



Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Gulf Coast Community Design Studio for Construction Support

Background: Points of Light & Hands On Network leads an international movement of people who roll up their sleeves, get hands on, and solve community problems everyday. Through their Volunteer Center National Network and Hands On Action Centers, the organization supports a network of 370 organizations covering 88% of the US market and eight countries. These organizations mobilize millions of volunteers who partner with more than 12,000 nonprofits, schools and community organizations every year. They put people at the center...repairing homes, ensuring green spaces and partnering with nonprofits, students and faculty to transform schools and communities. Points of Light & Hands On Network encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer and be the change in their communities. For more information, visit www.HandsOnNetwork.org or www.PointsOfLight.org.

Hands On Gulf Coast (HOGC) began as Hands On Network's response to the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Based in Biloxi, Mississippi, HOGC has been in operation since February 2006, continuing a partner's operation opened in September 2005. Every week, volunteers from across the country come to Biloxi to work with HOGC in cleaning and rebuilding damaged homes, revitalizing public spaces, and supporting local community organizations. Some deployed volunteers are housed at the HOGC Civic Action Center, a unique and welcoming volunteer community. As recovery from Hurricane Katrina progresses, HOGC is working towards becoming a locally run organization that engages local volunteers in improving their own community through service. HOGC is committed to giving both deployed and local volunteers the chance to participate meaningfully in the recovery of the Gulf Coast; we are also committed to aiding the recovery process in a way that supports the visions, traditions, and efforts of local residents.

Description: The Gulf Coast Community Design Studio is a research arm of Mississippi State University School of Architecture that is embedded in Biloxi, Mississippi. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the GCCDS worked with members of the East Biloxi community on the ground, providing early damage assessment maps, then planning assistance, and eventually design services. Coordinating closely with various organizations that provide funding, case management, and volunteer construction labor, GCCDS provides design assistance to individuals from low income households that need help to rebuild. Since Katrina struck in August of 2005, over 60 homes in East Biloxi alone (both rehabilitations and new construction) have been completed through the work of the GCCDS.

Hands On Gulf Coast and the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio are currently seeking 1 AmeriCorps member to provide support for all aspects of Gulf Coast Community Design Studio manager's duties, project planning and management, scheduling, estimating, material procurement, coordination with designers and contractors, also assisting with house rebuilding program rehabilitating homes in Biloxi area.

Positions Available: : 2 Full Time (1700 hr, approximately 11 months) AmeriCorps member positions in Gulfport , Mississippi to serve from January 7, 2008 to November 23, 2008.

Responsibilities:

- Work with Project Manager in the day to day planning and management of the construction of 5-7 new homes
- Coordinate documents with local officials, consultants and contractors
- Communicate issues to and from out of town Designers
- Reading and Interpreting architectural and engineering drawing
- Assessing damaged homes and developing rebuilding strategy

Qualifications:

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Minimum 1 year experience in the building profession.

- Familiarity with MS Office software packages.
- Knowledge of AutoCAD or other drawing application a plus
- Knowledge of Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator Etc) a plus
- Interest in working in a post-disaster region
- Ability to work proactively on an independent project
- Ability to work creatively and collaboratively with other team members
- Valid drivers license

Benefits:

- \$12,000 Annual Living Stipend
- \$4,725 Education award upon successful completion of service
- Housing assistance available for applicants moving from outside of the area
- Health Insurance
- Forbearance of qualified federal student loans deferred

For additional information, or to apply, contact Hands On Gulf Coast (228) 257-6094 or americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org.