

Watershed Resources Assistants & Water Quality Coordinator – LRCC SLA

The Squam Lakes Association is seeking four full-year AmeriCorps members from January - November 2025, with three to serve as Watershed Resource Assistants (WRA) and one to serve as the Water Quality Coordinator (WQC). Both roles will serve closely with the Director of Conservation to ensure that all conservation related projects and programs are operating efficiently. There is the opportunity for WRA's to take on specific program or project management roles based on their interests. Along with the main duties and responsibilities, there are additional leadership roles available to the WRA. The WQC will ensure that all projects and programs related to water quality are operating efficiently. This person will be developing protocols, leading scientific research, and enhancing existing projects and programs of the SLA. These roles will allow an AmeriCorps member to grow and challenge themselves as a program or project manager, depending on where their skills, goals, and interests align with those of the SLA and Director of Conservation.

About the LRCC: The Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC) is an AmeriCorps state service program that develops skills and experiences for conservation professionals. The program provides hands-on conservation experience and certifications over a broad range of areas, which ensure that Lakes Region Conservation Corps members are capable of independently approaching a variety of tasks in the environmental conservation field.

About the SLA Host Site: The Squam Lakes Association (SLA) is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve the natural beauty, peaceful character, and resources of the Squam watershed. Through conservation, education, and low-impact recreation, the SLA promotes the protection, careful use, and shared enjoyment of the Squam Lakes Region.

All LRCC members serving with the Squam Lakes Association will have some level of participation in the following responsibilities, regardless of Assistant position:

- Act as a caretaker on SLA's low impact campsites, which includes: camping alone for 3-7 nights at a time, checking in campers, addressing maintenance needs, cleaning composting toilet facilities, restocking firewood, and other caretaker tasks as needed
- Split and bundle firewood for low-impact camping on SLA campsites
- SCUBA dive to remove the aquatic invasive species variable milfoil. Milfoil removal/surveying days are typically ten hour days, with upwards of three hours underwater. The water is cold and we dive regardless of air temperature and precipitation. Conditions are murky when diving in Squam.
- Facilitate winter access to SLA owned and maintained properties by conducting snow removal by hand, snow blower, and truck with plow attachment
- Educate the public on conservation initiatives within the region and across the state, and act as an ambassador of the LRCC and SLA. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes leading education programs, tabling events, lake hosting, trail hosting, etc.

-Volunteer management, including back-end administrative organization and leading volunteers in the field

-Collaborate with SLA staff, Education & Outreach Assistants, Watershed Resources Assistants, Trails & Access Assistants, and the Volunteer Program Assistant to support SLA operations, which may include but is not limited to: office work assistance, facilities maintenance, boat maintenance, special events, etc.

WRA/WQC-specific responsibilities include:

The primary responsibility of the WRA and WQC is to assist the Director of Conservation and lead programs and projects related to the monitoring and improvement of the Squam Watershed. This can include a variety of tasks including:

-Bolstering SLA's traditional conservation work of invasive species management, water quality monitoring, and public outreach.

-Serving in cooperation with the Director of Conservation to oversee and implement all aspects of the SLA's research and monitoring programs.

-Performing a variety of sampling procedures in the field to collect samples of water, sediment, phytoplankton, aquatic plants, cyanobacteria, and anything else that is deemed necessary.

-Performing all necessary processes for timely and efficiently analyzing a sample in a laboratory setting including sample storage, chemical experiments, extractions, and species identification.

-Leading volunteers and other LRCC or staff on water sampling/monitoring trips, invasive species removal and any other relevant programs

-Managing, organizing, and maintaining equipment used for field and laboratory work.

-Ensuring that all samples and data are accurate and processed in a timely and proper manner.

-Perform routine maintenance or creation of watershed improvement projects.

-Meet with private property owners to perform property evaluations identifying areas of concern of excessive stormwater that could impact the water quality.

-Contribute to website pages, newsletter, social media, conference presentations, and press releases and other appropriate written documentation.

-Collect and report data including but not limited to record keeping, field data collection and entry, and biweekly timesheets.

-Collaborate with SLA staff, Education & Outreach Assistants, Watershed Resources Assistants, and Trails & Access Assistants to support SLA operations, which may include but is not limited to: office work assistance, facilities maintenance, boat maintenance, special events, etc.

Required Qualifications:

We select Lakes Region Conservation Corps members who display a great attitude and commitment to conservation, enjoy hard work, and aren't afraid to get dirty. Lakes Region Conservation Corps members must meet the following minimum qualifications to serve:

-Must be 18 years of age by January 15th, 2025

-Must be a competent swimmer, able to lift 50 pounds, able to carry and use heavy tools while hiking, able to hike at least 8 miles in a day, and able to work independently and in a group

- Available for the full duration of program (January 15th – November 21st, 2025)
- Must meet the Corporation for National Community Service's minimum requirements:
- Must clear all required National Service Criminal History Checks;
- Must be a high school graduate, GED recipient, or must be working toward attaining a high school diploma or GED during their term of service;
- Must be a US citizen, US national, or legal permanent resident of the US

Preferred Qualifications:

- Strong interest in water quality science and conservation-based monitoring
- Previous experience working in laboratory settings.
- Strong computer and word processing skills, data entry, and analysis, including: Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe, and Google Suite. Experience with ArcGIS, RStudio, or Python are beneficial, but not required.
- Desire to manage and maintain existing conservation-based programs and projects, and lead volunteers and fellow staff in both back-country and front-country settings.
- Comfortable with long field days, in cold winter weather, on the frozen lake, and in hot humid summer weather, performing multiple sampling techniques with volunteers and fellow LRCC.
- Self-starter and intrinsically motivated with a strong ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Can be flexible and adaptable to a dynamic working environment and can understand when the needs of the organization must be put first.

Benefits

- Bi-weekly stipend: \$839.10 (pre-tax; \$18,700 aggregate)
- Segal Education Award upon successful completion of the program and 1700 hours: \$7,395
- Provided housing with kitchen and laundry (SLA will not provide additional stipend if electing to live elsewhere)
- AmeriCorps Health Insurance (value of \$4,500+)
- Eligible for student loan forbearance and interest accrual repayment on qualifying loans

Training/Certifications:

- Wilderness First Aid and CPR (value of \$245)
- SSI Open Water Diver Certification (value of \$780)
- NAUI Weed Control Diver Certification (value of \$150)
- New Hampshire Commercial Boating License
- Plow operator training
- Motorboat operator training
- Other professional trainings as available.

Physical requirements and serving conditions:

Standard 5 days on/2 days off with occasional exceptions. Normal office tasks, driving company vehicles (day/night; may require occasional use of personal vehicle if bringing one to the program), weekends, early mornings and late evenings, hiking on uneven terrain, lifting in relation to fieldwork. Must be able to swim and be comfortable on the water in motorized and non-motorized boats, willingness to SCUBA dive in cold and dark environments. Willingness to travel throughout the Squam Watershed.

Duration:

January 15th – November 21st, 2025 and a minimum of 1700 hours.

To apply:

Apply online at <https://www.lakesregionconservationcorps.org/apply-now>. Indicate in your cover letter which assistant position you are applying for. If you are interested in multiple tracks please indicate which ones in order of preference. Applications are reviewed in the order of receipt, with offers made on a rolling basis, so interested applicants are encouraged to apply well before the deadline. Submission deadline: December 1st, 2024