



## **AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer 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](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 (HOGC) is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA member to serve as a Volunteer Coordinator to work with our deployed volunteer program and create a sustainable model to progress with our organization through our transition into a locally based organization. This position will engage the VISTA in the oversight and improvement of an existing program, as well as the development and implementation of a new program design.

**Positions Available:** One full-time position to serve for one year beginning in November 2007 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Communicating with volunteers from around the world who are seeking a venue through which to contribute to the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Communities
- Strategic pre-trip coordination with volunteers
- Serving as point of contact while volunteers are serving with HOGC and managing the deployed volunteer experience, including improving orientation and exit programs
- Providing follow up communication with volunteers after leaving the Gulf Coast to encourage them to share their experience with others in their home town, volunteer again, or contribute financially to HOGC
- Develop a sustainable deployed volunteer model that will allow HOGC to continue to engage non-local volunteers in the Gulf Coast recovery process for the next several years
- Implement methods to recruit non-local skilled labor for the HOGC construction program over the next several years
- Develop sustainable HOGC volunteer alumni communications and fund raising appeals process

### **Qualifications:**

- U.S. Citizenship
- College degree or equivalent work experience
- 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:**

- Living Stipend
- Education Award or stipend upon completion of program
- Housing assistance
- Qualified Federal student loans deferred and accrued interest paid
- Health insurance for qualified members
- Childcare assistance for qualified members

For additional information, or to apply, contact Sara Hamilton at Hands On Gulf Coast (228) 257-6094, [shamilton@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:shamilton@handsongulfcoast.org) or Chris de Veer, [cdeveer@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:cdeveer@handsongulfcoast.org).