



Chesapeake Conservation Corps Member Application Instructions 2017 – 2018

www.chesapeakebaytrust.org / 410-974-2941

AT A GLANCE

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is designed to engage young adults in environmental and energy conservation projects, accomplishing bay restoration, and developing valuable career skills at the same time.

Deadline

April 14, 2017 at 5:00 pm

Duration of Corps Member Service

Fulltime 12 month period
August 22, 2017 – August 21, 2018

Submit Your Application online:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_1520/?SA=SNA&FID=35168

Partners:



An Exelon Company



Introduction

Increasing community and individual stewardship is a critical component of efforts to restore local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. The Trust has long focused on stewardship, awarding more than \$80 million in grants in our 30-year history to engage residents of our region in efforts to restore and protect our natural resources.

As part of this effort, the Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with the State of Maryland, BGE an Exelon Company, and the National Park Service to administer the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program (the Corps Program). The purpose of the Corps Program is two-fold: the first is to enable stipend Corps Members to work with Host Organizations and communities to implement environmental stewardship and energy conservation projects. The second is to provide leadership and training opportunities for young adults pursuing environmental and conservation careers. The specific objectives of the Corps are to:

- 1) Promote, preserve, protect, and sustain local streams, rivers, the Bay, and the region's other natural resources;
- 2) Provide young adults with opportunities to become better professionals, leaders and citizens through meaningful service to local communities and the Chesapeake Bay region;
- 3) Mobilize, educate, and train young adults to work with communities and schools to promote environmental and energy conservation actions needed to preserve, protect, and sustain the environment;
- 4) Provide opportunities for young adults, especially disadvantaged young adults, to be trained for careers that will be part of the emerging green economy; and
- 5) Advance the diversity and influx of young talent to both increase the accessibility to environmental careers and build the capacity of organizations working on Chesapeake Bay issues.

Who are the Corps Members?

The Chesapeake Bay Trust anticipates placing 30-35 individuals in Host Organizations throughout Maryland with service to begin August 22, 2017. Individuals will be between the ages of 18 and 25 years at the time of enrollment, and will include individuals with and without college degrees. They will serve a term of 12 months. The individual Corps Member will receive a stipend of \$17,000 per year. The individual Corps Member is expected to be covered under the Host Organization's general liability insurance for Corps Members. Given the Trust's goal of increasing diversity in the environmental sector and Bay stewardship efforts, people of color are strongly encouraged to apply to serve as Corps Members, and organizations aiming to connect diverse audiences to environmental issues are encouraged to serve as hosts.

Who are the Host Organizations?

Host organizations include non-profit organizations, local government organizations, and state government organizations. A list of organizations interested in serving as Host Organizations for the upcoming program year can be found at www.cbtrust.org/ChesapeakeConservationCorps after March 13th.

Corps Host-Member Match Process and Timeline

Dec 2016-Mar 10, 2017	Host Organization applications solicited
Mar 10, 2017	Host Organization application deadline.
Feb 1-Apr 13, 2017	Corps Member applications solicited. Eligible Host Organization applicants will be posted at www.cbtrust.org for potential Corps Member applicants to view.
Apr 14, 2017	Corps Member application deadline
April 15-May 5, 2017	First Round Review of Corps Member applicants
May 10-Jun 15, 2017	Applications of Corps Member Finalists made available to potential Host Organizations to view.
May 31, 2017	Corps Job Fair: Opportunity for potential Hosts and Corps Members Finalists to interact. (Optional but strongly encouraged)
Jun 16, 2017	All potential Hosts and all potential Corps Member Finalists required to submit their top 5 match choices.
Jun 26, 2017	Placement offers to Corps Members begin. Host Organizations will be expected to agree to host any potential Corps Member identified in their match lists.
Mid-July, 2017	Placement offers complete.
Aug 22, 2017	Service terms begin. All Host mentors and all Corps Members will be required to attend an orientation event on August 22, 2017.

Due to interest in the Program, we anticipate that more Host Organizations and more Corps Members will apply than can be accommodated in the program. The Trust will organize placements based on the following criteria: 1) mutual match listings, 2) quality of the Corps Member application, 3) quality of the Host Organization application and anticipated experience offered to the Corps Member, 4) fields of interest matches, and 5) geographic location constraints and needs of the Corps Member applicant.

