

FoodCorps North Carolina 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

Down East Partnership for Children

Rocky Mount

Community Description

DEPC is located in Rocky Mount, which straddles both Edgecombe County and Nash County. Edgecombe County has a population of 55,574 with 57.6% of the population black, 40.4% white, and 3.9% Hispanic or Latino. Nash County has a population of 95,093 with 38.4% black, 58% white, and 6.5% Hispanic or Latino. In Edgecombe County, 25.2% of the population is below the federal poverty level, while in Nash County, 17% of the population is below the federal poverty level. The two-county service area includes two school districts: Nash Rocky Mount Public Schools (NRMS), which serves all of Nash County and Rocky Mount, including the portion of the city in Edgecombe County, and Edgecombe County Public Schools (ECPS), which serves the remaining areas of Edgecombe County.

Organization Description

Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) is a nonprofit organization serving children ages 0-8 and their families in Edgecombe and Nash counties in eastern North Carolina. DEPC is committed to launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade. This commitment drives DEPC's mission to build a strong foundation for children and families by advocating for and supporting both high-quality early care and education, as well as a coordinated system of community resources. As a natural extension of DEPC's focus on quality early care and education, our strategic milestone of improved healthy nutrition and physical activity practices in early care and education is included in our strategic plan. With a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, DEPC began working with five Title 1 elementary schools in Edgecombe and Nash counties to transform their existing playgrounds into Outdoor Learning Environments. A School-Community Team at each school guided the planning and work. DEPC is committed to continuing this work with these schools, helping them move beyond improvements to their outdoor learning environments and related policies and practices and toward embracing a holistic approach to child health by encouraging nutrition-related behavior change. Presently, our two FoodCorps service members are successfully working in 3 of the 5 schools, providing the knowledge and commitment needed to support these schools in moving forward in their service.

Service Activities Description

"Presently the two FoodCorps service members serve at GW Bulluck, Baskerville and Williford Elementary Schools. The service members work alongside DEPC staff to support School-Community Teams in elementary settings to integrate nutrition, food, and gardening information into school curricula. Additionally, the service members provide direct nutrition education to elementary students in 3 participating schools. The service members also provide food and nutrition information to families through nutrition/health themed community events coordinated by DEPC staff. Additionally development of new gardens and sustainability of existing school gardens in elementary schools will increase engagement of children and families in those gardens and promote healthy eating practices to positively impact student and family health. The FoodCorps service members along with DEPC staff will meet with school staff to coordinate nutrition and garden lessons with school menus and other existing food/nutrition efforts. The service members will join DEPC staff on the district level school health advisory team, informing and encouraging planning related to incorporation of local foods.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

FoodCorps service members will primarily serve with elementary age students and families in elementary school settings in economically disadvantaged communities. Ability to interact with children ages 5-8 will benefit the service member. Prior experience is helpful. Knowledge and understanding of the culture of a rural community, especially eastern North Carolina, is important. Individuals should demonstrate initiative and be a self-starter..

Helpful Languages:

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Durham

Community Description

Home to Duke University, Durham is a mid-sized city with a population above 260,000 and a great deal of personality, character and diversity. Despite being one of our country's fastest growing cities, Durham still retains a wonderful feeling of community and grassroots energy. Countless art galleries, museums, music venues, parks, hiking trails, historic sites, and sporting events mean that there is always something to do and get involved in. Rated by Southern Living Magazine as the South's tastiest town, Durham has a very exciting food scene with a wide variety of cuisines to sample. With both mountains and beaches just a few hours away, it's easy to take a break from city life and enjoy North Carolina's natural beauty.

Our FoodCorps service members will be serving in three elementary schools in East Durham. This area includes the city's highest rates of poverty, crime, and schools with high free and reduced lunch rates. Limited access to healthy, fresh food in these neighborhoods also contributes to diet related health disparities such as a high incidence of diabetes and obesity.

