



JOB TITLE - Education and Outreach Program Assistant

MISSION STATEMENT: Stratford Ecological Center is dedicated to the education of children and adults in understanding the relationships between living things and their environment, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation for the land and all the life that depends on it.

OVERVIEW:

Stratford Ecological Center is a 236-acre educational farm and nature preserve located in Delaware, Ohio. Dedicated to hands-on experiential education, sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship and a whole lot of fun, Stratford welcomes nearly 16,000 children, families, volunteers, and community partners annually to connect with nature, where their food comes from, and each other. Since its founding in 1991, Stratford continues to represent quality education, healthy food, and sustainable living. Now is the time to join us and make a difference. Here at Stratford Ecological Center, you matter and so does your career. When you join our team of staff and volunteers, you feel like you are part of something bigger. You'll make a profound and lasting impact on children, our community, and our environment when they need us most.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: From foundational experiences of unstructured play in the forest, to hands-on investigation of the natural world, to participating in the cycles of our food systems on a working sustainable farm, both children and adults learn to recognize and appreciate the diversity and interconnections inherent in nature. As these connections are made through small-group, hands-on experiential learning, concepts come alive. Context elevates participants' understanding of their role within their ecosystem, and programs are designed to transform in age-appropriate ways, nurturing exploration, and discovery for all ages. Our educational philosophy was inspired by the experiences of Stratford visionary Gale Warner, an environmentalist, a writer, a leader, and an educator. Gale showed us how to listen and learn from the earth, and the core principles and techniques that continue to be relevant and necessary today.

POSITION: Education and Outreach

The Education and Outreach AmeriCorps member at Stratford will work alongside the education, farming, and community relations team to deliver Stratford's onsite and offsite educational programming. This position is instrumental in connecting children, families, and the public to nature and our food system by way of experiential learning onsite at Stratford, and offsite through community outreach and partnerships. The Education and Outreach team member(s) must have a desire to educate, engage and connect with a diverse audience of all ages. One team member will have a greater emphasis on children and school programs, while the other team member will work closely on public education and community outreach.

General Duties

- Greets and welcomes all visitors to encourage engagement in visitor education
- Educates visitors about Stratford's mission and programs
- Assist in developing and implementing Stratford's environmental education programs
- Assist in developing and implementing Stratford's outreach materials for public, schools and other local NPO's
- Assist in the onsite conversation and management of Stratford's living classroom including tree planting, invasive removal, farm chores etc.



- Assist in caring for and utilizing Stratford's diverse ecology to teach and allow program participants to experience the interrelationships between the farm, animals, gardens, forest, prairie, pond, and nature preserve, with an emphasis on natural and cultural history, biodiversity, sustainability, regenerative agriculture, and climate
 - Promotes environmental awareness through onsite and offsite events
 - Assist with community engagement days, including leading volunteer groups
 - Partners with Farmer, volunteers, and communication partners to conduct workshops and educational experiences on topics such as climate change, conservation of natural resources, sustainability, and regenerative agriculture
- 1. Volunteer and Team Coordination:**
 - Supervise and coordinate volunteers and interns participating in land management and conservation activities.
 - Foster a positive and collaborative work environment among staff, volunteers, and interns.
 - 2. Educational Programming:**
 - Collaborate with the education team to develop and lead engaging educational programs, workshops, and guided tours for visitors of all ages.
 - Communicate the importance of land stewardship, conservation, and sustainable agriculture to visitors, volunteers, and community groups.
 - 3. Public Communication:**
 - Assist in developing and implementing Stratford's outreach materials for public, schools and other local NPO's
 - Provide excellent customer service to all visitors, volunteers, community members, schools, and education program participants

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 17 years of age by their start date on October 1, 2023
- Must have a HS Diploma or GED certificate.
- Members must be able to pass a criminal, FBI, and DMV background check (Note: having a background does not automatically exclude them from membership).
- Members must accept the position as a full-time priority and be able to complete 1700 hours of service.
- The ability to safely traverse and navigate through rough and brushy terrain with ticks and poison ivy in the summer heat while carrying GPS equipment is required.
- Able to demonstrate some knowledge of or an appreciation for natural resource conservation.
- Able to secure transportation to and from work and events.
- Ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written form.
- Familiarity with popular computer software (including, but not limited to, MS Word, Excel, and Publisher).
- Able to take direction and respond positively to feedback.

Benefits

- Living stipend of up to \$20,400 for the service year.
- An education award of \$6,895 for a completed term of service to be used to pay student loans or for future education.
- Student Loan deferment and interest forbearance while in service.
- Childcare assistance available to full-time members, based on household income eligibility.
- Basic individual health, dental and vision insurance available to full-time members



Application

- To apply, please e-mail the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Emily Fouts, at efouts@franklinswcd.org with:
 - A statement of interest
 - A resume or summary of qualifications.
- Selection of candidates is currently active will remain open until all positions are filled.