Corps Member Eligible Activities

Corps Members will be engaged in one or more of a wide array of tasks in the fields of environmental restoration, energy conservation, sustainable agriculture, forestry, community engagement, and/or K-12 environmental education. The activities must meet an identifiable public need, with specific emphasis on action projects that result in long-term preservation, protection, and conservation of the environment. If placed, each Corps Member will work with his or her host organization and the Trust to structure a work program identifying the specific types of activities in which he or she will be engaged during the 12-month service period. This work program will include specific activities and quantifiable metrics in which the Corps Member will be engaged, including a capstone project led independently by the Corps Member that will be expected to compose roughly 25% of the Corps Member's time during the year-long service term.

Examples of Environmental Restoration Projects include:

- Watershed restoration, including stream restoration, rain gardens, and other low-impact development projects
- Implementation of specific nutrient reduction activities, such as innovative stormwater practices (rain gardens, bioretention cells), planting of bay grasses and oysters, installing living shorelines
- Working with communities to improve their environmental impacts and activities and to encourage environmental stewardship

Examples of Energy Conservation Projects include:

- Implementation of community greening and urban tree canopy projects that create energy savings
- Assistance to schools in becoming "green schools" and reducing energy costs
- Promotion of energy efficiency of households and public structures within neighborhoods through energy audits, weatherization, and other on-site energy conservation measures – e.g., "green street" energy projects
- Implementation of clean energy projects in communities to enhance the use of renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and mitigate climate change
- Improvement of the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and low-income households
- Implementation of clean energy projects in communities to enhance the use of renewable energy, including free and low-cost energy audits

Examples of Agricultural and Forestry Projects include:

- Implementation of agricultural best management practices to prevent or reduce nutrient runoff
- Working in partnership with the agricultural community on outreach and engagement projects to encourage stewardship
- Working with forestry programs to increase the amount of forested acres in the watershed
- Working with urban tree canopy programs

Examples of Education Projects include:

- Development of interactive environmental and/or energy conservation education programs for elementary and secondary school students and/or the public
- Development of curriculum targeted at training high school students and apprentices to obtain skills necessary to create and implement clean energy projects in their communities and to compete for jobs in the emerging clean energy sector
- Assistance to schools to become "green schools" through hands-on projects with their students
- Building infrastructure to promote environmental education including outdoor classrooms, nature trails, public access to natural resources, and schoolyard habitats

Examples of Community Engagement Projects include:

- Development of environmental outreach tools and materials for a specific target audience
- Implementation of community-based restoration and conservation demonstration projects to engage citizens and encourage individual behavior change that will benefit watershed health

- Implementation of environmental and/or energy conservation awareness programs and projects to engage and educate citizens about the Bay and their local watersheds

Ineligible Activities

Corps Members may not:

- Participate in any partisan political activity while engaged in the performance of duties as stipend volunteers.
- Participate in any regulatory or statutory enforcement activities while engaged in the performance of duties as a member of the Corps Program.
- Undertake a project if the project would replace regular workers or duplicate or replace an existing service in the same locality.

Corps Member's Responsibilities

- 1) The Corps Member is expected to work with his or her Host Organization and the Trust to structure a work plan based on a 40-hour per week Corps Member schedule for a one-year non-renewable term of service.
- 2) The Corps Member is expected to participate in seven trainings during the service year to promote team building among the cohort of Corps Members, develop an understanding of the overall Corps Program, share information about best practices, and advance knowledge on particular environment and energy topics.
- 3) The Corps Member is expected to submit quarterly status reports to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and a final report at the end of the service term.
- 4) The Corps Member will be required to attend and present a poster describing his or her proposed year's activities at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum at the end of September 2017, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.
- 5) The Corps Member will be required to participate in all other program components. A calendar of program events and dates will be provided to Corps Members at the start of the program year.

