would like to see. The first year is about getting your feet wet and introducing a dynamic, young person into the school community as a service member. The second year we saw the program expand with a greater understanding of the purpose and mission. Now we are going forward and institutionalize the program. We still have work to do in engaging the food service director, although we have come a long way. Bayyari School is determined to create an overarching culture of health in order to provide the best possible foundation for our students. We believe that students who are not healthy and engaged are not good learners. Bayyari is a tight-knit community of collaborators and problem-solvers. The teachers are highly committed and passionate about student learning and well-being. About 97% of the students at our school are living below the poverty line and about 84% are English Language Learners. We have approximately 620 students in pre-K through fifth grade. All of our classrooms are equipped with document cameras and smart boards. We utilize technology to enhance learning.

Parson Hills is a PreK-5th Grade School. We are in our second year of the FoodCorps program and have also readily embraced this program. We hope to continue to expand and grow our program, and create a culture of health in the school. At Parson Hills Elementary School, our demographics are 94% Poverty, 73% ELL, 10% Caucasian, 50% Hispanic, 34% Pacific Islander. We are excited about what we have started and are committed to health!

Service Activities Description

At Bayyari and Parson Hills Elementary, the service member manages and maintains the school gardens throughout the year by coordinating parent volunteers/ distributing produce during the summer and involving teachers and students with garden tasks during the school year. At both schools, the service member runs a garden club after school. The service member also

teaches standards-based gardening and cooking lessons to help increase the use of the garden as a classroom. Lastly, the service member collaborates with the cafeteria staff to expand and develop the Harvest of the Month program and continue building relationships between local farmers and the district so that the program can be sustained in the years to come.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Ability to speak Spanish and experience with gardening are highly preferred. Pedagogy and curriculum knowledge, classroom management, communication skills are also appreciated but not necessarily a must. A good work ethic and commitment to serve our students to the best of your ability is a requirement.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Huntsville Intermediate School

Huntsville

Community Description

Huntsville is a rural, high poverty community. Many of our students are latch key kids due to job availability being 20-30 miles from here for many of our parents. This means they are often home without supervision.

Organization Description

Huntsville Intermediate has approximately 85% caucasian students with 15% comprised of Marshallese, Hispanic, and other. Our programs began at Watson Primary School where our previous service member is now working to continue the mission with a long-term position.

Service Activities Description

Our service member serves Huntsville Intermediate School which is 3rd-5th grade. The Service member partners with the work that is currently being done at Watson Primary. According to our BMI results, HIS has a 47% overweight and obese rate. Our garden promotes healthier life choices as well as community involvement and mentorship for students.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The Service Member needs to be kid-focused first and foremost. Secondly, we are a very close staff and need members who are team players. The service member needs to be self-motivating with the ability to carry a project or goal through to completion.

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Springdale School District - George and Knapp Springdale

Community Description

George Elementary School is ethnically and culturally diverse. The ethnic breakdown for George Elementary is: 16% white, 72% Hispanic, 6% Marshallese, 2% black, 1% Asian, and <1% Native American. The school has many recent immigrants, people with high rates of transition and mobility, people who are undocumented, and a high rate of students living in poverty (89.5%).

Organization Description

Our mission at George Elementary School is to provide a quality education through shared responsibility in a safe, supportive environment that will help all students to meet the challenges of a global society. George is well situated to continue to host a FoodCorps service member. The school has an established garden, but we are in need of someone with expertise who can educate our students as well as our staff on how to best utilize it and provide hands-on nutrition education and engagement and continue the wonderful FoodCorps legacy. Programming includes, but is not limited to, weekend family/staff garden work days, environmental science lessons co-taught with the classroom teacher, Sprout Scouts for 2-5th, Recess Garden Intern program, family cooking nights, and collaboration with other after-school clubs such as art club, STEM Girl Scouts, and Girls on the run of Northwest Arkansas, and participation in after-school community fitness classes. Our FoodCorps Service Members have the opportunity to collaborate with parents in the Springdale Family Literacy Program. The school is excited and motivated to provide a great experience for our service member. We have a great community of neighbors and families that we would like to engage in the school's garden and nutrition projects. We want to cultivate an overarching climate of health for our students and families.

Knapp is an elementary school serving K-5. We are very excited to engage our diverse and active student body, along with our families and community, in garden education, healthy lifestyles, and to connect our classroom learning to these concepts.

Service Activities Description

George Elementary: Our service member is active in providing teachers, students, families, and community members many hands-on gardening and nutrition-related activities. We have a desire for that person to also connect with and educate our parents, in particular our Springdale Family Literacy Program moms who also attend our school daily, and also extend learning opportunities to students and parents after school and during the summer as well. The FoodCorps service member is also expected to coordinate with the other Springdale FoodCorps Service Members to plan our cafeteria's Harvest of the Month program, as well as gardening professional development for teachers in the district (as well as joint service projects).

Knapp Elementary: Our program is just beginning! We have the start of a garden here, but are needing assistance to getting it into useable shape and incorporated into the community and school. The service members collaborate with our EAST program and other classrooms to engage students in food, nutrition and gardening education. We are excited to expand our current programming in partnership with the FoodCorps program

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Our service member should have definite gardening/nutritional knowledge as well as a desire to share and teach others so that they may grow in learning what is healthy food, how to grow/cook/eat it, etc. Service members are expected to be able to co-teach and collaborate with classroom teachers to provide the environmental science curriculum for grades K-5, and to collaborate with site supervisor and instructional facilitator at Knapp to provide curriculum for grades K-5.

Helpful Languages: Spanish, Marshallese

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Searcy County School District

Marshall

Community Description

Marshall is a small, rural community in north central Arkansas. The town is two hours north of Little Rock and offers amazing opportunities for camping, hiking, and fishing in the Ozark Mountains. The famous Buffalo River is located within close proximity, as well as some of the best rock climbing and mountain biking in the state. Living accommodations are mostly houses for rent averaging between \$350-\$500 a month. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

This is the ninth year for our educational garden program. We feel we have learned a great deal about garden education and the role of a school garden over the past years. We have started building a community coalition to ensure the sustainability of our garden, have incorporated hundreds of pounds of fresh produce into our school cafeteria, and have involved students from kindergarten to twelfth grade in garden-based education. The population of the town of Marshall is approximately 1,300; however, the school district pulls students not only from Marshall, but also from Leslie, Witts Spring, and the surrounding areas.

Service Activities Description

Our service member serve primarily at Marshall Elementary School and Leslie Intermediate School. They are responsible for planting/maintaining the garden at MES as well as providing garden/nutrition based lessons in the classroom and collaborating with the cafeteria staff to ensure that fresh produce is used in the cafeteria. Additionally, they help our community partners to strengthen community support for our garden program.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Our service members need to be proficient in planting, maintaining, and harvesting a garden. They need to be comfortable in the classroom; designing and implementing garden and nutrition based lessons.

Service Members Need Car? Required