



Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Green Space Development Team Leader

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 lead the Green Space Development program in the Biloxi area. HOGC's Green Space Development team focuses on two major areas: revitalizing public green spaces including parks and play spaces, and developing community gardens for local residents. This position includes working with the Program Coordinator to advise 4 Green Space project coordinators, ensure program goals are met, and manage the program calendar for the year.

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:

- Work with local government, community organizations, and Hands On AmeriCorps members to develop three community gardens/co-ops and five parks
- Serve as the Hands On Gulf Coast liaison to the community in promotion of green space projects
- Conduct weekly Green Space team meetings
- Create weekly team reports and update team blog
- Manage Green Space calendar of events and projects
- Manage Green Space tools and supplies
- Identify community green spaces for restoration
- Manage budgets for Green Space projects
- Research and coordinate Green Space specific trainings

Qualifications:

- Background in education 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.