

FoodCorps Montana 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

Hardin School District

Hardin

Community Description

Hardin is a small town of about 3,500 people, on the eastern plains in Big Horn County Montana. Hardin serves two Native American communities: the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne. Big Horn county is home to the Little Big Horn National Monument, Rosebud Battlefield and sits in the shadow of the beautiful Big Horn mountains.

Organization Description

Hardin School District is comprised of six schools including one high school, one middle school, and four elementary schools. We serve nearly 2,000 students, many of whom are transported from rural areas. Our backpack program, teen pantries, and school garden, support our students' health and wellbeing. We hope to make a difference by educating our youth about nutrition and offering them the opportunity to learn about healthy foods.

Service Activities Description

Our service member will serve at Hardin Primary School and Crow Agency Public School, primarily teaching nutrition classes and also conducting taste tests in the cafeteria. Our farm to school program incorporates the Montana Harvest of the Month (HOM) program, which features a Montana-grown or raised item on the lunch menu once per month. We tailor the HOM program to fit our community's needs and culture, and the service member supports the delivery of this program. We believe education positively impacts health, economic growth and social empowerment. We strive to educate our students because it helps with decision making and self-confidence levels and empowers them to be self-sufficient adults.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

A FoodCorps Member should have experience navigating limited resources and working with people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Hardin is a remote, rural community about 50 miles from a larger town.

Service Members Need Car? Required

Polson School District #23

Polson

Community Description

Our community is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation and on the south shore of Flathead Lake. Polson (population 4,500) is a small town with ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. Polson sits on the edge of Flathead Lake, which is a large freshwater lake that is flanked by several mountain ranges and that offers a glimpse at the Crown of the Continent (Glacier National Park) on a clear day. As such, our population fluctuates during the summer with the increase of tourists that come to visit Flathead Lake and the beautiful Glacier National Park.

Organization Description

Polson School District #23 is located in northwestern Montana. The district includes two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school and serves approximately 1,600 students. The farm to school program is growing, with multiple school gardens in the district, regular Harvest of the Month taste tests, and ongoing hands-on education in the classroom.

Service Activities Description

The service member will serve in our two elementary schools: Cherry Valley Elementary (K-1) and Linderman Elementary(2-4). The Reservation is about one-third American Indian and the students the service member will serve are about half American Indian. Our service member will teach kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade hands-on, engaging nutrition lessons in the classroom and garden. We also have independent events through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), and the service member collaborates with our FFVP coordinator in bringing local product into our lunch program and implementing the Montana Harvest of the Month program.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We seek a service member with an inclusive and compassionate heart, listening skills, communication skills. Interest and knowledge of American Indian history in Montana is important.

Service Members Need Car? Required

Columbia Falls School District 6

Columbia Falls

Community Description

Columbia Falls is a small rural community located just 15 miles from Glacier National Park. It has been described as the blue-collar town of the Flathead Valley, but this little community is experiencing a recent rejuvenation in community pride and an influx of new businesses.

Organization Description

Columbia Falls Schools includes two elementary schools, a junior high, and a high school. The farm to school program in the district is growing, and all started with the Wildcat Garden at Columbia Falls Junior High, a project initiated by the FoodCorps site supervisor that has blossomed into a flourishing garden and orchard that is used by the community and students.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps service member serves in Ruder Elementary and Columbia Falls Junior High (CFJH). We have big dreams for Columbia Falls, including: increase garden-based learning and nutritional education in the schools, implementing the Montana Harvest of the Month program, collaborating with Food Service Director to increase procurement of locally sourced foods, and expand existing nutritional programs throughout the school community.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

As our program is community-based and driven, we seek an upbeat, positive problem-solver with the ability to network with a variety of entities to promote garden-based learning and nutritional activities. Gardening experience is important. It's a bonus if the person has grant-writing skills, can support our school website, and is motivated to serve directly with enthusiastic young people!

