

FoodCorps Mississippi 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.

Tougaloo College Farm Aid Jackson

Community Description

We have to Counties we will be serving in: Coahoma Agricultural High School in Clarksdale, MS(Coahoma) & M.S.Palmer High School in Marks, MS(Quitman)

Coahoma Ag High school is 99.6% African American and has 100% of the enrolled students are recipients in Free/Discounted Lunch Prog. The overall school district is a C according to the state statistics. Very rural community majority of gainful employment is 10 miles or more. The school ranks 222nd out of 232 Mississippi High Schools.

M.S.Palmer High is in Marks, MS with an enrollment of 358 students 99.2% are recipients of free/reduced lunch program. The school is ranked 217th out of 232 Mississippi High Schools. Rural town with several independent locally owned businesses but mainly farm labor employment.

Organization Description

Tougaloo College Farm Aid is a USDA 2501 sponsored program that provides outreach services and education, technical assistance, training and financial education to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the Mississippi Delta. In addition, the program also serves the rural communities and schools in which our targeted audience reside in.

Service Activities Description

The role that the FoodCorps member will play will be vital to the continuation of maintaining solid relationships between the farmer and the school administration. With them educating students and teachers on eating healthy, local foods this will decrease some healthy disparities and also increase the purchasing of healthy foods from local farmers. Therefore, increasing economic development.

The service member will assist in the managing of the salad bar by making sure it stays fresh, clean and organized.

The service member will host different workshops/trainings on healthy foods that will be open and broadcasted to the community.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Social skills, computer literacy and community organizing I think would be key skills needed.
Understanding food and health and how it all coincide
Language friendly presentations on health/food topics

Service Members Need Car? Required

Delta Health Alliance Stoneville

Community Description

The Mississippi Delta region, including the school communities in which FoodCorps members will serve, is a historically underserved, high-needs area subject to high rates of poverty.

Organization Description

The mission of the Delta Health Alliance is to improve the health and education of the men, women, and children who make the Mississippi Delta their home. Delta Health Alliance aims to carry out this mission in three ways. First, we will seek to understand the fundamental causes of poor health and lack of educational opportunities in the region through comprehensive research programs and statistical analysis of relevant data. Second, we will fund programs to increase access to health care and education. Third, we will educate residents of the Delta in ways that encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Service Activities Description

The schools in which the members will serve are:

Leland Elementary, in Leland, MS with the Leland Public School District;

McEvans Elementary, in Shaw, MS with the West Bolivar Consolidated Public School District;
Sanders Elementary in Hollandale, MS with the Hollandale Public School District

The Delta Health Alliance Delta EATS - Edible Agriculture Teaching Students- program connects curriculum, students, and school communities with school gardens. And opportunities to build a just and healthy school food culture together. We look forward to the FoodCorps members working with us to expand our capacity to make student and family-based impacts in these areas. We want to see results in academic achievement, and cultivate an empowering opportunity for students to gain the knowledge and values to make food choices that are healthy for them, their communities, and the environment. This includes weekly lessons, and other activities, including cafeteria taste tests and harvest of the month features, and quarterly family nights in the garden and community harvest celebrations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

For service members to be successful with us, we believe that the members should be interested in helping rural areas, specifically in underserved communities with historical racial strife. Having knowledge or experience and skills in gardening, community organizing, working in low resource settings, including educational setting, will also be helpful.

Service Members Need Car? Required

ArtPlace Mississippi Inc

Greenwood

Community Description

The city of Greenwood is located in Leflore County, Mississippi. Greenwood is home to a population of 15,205 individuals with a median age of 34.3. Approximately 4,206 are age 18 and under. 31% of the population is identified as White; 67% is identified as Black or African American; 2% of the population is identified as neither White nor Black or African American. Less than 2% of the population is identified as being Hispanic or Latino. Of the population whose poverty status is determined, it is estimated that 38.6% are below poverty level and that 54.1% of individuals 18 and under are below the poverty level. (All information provided by the 2010 Census Greenwood Fact Sheet)

Organization Description

ArtPlace Mississippi (ArtPlace) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to transforming the community of Greenwood and the Greater Mississippi Delta through the arts. We host, facilitate, and support hands-on programming for all ages & backgrounds regardless of cultural, educational, racial, or socioeconomic status. We strive to empower people with the confidence, skills and connections needed to accomplish their goals and contribute to the revitalization of their communities.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving in Threadgill Primary School and Greenwood Middle School. The service member will serve in each school to teach lessons about healthy food choices and understanding the local and national food systems. The service member will also meet with students during school lunches to discuss their food choices and healthy alternatives. Additionally, the service member will work to develop an eight acre plot of land that is owned by Greenwood Public Schools into a working farm that serves both schools and the community. Students will have the opportunity to work on the farm, learn about where their food comes from, and develop real-world professional skills. Members of the community will have the opportunity to work on the land, experience the natural beauty of a farm, and see healthy foods being grown in their neighborhood.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We believe that the service member should be willing to work creatively and thoughtfully to fulfill their program goals and objectives. Listening is also an incredibly important skill that will enable the service member to build more meaningful relationships with his/her partners and students.