Organization Description

The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's mission is to pioneer innovative, transformative solutions designed to end hunger in our communities. We serve seven counties of the greater Triangle. As a member of the Feeding America network of food banks, the Food Shuttle recovers and distributes healthy food to more than 50,000 people in need per month. As with all food banks, we distribute food to agencies that serve those in need. However, since our founding in 1989, we have expanded beyond emergency food assistance to the broader mission of improving health outcomes and empowering communities to develop their own sustainable supplies of nutritious food. We focus on recovering and distributing fresh produce, teaching healthy cooking and shopping on a budget, conducting culinary job training, and engaging communities in urban agriculture. These innovative solutions focus on the root causes of hunger ---lack of access to healthy food and lack of income to purchase it. According to Feeding America, 1 in 4 children are at risk of hunger in North Carolina. In the Food Shuttle's seven county service area alone, over 118,000 children applied for free and reduced price meals last year. In Durham county, 22,456 kids received free and reduced lunch.

The Food Shuttle believes that by integrating our urban agriculture programming into school communities, we can impact hundreds of people at once (students, parents, teachers and

administrators) as we work with school staff to strengthen the self-sufficiency skills of students, increase their consumption of fresh produce, and help improve food literacy. Through the Food Shuttle's Growing School Gardens program, we grow school gardens and healthy school communities. Students at our partner schools have access to gardening and cooking instruction during the school day and after school enrichment programs that get them excited about agriculture, eating healthy, and cooking and growing fresh produce. Teachers can take part in professional development workshops that enable them to feel more comfortable teaching math, social studies, reading and other standards in a school garden setting. Parents are given access to our free Seed to Supper program (through our partnership with Oregon Food Bank) where they learn how to build backyard gardens on a budget and grow fresh fruits and vegetables with their families. Working together with principals and school garden success teams, our staff ensures that their school garden program is as sustainable as possible.

Service Activities Description

We would love to host two service members in Durham. Ideally the service members would work together to serve three schools total.

R.N. Harris Elementary is located in Southeast Durham and has a 100% free and reduced lunch rate. Our service member will help teachers get comfortable with their brand new school garden and advise them on sustainably managing their garden beds. They will also help the school expand their Garden Success team and create a sustainability plan. Our service member will provide garden education to all third grade students. They will work with the Wellness Committee to get more fresh produce in the school cafeteria.

Eastway Elementary is located in East Durham and has a free and reduced lunch rate of 99.5%. Our service member will help teachers get comfortable with their brand new school garden and advise them on sustainably managing their garden beds. They will provide garden education during the science period for all 2nd and 3rd graders. They will also lead an after-school Sprout Scouts garden club for 20 students. They will work with the Wellness Committee to get more fresh produce in the school cafeteria.

Bethesda Elementary is in East Durham and has a free and reduced lunch rate of 89%. Our service member will assist this school with designing and building a brand new school garden. They will also help the school expand their Garden Success team and create a sustainability plan. The service member will provide garden education twice a month to all 3rd grade students. They will also lead an after-school Sprout Scouts garden club for 20 students. They will work with the Wellness Committee to get more fresh produce in the school cafeteria.

Working alongside Food Shuttle Urban Agriculture Education staff, our service members will provide basic gardening trainings to Durham county teachers (especially teachers at our partner schools.) They will also train teachers on the best ways to tie CORE standards to their school's garden. Service members will engage with a number of community partners such as Farmer Foodshare, the Durham Department of Public Health and the Durham County 4H and Cooperative Extension to build healthy school environments at the sites they are placed with.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We are looking for FoodCorps service members with a passion for working with youth, local food systems and food justice in an urban environment. Service members should be self starters who can work equally well independently or on a team and confidently lead a group of adults or students. Our service members will have strong skills in the areas of gardening, cooking, classroom management, networking and leadership. Ideal candidates will be resourceful and flexible and will have experience working with low-income and diverse communities.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Brunswick County Extension

