



Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Disaster Preparedness Project Coordinator

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: Hands On Gulf Coast is currently seeking an AmeriCorps member to coordinate HOGC's disaster preparation and response program, and develop and manage a comprehensive disaster preparedness community education program for the Gulf Coast region. This position includes managing the HOGC first response and base response teams, monitoring weather during the hurricane season, assisting in the preparation of HOGC base for hurricane season, and advising the Community Outreach team in their hurricane awareness programs.

Positions Available: 1 Full Time (1700 hr, approximately 11 months) AmeriCorps member positions to serve in Biloxi Mississippi from January 7, 2008 to November 23, 2008.

Responsibilities:

- Research various disaster preparation programs and become familiar with local infrastructure
- Develop educational programs for specific demographics around disaster preparation
- Present community education classes, events, literature to local residents
- Recruit, train and lead local residents to become engaged in the preparation of their own communities for disaster
- Work with HOGC staff to prepare the volunteer base for a disaster, including conducting drills and coordinating mitigation
- Revise and update HOGC evacuation plan, and advise staff on activating the plan in the event of impending disaster
- Serve as head coordinator for HOGC First Response and Base Response Teams, including organizing recruitment and selection of team members, coordinating trainings, and managing and ordering supplies
- Serve as HOGC representative at local and regional Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) meetings and events, and at Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meetings
- Assist with EOC operations if activated by EOC Director

Qualifications:

- Experience in disaster response preferred
- U.S. Citizenship
- At least a GED or willingness to attain
- Previous leadership or volunteer experience
- Demonstrated desire to address community needs
- 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
- Personal vehicle preferred

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.