Host Organization's Responsibilities

The Host Organization has several responsibilities to the Program and its hosted Corps Member:

- 1) The Host Organization is expected to work with the Corp Corps Member matched to the organization by the selection committee and with the Trust to structure the Corps Member's work plan based on a 40-hour per week Corps Member schedule.
- 2) The Host Organization is expected to provide a Corps Member with desk or office space and access to a phone and computer with internet access, provide parking or reimbursement for parking on-site, and provide mileage reimbursement for program-related travel, *including travel to program training activities*. Host organizations must have office space.
- 3) The Host Organization is expected to cover the Corps Member under the Host Organization's general liability insurance for Corps Members.
- 4) The Host Organization is expected to submit quarterly status reports to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and a final report at the end of the service term.
- 5) The Host Organization is strongly encouraged, but not required, to provide costs (travel, registration, and lodging, if required) to enable the Corps Member to attend one professional conference during the service term. These types of offers may be a factor considered by Corps Member applicants as they review the potential Host Organization options.
- 6) The Host Organization is expected to designate a mentor to the assigned Corps Member; this mentor is expected to provide support and guidance to the corps member throughout the year. This is an important element of the program; both the mentor and the Corps member should have mutual ownership over the Corps member's experience.

Chesapeake Bay Trust's Responsibilities

- 1) The Trust will provide the Corps Member with a stipend of \$17,000 for the one-year, non-renewable service term.
- 2) The Trust will provide an orientation event and approximately seven mandatory training experiences during the service term.
- 3) The Trust will make available the opportunity for Corps Members to apply for Chesapeake Conservation Corps Mini Grants for projects associated with their service work of up to \$1,250.
- 4) The Trust will provide registration costs for each Corps Member to attend the 2017 Chesapeake Watershed Forum, attendance at which will be required of Corps Members. The Trust will also provide registration costs for each Corps Member to attend the 2018 Watershed Forum, after the completion of the year of service, to (a) present a poster describing his or her year of service and (b) serve as a mentor for the next class of Chesapeake Conservation Corps Members.

Contact

Tara Baker, Senior Program Officer, 410-974-2941 x102, tbaker@cbtrust.org

Application Submission Instructions and Deadlines

Chesapeake Bay Trust applications are all submitted through an online system. To apply go to <http://www.cbtrust.org/chesapeakeconservationcorps>, click on "New Applicant" and follow the onscreen instructions. If you have not yet registered to use the system before you will have to create an account. **Please note: The Trust's grant system works best in Internet Explorer, especially when uploading documents.**

Applicants must submit proposals using our Online System by **5:00 pm on April 14th, 2017**. *Late applications will not be accepted, and the online opportunity will close promptly at 5:00 pm.* **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit at least a few days prior to the deadline** given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. The Trust cannot guarantee availability of Online System technical assistance on the deadline date.

In submitting this application to become a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Host Organization, you attest that all information provided is true to the best of your knowledge, and commit to being placed with a Corps Member for the service period and fulfill all host responsibilities outlined above.

Proposal Instructions

When completing the online application process, you will be asked for the following information:

Contact Information

- 1) Name
- 2) Address
- 3) Phone Number
- 4) Email Address

Applicant Information:

- 1) Highest Degree Awarded
- 2) Year Degree Awarded
- 3) School Name
- 4) How did you hear about the Corps?

- 5) Types of Activities
- 6) Geographical Area Served
- 7) Employment History
- 8) Skills
- 9) Community and Volunteer Activities
- 10) References
- 11) Legal Information
- 12) Ethnicity (for survey purposes only; this information will not be shared)
- 13) Gender (for survey purposes only; this information will not be shared)
- 14) Age (for survey purposes only; this information will not be shared)

Narrative Upload:

You will be asked to copy and paste the questions and information below into a MS Word or PDF file not to exceed 4 pages of text addressing the following points. Then upload your completed narrative into the online application.

- 1) **Question #1:** Why are you interested in serving as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps member, what experience or skills do you have that would make you a strong member of the Corps, and to what aims do you hope to apply the experience in the future?
- 2) **Question # 2:** Of the types of environmental/watershed restoration, energy conservation, agricultural or forestry, infrastructure, community engagement and environmental education activities and projects described above in “Corps Member Eligible Activities,” what types of activities and projects are you most interested in and why?

Resume Upload:

Optional: You will be able to upload your resume.

Letters of Recommendation Upload:

Optional: Letters of recommendation from the references listed above are encouraged but not required. Letters should describe your work competence, leadership potential, and your ability to build relationships. If you are not able to obtain letters of recommendation in time for submittal they can be emailed separately to bbrooks@cbtrust.org.