Bolivia

Community Description

Brunswick County is experiencing rapid growth due to the coastal location and proximity to urban centers. The visible affluence doesn't permeate the area, though. Over half of the students in the school system are on free or reduced lunch programs which indicates low incomes and limited resources in so many of the family units in Brunswick. The agricultural industry is primarily grains and livestock, but vegetables make up a strong sector, with many growers interested in new market opportunities like school cafeterias. We're home to the Green Swamp Nature Preserve where Venus Fly Traps, Pitcher Plants, and Long Leaf Pines thrive. Wide, sandy beaches, big oak trees, lots of history, and even Sea Turtles are great to see and experience here.

Many of our Service Members find housing in Wilmington and drive to Brunswick County for their work in the schools, though a car is essential wherever you choose to live during your term (and maybe stay for longer). With just over 100,000 people, Wilmington is an urban city with a small town feel. There, you can enjoy easy access to university resources and activities, beautiful beaches, and historic downtown attractions. Wilmington is a coastal community with plenty of water activities, outstanding local seafood, downtown theater and arts communities, and nightlife. Wilmington and New Hanover County, where Wilmington is located, is primarily urban/suburban in nature, whereas Brunswick County is a more rural area.

Organization Description

North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians. Programs like 4-H Youth Development, Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, Extension Master Food Volunteers and many more are provided through our office for the community. The staff is welcoming and has a tradition of making Service Members part of our work family. Financial support for gardens and Food Corps projects have been consistently strong in the past, and we have access

to lots of great partners through 4-H and the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Come on down!

Service Activities Description

The service members will teach 1-2 days per week at two schools each, which will be selected in the spring based on several factors and input from current Service Members. S/he will also be a resource for the schools in the county that have graduated out of the program, should they have any questions or for as-needed support. The service member will help to maintain and improve school gardens with the help of school teams, parents, and community partners. S/he will work with the County's Child Nutrition department to support and encourage their efforts to bring more fresh, local fruits and vegetables into school cafeterias - the Director has been a great partner with FoodCorps since it's inception. Finally, local food policy councils and other partner organizations working in the farm-to-school arena in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties can help the service member and will be able to participate in and partner with these efforts as desired. More information will be shared during interviews.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Proactive, independent approach to managing a busy schedule and diverse responsibilities. Ability to maintain school gardens, teach nutrition and gardening in engaging ways to a range of ages, volunteer management, and at least a general understanding of local food systems. Willingness to work collaboratively with a variety of community partners such as nonprofits, Cooperative Extension, and food policy councils. Surfing and coastal watersports experience is certainly optional.

Helpful Languages:

Service Members Need Car?: Required

MCS - Good Food Sandhills

Moore County

Community Description

Moore County is a rural county with 11 municipalities. These 11 municipalities illustrate a paradoxical disparity. In the midst of affluence where Moore County is "The Home of American Golf," "Horse Country," and a popular retirement location, there are food deserts and communities with extreme need. Since the recession, there has been a 140% rise in the poverty rate. In the words of The Pilot, "Poverty in Moore County has more than doubled in just three years, making it one of the five hardest-hit counties in the country with a population of 65,000 or more." In the town of Robbins, the childhood obesity rate has exceeded 50%. Two communities, East and West Southern Pines, merged in 1931 to become the town of Southern Pines and are a prime example of this disparity. Prior to that annexation, West Southern Pines was one of the first and few incorporated African American towns in North Carolina. Today, it is a discrete, long-term, low-income, minority community with all of the food and health issues of a more urban inner city where the nearest food outlet is a gas station. The economic downturn and the decrease in a viable work force have caused many manufacturers to leave the county, making it a community in transition. The military population (connected to Fort Bragg) on the other hand has blossomed creating a new vibrant space for young people to play, live and work. Businesses like R. Riveter (Shark Tank winner) and Southern Pines Brewery (local craft beers) have developed at the hands of young veterans and military spouses.

