

MARCH 2022

# GROWTH RINGS- AMERICORPS ADDITION!

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



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Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area promotes and supports a network of partnerships based around our unique Forest Heritage. We work in 16 West Virginia counties and 2 counties in Western Maryland.

To learn more about us and the work we do, including our AmeriCorps program, visit [afnha.org](http://afnha.org) or contact Lukas Ray at [lukas@afnha.org](mailto:lukas@afnha.org) for more information



## Celebrate AmeriCorps Week!

Celebrate AmeriCorps Week with us! Our AmeriCorps program currently serves 31 sites and works with over 40 AmeriCorps! This newsletter highlights the amazing work they do. We hope you enjoy!





# SITE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2022-2023 TERM!



AFNHA is seeking applications from non-profit organizations or associations, or government agencies, as sub-sponsor sites for AmeriCorps member assignments for the new program year to run September 7, 2022 through August 19, 2023.



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia

We will offer a new opportunity for new sites and supervisors to learn more about the program with a virtual Site Orientation, **contact us for more information!** This is encouraged for sites applying for the first time, who have not had a member before, for new supervisor staff, or just if you want a refresher. These orientation/s will cover basic responsibilities, writing a scope of service, application questions, and site role in recruiting. This is in addition to required supervisor training for selected sites in August.

**\*Contact Chrissy at [chrissy@afnha.org](mailto:chrissy@afnha.org) for more Info!**





# Two AmeriCorps Members Awarded!!



Kelsey Romer is serving with Woodlands Development Group, specializing in Historic Preservation! She has served with The Corps Network, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, and twice with AFNHA during her four terms! She previously served the Hands On Team with AFNHA!

Diana Deluca is serving with Parson's Pro-OnTRAC, a revitalization effort of the downtown Parsons area. She has worked on this project for all four terms of her AmeriCorps service!

Congratulations to Kelsey and Diana! Both were recently awarded a Lifetime Achievement award in honor of all they have accomplished in an incredible FOUR terms of service to the AFNHA area and other communities across the country. Together they have completed over 8,000 hours (4,000 hours each!) of service, with over ,000 hours in direct service to all organizations served and 4,000 hours in service to the community.

# AmeriCorps Stories!



AmeriCorps  
West Virginia

## Year Two! Projects Old and New! By: Hannah Studdard

Rounding out the first half of my second year, I can say with assurance that I am so glad I was welcomed back to Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge for a second term. It has been a joy to jump into projects with an understanding and interest that was not yet developed the first time around. My first few weeks back in the fall I was excited to begin our Cheat Mountain salamander surveys (such fun!) and attend a CMS workshop to further my knowledge about the Cheat Mountain salamander as well as other salamander species in the area. The workshop provided me with a new breadth of salamander facts and ID skills. I was also introduced to several professionals within the environmental field, including others in the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, DNR, and environmental contractors. What a wonderful opportunity, one I will cherish and use when my service here in Canaan comes to a close.



Click [HERE](#) to read more of Hannah's story!

Read more AmeriCorps stories [HERE](#) and dive into a word filled with community service, very cool projects, and adventure!





# We still have OPEN slots for the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Term!



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia



AFNHA AmeriCorps has been awarded a competitive AmeriCorps grant for 34 members for the 2021-2022 term, plus an additional 8 positions just awarded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In addition, the ARPA funding will raise member stipends to \$16,000 a year. This gives us a total program of 42 member positions, our largest ever. Because these additional funds were just awarded, we are still recruiting for a number of positions. While the new term starts September 8, we will continue recruiting through the fall until all positions are filled. THESE MUST BE FILLED BY

Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at [chrissyh@afnha.org](mailto:chrissyh@afnha.org) with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.



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