WCC Individual Placement: Marine and Environmental Monitoring Technician

Position summary
This is a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) AmeriCorps position stationed at the Department of Ecology Headquarters building in Lacey. Position duties include marine and freshwater sampling of water, sediment, and biological specimens: field sampling, sample processing, use of laboratory instruments, sorting of marine invertebrates, scientific literature research, environmental data entry and review, attending scientific meetings, public outreach, and field and laboratory safety training.

Details about Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Programs in Marine and Environmental Monitoring can be found on our website’s water and shorelines page, our BEACH program page, and on our research and data page.

Position responsibilities
The Marine and Environmental Monitoring Technician will support four areas of focus:

- **Marine sediment monitoring:** Includes assisting with 1) field sampling: collection of sediments in Puget Sound, 2) use of stereomicroscope to sort invertebrates from Puget Sound sediment samples, and 3) program support tasks including data quality assurance (QA), scientific literature reviews, and assistance with web reporting.

- **Marine water column monitoring:** Includes assisting with 1) marine water sampling: travel by boat to monitoring stations throughout Puget Sound and Washington's coastal estuaries, 2) laboratory tasks: process and analyze samples collected at marine monitoring sites, and 3) program support tasks including instrument set up, lab cleaning, and data QA.

- **Beach monitoring:** Includes assisting with 1) water quality sampling at state beaches, 2) shoreline surveys, and 3) outreach events: 1-3 day events, including both elementary school groups and the public, focused on watershed pollution and control, especially fecal pollution.

- **Toxic chemical studies:** Typical duties include 1) collection of water, sediment and fish tissue samples for conventional and toxic chemical analysis, 2) water, sediment, and fish tissue sample processing, 3) environmental data formatting, compilation, review, and conducting basic statistical analysis. This position would conduct sampling aboard a boat, kayak, along freshwater shorelines by foot, with potential of spending long hours in the field and overnight travel.
Qualifications

- Applicants must be between the age of 18-25 on their first day of service (age restrictions are based on legislative mandate, and do not apply to those who have served or are serving in the military or those with a mental or sensory disability).
- Per legislative mandate, priority will be given to Washington state residents.
- Applicants must be eligible for AmeriCorps, and able to submit documentation of one of the following citizenship statuses: U.S. Citizen, National, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien. Learn more about AmeriCorps eligibility on the WCC website.
- The Environmental Assessment Program is seeking a motivated environmental or marine sciences graduate or near-graduate who is looking for on-the-job experience. Experience in marine science, estuarine ecology, oceanography, invertebrate ecology or limnology a plus. Please provide a resume including these experiences with your application.
- The ideal candidate for this position is an articulate, self-motivated individual who can serve on independent projects and as a team player, and serve carefully and meticulously on detailed tasks.
- A willingness to serve in both a laboratory setting and outside (on boats, rivers, streams, and beaches throughout Puget Sound) is essential.
- Basic computer skills including email, word processing, and spreadsheets a must.

Schedule

This is an 11-month AmeriCorps position starting October 4, 2021, and ending September 9, 2022. Members are expected to serve 40 hours over four or five days each week.

WCC AmeriCorps member benefits

Members will receive a biweekly living stipend based on current and projected Washington state minimum wage, in addition to the AmeriCorps Education Award ($6,345) upon successful completion of term. Basic health insurance and qualified loan forbearance is available. In addition, all WCC members gather twice a year for professionally-taught, career-transferable trainings. Read more about training opportunities and a full list of benefits on the WCC website.

Application process

1. Submit online application accessible on WCC website (select this IP position on application).
2. Email résumé and cover letter to Dany Burgess at dany.burgess@ecy.wa.gov by July 31, to be included in initial application review.

About WCC and AmeriCorps

Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) is an AmeriCorps program that creates future leaders through community involvement and mentorship. The program supports more than 350 members and experienced staff statewide who restore critical habitat, build trails, lead
volunteers, educate youth, and respond to local and national disasters. Learn more on the WCC website.

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country’s most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.