Moore County has a cosmopolitan feel in a small-community setting surrounded by lakes, pine forests, and equestrian trails with a full range of educational, cultural, and recreational activities readily accessible such as live, local music and theater, a local community college, hiking, biking, and canoeing. The natural, scenic beauty reveals itself in over 20 parks, more than 15 miles of Greenway trails, and at the Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve, which is 900-acres of natural Sandhills terrain with walking trails. Southern Pines Horse Country has the Walthour-Moss Foundation, an unspoiled 4,000-acre preserve with miles of horse riding trails, and the Pinehurst Harness Track, an 111-acre equestrian and training center where events such as harness races, dressage, and polo matches occur. The setting is extraordinary and the challenge to change children's health will be demanding. There will be five other FoodCorps service members within a 1.5 hour drive east, west, or northeast. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

Moore County Schools will work in conjunction with the existing Good Food Sandhills (GFS) coordinators. The FoodCorps worker will assist with school gardens, farm to school programs as well as neighborhood food system development. Our FoodCorps service member will report to the Moore County Schools Education Center offices or to their designated schools for daily activities. Their service will be dedicated to nutrition education and STEM-Fork related garden activities at two schools in concert with healthy, local food access projects that involve our students. Our service member will team up with Moore County Schools, School Garden Coordinators, teachers, Good Food Sandhills Community Partners, and community volunteers.

Service Activities Description

Aberdeen Elementary School- Grades 3-5. Your service will be with a partner grade-level teacher for nutrition education, support of farm to school sourcing and parental/community projects related to a healthier school environment and reduction of food insecurity in this high needs school.

Westmoore Elementary- Grades K-8- While embedded in this middle school, service will center on enrichment in nutrition education, food systems and developing student leaders within a healthy school environment. All students will participate in taste-test adventures in the school cafeteria. Additionally, at Westmoore, there is a Panther Partner project that allows younger students to pair with older role models within the school setting. During the Panther Partner time, students will have an opportunity to participate in garden and healthy food initiatives. The middle school Career and Technical Education classes have an existing greenhouse and garden that they will utilize with the help of the FoodCorps member's leadership.

Aberdeen elementary has an after school component where our STEM Gardens/STEM Youth Farm Lab serve as the gateway to nutrition and skill building in science, technology, engineering and math. Service will include extending the healthy schools environment model into the after school setting expanding the learning day as well as healthy environment for students who routinely spend up to 10 hours at school each day and consume 3 institutional meals Monday through Friday.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Skills would include gardening or farming ability, lesson plan development, classroom management, being a self starter, independent and high comfort level with group projects. Being flexible, sensitive and confident are essential in conjunction with an awareness of social,

racial issues impacting access to healthy local food. People skills combined with knowledge of science and math will be critical for working in our STEM program. Above all, a willingness and commitment to take on a huge learning curve in these areas if they are not already areas of strength for the candidate.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Guilford County Cooperative Extension Greensboro & Highpoint

Community Description

Welcome to the Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina, anchored by Greensboro, High Point, and Winston Salem. The area is home to nine colleges and universities and a diverse multicultural population. 112 languages are spoken by students in Guilford County Schools! Our area has a rich history of religious freedom and civil rights. As early as the mid-eighteenth century, Pennsylvania Quakers settled in the region in search of affordable land and the opportunity to create an intentional community. Community organizations and the International Human Rights Museum continue the legacy of those active in the Civil Rights Movement -- including the Greensboro Four, students from NC A&T University, who sparked the sit-in movement in 1960 that integrated lunch counters.

The Greensboro-High Point area is ranked fourteenth in the nation for food insecurity (FRAC 2016) and much of this need is centered in High Point, the 7th largest city in North Carolina. Therefore, all schools served by Guilford County FoodCorps service members are located in High Point. A car is required for service at this site.