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Tupelo Public Schools

Tupelo

Community Description

Tupelo, a five-time All-America City selection, was the first TVA city in the U.S. and is known for being the birthplace of the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis. (By the way, if GHW had been around when Elvis was young, he might still be cranking out the tunes!) Courting a large group of young professionals, Tupelo has worked hard to retain vibrance through free musical offerings at Down on Main, game-day rivalries at Pigskin in the Park, Gum Tree Arts, Tupelo Community Theater, the Color Run, and a variety of fun and engaging festivals. Tupelo is well known for its community spirit evidenced by the hundreds of volunteers who, in the past, put in thousands of hours helping the town clean up after an F3 tornado struck. There are no other FoodCorps service members in town, but there is a wonderful community of young farmers who work with Native Son, a sustainable organic farm, and all of our FC service members have made lasting friendships and connections with the farm crew. Toyota is based near Tupelo and has been a wonderful partner in bringing nutrition education, local procurement, and gardens into the schools. Our demographics have shifted in the last few years, and our school district is majority minority with a 62% rate of Free and Reduced lunches for our children. We are close to Memphis, the Delta, two major university towns, and have a wide slate of all kinds of food fare to enjoy!

Organization Description

Tupelo Public School District currently serves a student population of over 7,000 students. Our farm to school initiative is Growing Healthy Waves, and over the last four years, the four FoodCorps service members we've had have connected with all five elementary schools, a pre-K school, an upper elementary school, and the high school, as well as a local farm and the Farmers' Depot to get the word out that every child deserves healthy, nutrient-rich food. In 2015, Growing Healthy Waves was selected to be showcased for Farm to School Week in our state, and in 2017 the partnership between GHW and FC won the Governor's Award of Distinction, the top award for the entire state. GHW was also selected to be 1 of 20 teams out of 125 teams applying to take part in the School Garden Support Organization Leadership Institute in January 2018. We have been the impetus behind adding two salad bars to elementary schools and an onsite greenhouse at a 3rd-5th grade school which we are currently working with teachers to integrate a STEM component.. We partner with local chefs who both cook in our schools and buy our school garden produce, we offer parent academies, and we are present at our Farmers' Depot - all of which are integral in helping our students and their families adopt healthier lifestyles and perform optimally academically.

Service Activities Description

Lawndale Elementary School- This site serves as a new site, but with the placement of the greenhouse, there is so much that a service member can achieve with both teachers and students.

Lawhon Elementary School- This site has 13 total garden beds and a new principal. The SES at this school is the lowest. We feel there is a lot more work we can do in getting this school to a more sustainable level.

King Early Childhood Education Center- Growing Healthy Waves worked with ECEC the first year TPSD had a service member. This pre-K school has new leadership, and they are thrilled to have GHW focus on working with their students for next year.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The FoodCorps service member for TPSD should love engaging students in garden activities, taste tests, and fun activities that increase their love and appreciation of healthier foods. Great support will be offered to our service member, but the candidate should be proactive, self-motivated, energetic, and ready to roll up his/her sleeves ready to collaborate. The perfect

service member will take the initiative in accomplishing tasks in growing already established programs and implementing new strategies for STEM integration in the greenhouse.

Service Members Need Car? Required

Oxford School District - Good Food for Oxford Schools

Oxford

Community Description

Oxford is located in the north central region of Mississippi. The nearest large city is Memphis, TN, a little more than an hours drive to the northwest. Oxford is home to The University of Mississippi, one of eight public universities in the state. According to 2014 five-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey¹ Oxford's population was 20,200 people, with 74% white, 19% African American, 4% Asian, 3% Hispanic and small percentages of other racial/ethnic groups. The median household income was \$42,480. Just over 7% of our population was unemployed. With the expanding University and vibrant cultural scene, Oxford is growing at a fast pace. This growth brings both opportunities and challenges for improving quality of life and health across the population.

Organization Description

Good Food for Oxford Schools (GFOS) is a program of the Oxford School District Child Nutrition Department in Oxford, Mississippi to improve cafeteria menus and educate students and their families about healthy food. The GFOS Program Director in partnership with the Child Nutrition Director, FoodCorps services members, Cafeteria Managers and other district personnel, GFOS applies farm to school principles to bring local farm products into school cafeterias that strive to serve more cooked-from-scratch and fresh menu items. The goals of the GFOS program are

¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_5YR/DP05/1600000US2854840

better tasting and better for you food using local when possible, salad bars and gardens for every school and healthy food education for all students. We can be found in classrooms, school gardens and the community teaching information about the food we eat, where it comes from, how it grows, how to cook it and nutrition information to help our students grow up healthy.

Service Activities Description

Oxford School District Child Nutrition Good Food for Oxford Schools (GFOS) plans to host a FoodCorps service member during the 2018-2019 academic year. The service member will conduct classroom lessons, cafeteria activities and other events at Bramlett Elementary School, which houses kindergarten and six first grade classrooms. As our FoodCorps service members established the FoodDay celebration at Oxford Elementary serving first and second graders, the service member will collaborate on this event in October. The service member will also participate in district wide activities such as Family Cooking Classes, Carrot Camp and the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

This position requires the ability to multitask and be tentative and flexible as they will coordinate with many teachers, cafeteria team members and Child Nutrition Administrative staff. FoodCorps Service Members serving with GFOS will need to be able to serve outside year-round in Mississippi climate. Interest and ability to cook and garden are encouraged but not required if you have a willingness to learn.

Helpful Languages: Spanish, Chinese

Service Members Need Car? Required

Rosemont Community Health Services

Jackson

Community Description

Low income and high crime areas. Single parent homes and homeless people in the neighborhood.

Organization Description

We have a food pantry for the community and we have a clothes give away. We also help provide students in Lake Elementary with personal hygiene products, school supplies, and mentoring.

Service Activities Description

In Lake Elementary and Raine Elementary we will be using the existing school gardens to teach about gardening. We will also work with Provine High School to work as mentors. We'll be building a Pavilion for outdoor eating and space. We'll repair existing community gardens.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Knowledge about gardening and building relationships with the community and schools. Open minded and energetic about growing produce and learning about it as well. We are skilled in team building, constructive criticism, and communication.

Service Members Need Car? Helpful