



## **Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Healthy Living Initiative Project 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](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org) or [www.PointsOfLight.org](http://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 and implement the "Healthy Living Initiative" program at local schools and after-school programs. The Healthy Living Initiative is a curriculum developed by HOGC to educate elementary school students about healthy living, and includes both a physical exercise component and a gardening lesson. This position includes implementing Healthy Living Initiative programming, managing community and school partnerships, working closely with Youth Development and Green Spaces HOGC AmeriCorps members, and managing 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:**

- Ensure follow through with annual goals (program completed at five Boys and Girls Club after-school programs)
- Implement Healthy Living Initiative programming at sites
- Manage program schedule based on sites and HOGC program year
- Act as the HOGC Healthy Living Initiative program liaison in the Gulf Coast community
- Assist in recruitment, training and management of local volunteers where applicable
- Track budget and manage supplies for the program
- Create progress reports on program results
- Collaborate with partner program staff as necessary

### **Qualifications:**

- Background in education or health 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](mailto:americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org).