There are many apartments and homes for rent in the area -- approx. \$450 for a room in a shared apartment with roommates to \$800 for independent living. Because the Triad is home to many students and young professionals, there is ample opportunity to find roommates.

Organization Description

North Carolina Cooperative Extension (NCCE) helps create prosperity for North Carolina through programs and partnerships focused on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development. County Extension Agents deliver research-based solutions to local issues by identifying local needs and challenges, transferring research-based knowledge, translating knowledge to practical applications, in order to enhance citizens' quality of life. In Guilford County, the FoodCorps program is co-supervised by a School and Community Garden Agent and a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, and supported by the 4-H program.

Service Activities Description

The two FoodCorps service members serve Fairview, Kirkman Park, Northwood and Parkview Village elementary schools located in High Point, NC. Each service member will serve two schools, spending two full days a week at each school and one day at the Guilford County Cooperative Extension office. This deeper connection with the school community allows insight into the workings and possibilities within each school. Each week, service members teach lessons, eat lunch with students, collaborate with teachers, network with cafeteria managers, and tend the garden. Service member will have the opportunity to engage the community in their efforts to build healthy school food environments through programs such as family cooking classes, summer open garden times, garden work days and creative partnerships between the service member and each school.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Experience engaging with diverse, low-income neighborhoods and building relationships with community members (families and caregivers, Boys and Girls club leaders, faith groups, volunteers, etc.) will greatly assist our service member's transition into service in our community. Experience teaching and interacting with groups of children age 4-12 is essential. Interest or experience in these aspects of service to increase community engagement, recruit volunteers, and celebrate successes will be valuable to our service member.

Dillard Academy Charter Goldsboro

Community Description

Goldsboro is a small city of approximately 37,000 people located in the coastal plains of North Carolina. Goldsboro is a great place to work and play, especially if you want urban convenience with a small town feel. Goldsboro's up and coming downtown area is near the school and offers a range of local restaurants, art galleries, and shops. Goldsboro also has national brand grocery and clothing stores, supercenters, and places for family entertainment and recreation. It is centrally located between Raleigh and the beach.

Organization Description

Dillard Academy Charter School is a nonprofit, public charter school which has been open since 1998. Dillard Academy provides a program of academic excellence for students in pre-K and kindergarten through 7th grade with special emphasis on remediation for the academically at-risk student and acceleration and enrichment opportunities for the academically advanced student. The goal is to provide a supportive structure and an educational program of age-appropriate activities that support character development and establish a strong foundation of physical, social, emotional, and intellectual capacities upon which lifelong learning can be built. Each student is assessed, and Individual Academic Plans are tailored to the child's specific needs. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the educational process both at home and in the school, to be supportive of school activities, and to spend a minimum amount of time in the school each month. Teachers and parents share responsibility for student academic progress. The academically at-risk population will be reduced by at least 50%. The academically advanced population will thrive on a challenging program that will accelerate them beyond grade level. Tuition, transportation, and meals are free at Dillard Academy.

Service Activities Description

The member will help to create a healthier food environment by increasing knowledge and engaging each student with healthy food healthy living habits and gardening during weekly classes and clubs. The member will engage the broader community by collaborating with local farmers, markets and local gardeners to create a local supply chain increase access to healthy local food both in the school for students and faculty, as well as in the children's homes and communities.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The Dillard Academy service member should be able serve with groups of 20 or less children, independently. He/she should have knowledge of basic gardening techniques. The service member must be organized and upbeat. Should be comfortable engaging at a grassroots level in a high risk area.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Helpful

Cherokee Choices

Cherokee

Community Description

Cherokee is a rural community of about 8,000 people, and of that, around 75% are Native American. Cherokee contains approximately 45,550 mountainous acres of land, and as a result of the terrain, most farms in Cherokee are small in size. Cherokee has beautiful, mountainous scenery and is perfect for a number of outdoor and historical activities like hiking, fishing, rafting, hunting, visiting the museum of the Cherokee Indian, touring the traditional Oconaluftee Indian village, and seeing the history of the Cherokee in the play "Unto These Hills". It is surrounded by a number of other small mountain towns and is about an hour from the bigger city of Asheville and around 3 hours from Atlanta, GA, and Charlotte, NC. There are two FoodCorps service members at this site but no others nearby. However, Cherokee Choices does have a young professional from the CDC Public Health Associate program who will be co-located with our service members.

