

# Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Developing leaders in conservation since 2007

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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service–East Lansing Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

**POSITION TITLE:** Imperiled Species Educational Program Developer  
**PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION:** East Lansing, Michigan  
**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Jessica Pruden (Fish and Wildlife Biologist) and Carrie Tansy (Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

In partnership with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, the USFWS is offering an opportunity for a full-time member to serve at the Michigan Field Office in East Lansing. The position will develop an endangered species in-schools educational program focused around the Grand River and that highlights conservation career awareness to schools with a diversity of students. Although facing water quality issues, the Grand River is home to the best remaining populations of the endangered snuffbox mussel (among many other imperiled species). This program provides an opportunity for raising awareness for conservation-related careers and therefore may serve as model for how natural resource agencies can better help ensure that future conservation professionals reflect the diversity of the entire U.S. population.

The successful applicant should have an education instruction background and strong interests in natural resource conservation. The member should be able to prioritize and manage multiple projects simultaneously and have the ability to work independently. The member may be required to complete tasks alone in the field (both urban and rural) in a variety of adverse weather and terrain conditions. Preference will be given to candidates with excellent written and verbal communication skills. Hands-on experience with developing educational programs for schools and engaging partners is preferred.

**SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE:** The Imperiled Species Educational Program Developer will collaborate with local teachers to design a new education and outreach program focused on endangered species and conservation career awareness targeted to grade and/or middle school students in the Lansing, MI area. In addition to developing a new in-school program, the member would also periodically present other educational or outreach programs. They will also develop outreach materials concerning Michigan's endangered species that highlight the economic benefits and ecosystem services these species provide. Some experience working with the students and the public is preferred. On-site training will be provided. Service locations include the Lansing area as well as travel statewide. Most travel will be day travel but overnight or weekend travel may be necessary. While most of the service tasks will be done in an office or a public-school setting, field tasks may involve walking over uneven terrain, wading in streams or rivers, and working outdoors (e.g., potential for inclement weather and biting insects).

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4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2, Gaylord, MI 49735 | [huronpines.org/amicorps](http://huronpines.org/amicorps) | (989) 448-2293

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## **POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- (1) Develop the Grand River Conservation & Careers Educational Program
  - Collaborate with local teachers to design an in-school educational program that highlights the importance of the Grand River for imperiled species conservation and raises awareness of conservation careers
  - Pilot the new program with at least one school
  - Present other educational and outreach programs and events
  
- (2) Improve endangered species outreach materials.
  - Develop improved outreach messages for key endangered and threatened species that speak to broader audiences than just those with an interest wildlife (e.g., value of bats eating crop pest insects)
  - Complete several new outreach tools (fact sheets, short videos, and potentially social media materials) that could be used to convey this important information
  
- (3) Coordinate Grand River Volunteer Event(s)
  - Collaborate with local parks department or other agencies/NGOs to coordinate 1 to 3 volunteer events (e.g., water testing, river clean-up, etc.) to help raise awareness of the Grand River
  - As part of the event provide educational session concerning the species-richness of the Grand River and its significance for imperiled species conservation
  
- (4) Participate in imperiled species habitat improvement projects or surveys
  - Collaborate with conservation partners on their imperiled wildlife and plant survey efforts (e.g., imperiled butterflies and other pollinators, piping plover, collecting water samples for e-DNA surveys)
  - Collaborate with conservation partners on endangered species habitat improvement projects (e.g., controlling invasive plants, improving nesting habitat for piping plovers, collecting native plant seeds, etc.)

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

- Prepare and submit 2-week schedules, timesheets and mileage reimbursement forms
- Conduct at least 2 formal presentations to community groups about Huron Pines AmeriCorps
- Engage at least 30 volunteers in conservation activities
- Submit 4 “Great Stories”
- Provide regular project updates and photos for the website
- Represent yourself as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member at all times
- Attend required trainings provided by the AmeriCorps Coordinator
- Collaborate with or support other service members’ events

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## QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Seeking A Degree
- ✓ Valid Driver's License
- ✓ Computer efficiency (typing, email, word processing, excel)
- ✓ Ability to pass a background check\*
- ✓ U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien
- ✓ Commitment to conserving Michigan's imperiled species through educational and outreach efforts

On occasion, service will be required at an off-site location. Use of a personal vehicle may be required to perform duties (mileage will be reimbursed). This is a 40 hour per week position and runs from January 30-November 27, 2020. Benefits include \$13,992 living stipend, health insurance, \$6,095 education award and student loan deferment.

Applications and directions are available at [www.huronpines.org/amicorps](http://www.huronpines.org/amicorps) and will be accepted until September 30, 2019.

**Reasonable accommodations:** If you need to make a request for a reasonable accommodation, due to a disability, such as obtain materials in a format that works for you or to fully participate in the application process, please contact Sarah Topp, AmeriCorps Coordinator at (989) 448-2293 x30 or [sarah@huronpines.org](mailto:sarah@huronpines.org).

\*Registered sex offenders are not eligible for AmeriCorps positions.

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