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Anaconda Public School District

Anaconda

Community Description

Deer Lodge County has the smallest land area of Montana's 56 counties, consisting of 741 square miles of scenic, mountainous terrain. Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has a consolidated city-county government with an aging, declining population. The highest population density is within the county's only city, Anaconda (pop. 7,700), and the combined city-county population is approximately 9,000 people. Anaconda was once an industrial boomtown for the Anaconda Mining Company smelting operation. The area has undergone extensive environment remediation as part of the Environmental Protection Agency Superfund program. Today, the community has a service driven economy, enriched with cultural pride and potential for growth through jobs, housing and tourism. Poverty is a significant issue for our community with 19% of the population living below the federal poverty level, and approximately 43% at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The county has higher rates of poverty, suicide, obesity, and diabetes than the Montana averages. In light of these challenging community statistics, residents will benefit from increased access to high quality, nutritious food, behavior health services, physical activity, and a greater sense of interpersonal connectedness.

In the last two years, Anaconda-Deer Lodge has displayed a new commitment to improving public health and community development. The economic development nonprofit, Anaconda Local Development Corp., submitted to the local and state government agencies an active transportation plan for increased bicycling and walking within Anaconda. The Community Hospital of Anaconda and partners implemented youth-driven behavior health camps and intervention outreach. The residents of Anaconda started two different community garden projects to benefit the local food bank, youth and families. The Montana State University Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Educational (SNAP-Ed.) Coordinator teaches adult and youth food nutrition, horticulture, and active living programs.

Organization Description

The mission of Anaconda Public Schools (APS) is to provide an educational environment which nurtures social, emotional, and academic growth while establishing and maintaining high standards. The APS goals are to: increase student performance; ensure the physical space supports our students; ensure our staff and programs support our students; be an active, listening member of the community; and seek family and community engagement.

In 2016, APS reorganized and consolidated from five to four school campuses where approximately 1,000 students are enrolled and 100 employees serve as teachers, staff and administration. The four Anaconda schools are: Lincoln Primary for pre-K- 2nd grades; Fred Moodry Intermediate School for 3rd-6th grades; the Junior/Senior High School for 7th-12th grades. The Center for Excellence is the fourth school that provides educational services for youth 6-18 years of age with complex behavioral and emotional needs. Due to the percentage of low income households in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, all the schools in the district are eligible and receive Title 1 funds for services that provide school-wide educational and nutritional programs. Greater than fifty percent of the preK-12th grade student body are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving in two schools, Lincoln Primary School (Pre-K-2nd grade) and Fred Moodry Intermediate School (3rd -6th grade), delivering high-quality, hands-on education to elementary students in these schools. The service member will continue to develop and maintain the two school gardens, as well as host community events to celebrate the growing schoolwide culture of health. They will also collaborate and communicate with the Anaconda School Wellness Committee and the organizational partners who make up the Local Food Community Coalition. These school and community-based groups are vital to ensuring the staying power of Farm to School programs and the sustained impact of the FoodCorps service member in Anaconda.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Anaconda is a rural community with limited entertainment and amenities common in larger cities, but the people who live here enjoy community and the natural beauty, history, culture, and extensive outdoor recreation of the area. A service member should be passionate about building healthy communities, working with youth, and growing local food. A successful service member will have strong communication skills that encompass interpersonal, written, and marketing skills. Teaching skills are an asset, as well as time management skills to prioritize and complete projects and deliverables. We are looking for an enthusiastic service member with adventurous personality and an appetite for personal development.

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Livingston Public Schools Farm to School Program

Livingston

Community Description

Park County is a small and rural community of just under 16,000 with a significant population of at-risk youth. For example, 31% of students in Park county are eligible for free and reduced lunches. Moreover, MSN Money reported in the summer of 2015 that Livingston was the poorest town in Montana. Further, based on data provided by the Juvenile Probation office in Park County, for which Livingston is the County Seat, 30% of families working with this resource earned less than \$20,000/year, and 44% earned between \$20,000-\$40,000/year. Fortunately, resources like Farm to School of Park County (F2SPC) have a proven and growing track record of providing a positive experience to help counter adverse factors.

Community partnerships allow F2SPC to extend services beyond Livingston Public Schools. Launched in 2009, F2S has grown to include a diverse collaboration of stakeholders such as the Livingston Food Resource Center, Livingston Health Care, Park County, the City of Livingston, the Governor's Office, Montana State University, Park County-MSU Extension Office, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, Future Farmers of America and many more local organizations.