Organization Description

Cherokee Choices works to mobilize the community to confront environmental and biological factors that put Cherokee people at high risk for diabetes. The cornerstones of this program are listening to the community and providing social support to increase physical activity and promote well-being and healthy choices, which can reduce the risk for obesity and diabetes. This approach makes Cherokee Choices different from the top-down programs typically provided by social service agencies. Our two service members, together with community mentors, work with K-12 students and staff to develop lesson plans on self-esteem, cultural pride, conflict resolution, emotional well-being, and health knowledge. There is also a weekly after-school program to enhance teamwork, cultural awareness, and physical health.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving in Cherokee Elementary, Middle and High Schools. The primary responsibilities of the service member in the elementary school is to provide monthly educational sessions with each grade block, Pre-K through 5th grade, hold quarterly garden visits for students to the campus garden beds and green house, participate in annual health fair and lead the after school garden clubs twice a week. The middle school responsibilities include collaborating with science teachers to incorporate garden related education, assist with after school Garden Club once a week and participate in annual health fair for middle and high school

students. Their responsibilities for high school are to connect with teachers to provide nutrition related education to students, assist in garden related activities in the Agriculture Class, and serve closely with Family and Consumer Sciences students. District wide activities include quarterly taste tests incorporating local fresh ingredients and nutrition education and attending SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) meetings every other month. The service member will also connect with the broader community by partnering with Cooperative Extension and Cherokee Choices and attend and promote farm to school and garden related programming.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The service member must have experience engaging with all ages of children and adults. Strong communication skills both in speaking and writing are a requirement. Knowledge of gardening is preferred and knowledge of greenhouse operation would be helpful. Coordination educational and school support programs. Ability to assess and prioritize multiple tasks, projects and demands. Must be a strong leader and have the ability to independently assess the need of the service site in regards to nutrition education and connection to garden.

Helpful Languages:

Service Members Need Car?: Required

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council

Charlotte

Community Description

Charlotte is a small city located in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. Charlotte is two hours from the mountains and three hours from the ocean. Charlotte is host to a vibrant local food community, a great food truck scene, a lot of local breweries, and over 20 farmers markets. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council exists to advocate for practices that build a sustainable, equitable, and healthy local food system. The goals of our council are to enhance the health of our citizens, strengthen local economies and market opportunities, and reduce hunger and food insecurity. To achieve these goals, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council connects local and state organizations involved in food systems work and educates community members about the importance of healthy, fair, and sustainable local food. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council exists to address local food issues primarily through advocacy and education. Our local and national food system is broken in many ways, but through the work of food policy councils like ours, change is underway.

Service Activities Description

Barringer Academic Center and Shamrock Gardens Elementary - both Title I schools and partial magnets. Service members will be involved with students, teachers, and administrators teaching nutrition and cooking classes as well as spending time in the school gardens. Shamrock Gardens launched a school-based CSA program this year and Barringer is in its third year with an active Outdoor Committee consisting of teachers from every grade. Garinger High School is a large, high poverty high school with an urban farm and greenhouse. Our current FoodCorps service members have been collaborating to get the Garinger Urban Farm GAP certified so that the hydroponically grown greens can be served in the school cafeteria. Service members will also be helping with child nutrition staff, the health department, and other partner organizations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Food Corps service members should be comfortable working in an urban setting and have a strong gardening background. FoodCorps service members should be comfortable documenting their progress and work with their students with photos and weekly written updates appropriate for blog posts, Facebook updates, and school newsletters.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car?: Required