Organization Description

In 2008, Livingston Farm to School (F2S) was founded by a group of parents, educators and concerned community members who were interested in bringing farm to school experiences to their children's schools. A \$100K USDA F2S federal grant was awarded in 2013, and the program leveraged this funding to further F2S programming in the Livingston School District. Farm to School of Park County (F2SPC) was formed in 2017 to advance F2S's original mission and to expand to Park County communities beyond Livingston. F2SPC has grown to be a successful, highly-collaborative community initiative focused on placing healthy, local and sustainable food on the plates and in the minds of all Park County school children. The major theme of this strategic plan will be 'Expansion' as F2SPC ramps up its programming, creates solid foundations for its operations, and cultivates resources for long-term sustainability.

F2SPC is currently a fiscally-sponsored project of the Park County Community Foundation, and based in the Livingston School Districts. We have a small staff, a FoodCorps service member, an

active Board of Directors and several high school and collegiate student interns. Our primary source of income is government and foundation grants in addition to private donations.

Service Activities Description

Our service member serves at two schools:

Washington School Elementary (pre-K- K): Conduct classroom and garden education, help with promotions and outreach (such as school/community events), support Summer Lunch Program and Harvest of the Month program implementation, host Farm to School Month events, and assist with garden maintenance and vegetable production on school grounds.

East Side Elementary (3rd- 5th grade): Help with promotions and outreach, such as school/community events, support Summer Lunch and Harvest of the Month program, host Farm to School Month events, and plan and design a new school garden.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

- Interest in school food, nutrition, child health, local food, agriculture, youth engagement, etc.
- Comfortable working with and engaging large groups of elementary-aged children
- Experience with gardening, aquaponics and/or farming
- Some experience with safe food preparation, handling and serving preferred
- Excellent, professional written and oral communication skills
- Comfortable juggling a variety of tasks
- Organized, and self-motivated
- Energetic, enthusiastic, and engaging

Service Members Need Car? Required

National Center for Appropriate Technology - Headquarters

Butte

Community Description

Butte is a town of 34,000 people located just west of the Continental Divide. Butte has a unique culture that is deeply rooted in its long history as a copper mining boom town. The historic uptown area is experiencing a slow revitalization and is home to University of Montana's Montana Tech, a burgeoning arts scene, and access to many outdoor recreation areas where visitors can ski, climb, hike, fish, and more. Butte is a great place for young professionals who are ambitious and want to make change!

Organization Description

NCAT's Montana Healthy Food and Communities Initiative fosters robust, regionally-based food systems and healthy living in Montana communities. Through educational activities, research and advocacy, and strong public and private partnerships, we seek to create lasting improvements in the way Montanans grow, buy, and eat food. The Montana Healthy Food and Communities Initiative is the concerted effort of three interconnected NCAT projects: FoodCorps Montana, Farm to Cafeteria Network, and Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition. Together, our goals are to increase understanding of the importance of healthy, local food through statewide education and outreach; improve access to healthy, local food for all Montanans by connecting food producers and distributors with local food markets, especially institutions; and create opportunities and eliminate barriers for food producers with the goal of strengthening Montana's regionally-based food systems. We have been serving in two elementary schools in depth through offering nutrition and agricultural education and supporting school gardens.

Service Activities Description

The service member in Butte will primarily serve in Kennedy Elementary School and Whittier Elementary School to build on existing relationships with teachers and staff. The service member will seek to provide the support to teachers to start teaching Harvest of the Month lessons to their classes, as well as continue to support teachers in engaging their classes in the school gardens. The member will have opportunities to teach nutrition and gardening to

students in these schools while also focusing on empowering the teachers to offer such lessons as well.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We are looking for someone who can collaborate confidently with teachers and school staff to support them in starting to take ownership of the farm to school projects that has been started in Butte. We would like the member to be able to directly serve with the students in the targeted schools, as well as partner with teachers and community volunteers in order to reach more children and ensure the sustainability of farm to school efforts here.

Service Members Need Car? Required