

CLIMATE CORPS EDUCATION OUTSIDE FELLOW

POSITION DESCRIPTION

SEI is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity. We believe that a wide array of perspectives contributes to creative climate solutions where all communities thrive. We strive to reflect diverse communities, especially those most impacted by climate change and other kinds of environmental, social, and economic injustices. Persons of color, persons with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community are strongly encouraged to apply. A commitment to work and learn within an anti-oppression framework is required. <https://www.seiinc.org/dei.html>

Join Climate Corps Education Outside

Are you passionate about teaching and using school gardens as a learning laboratory for science education and environmental literacy for elementary-aged students? We're looking for emerging education professionals who share these passions to join our AmeriCorps cohort. We're looking for skillful, energetic folks with a resilient mindset and a commitment to equity and social justice. We're looking for independent problem-solvers who also value collaboration and teamwork. Most of all, we're looking for dynamic, bright people who are ready to dedicate one to two years of their lives to advancing science and environmental education in public schools.

About Climate Corps Education Outside

Climate Corps Education Outside (CCEO) is a 11.5-month AmeriCorps Fellowship program that offers emerging science and climate protection educators and leaders unparalleled professional development and training as they drive cutting-edge environmental solutions and advance science education in public schools, outdoors. We transform school gardens into lush, living laboratories, and use these laboratories to activate student learning. Climate Corps Education Outside engages our AmeriCorps cohort to bring this service to 13,000 students in the Bay Area.

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a national service commitment that meets a community's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. Climate Corps Education Outside partners with AmeriCorps to provide service opportunities in the Bay Area supporting communities' critical needs in education. CCEO Fellows dedicate 1,700 hours of service per term in exchange for leadership and career development, and a total living stipend of \$27,060 supported by our AmeriCorps grant. AmeriCorps is an exciting opportunity for service-minded individuals who are passionate about education and the nonprofit sector. For more information, please visit www.americorps.gov.

Details

The Climate Corps Education Outside (CCEO) program serves public elementary schools and garden-based education providers in San Francisco, San Mateo County, Alameda County, and Santa Cruz. As a CCEO Fellow, you will lead garden-based science and environmental literacy education at a school for 11.5 months and work with students in grades K-5, serving a high percentage of low-income children and many English-language learners. CCEO fellows must be committed to social justice and have cultivated or be willing to cultivate cultural competence and humility. While the field of environmental education has a long way to go, we strive toward an anti-racist future for our program, Fellows, schools, and students.

The position will likely start on August 23rd, 2021 and end on August 3rd, 2022. While this is a one year commitment, we strive to maintain consistency for our school sites and prioritize applicants who can make a 2 year commitment to their schools.

The Day to Day

During the school year, Mondays through Thursdays are dedicated to teaching in the outdoor classroom at your school site and guiding science, sustainability, and other efforts with the community. Fridays are designated for professional development, which includes formal learning workshops offered within three content strands (garden-based education, leadership for community engagement, and horticulture and garden design), peer coaching, and administration time. There are occasional extended and weekend hours dedicated to service, schoolyard workdays, and community events. You will also be an active part of the Climate Corps cohort, which means you'll have a group of peers for support as you learn and grow together. You will also have designated regional and site supervisors to support you in your service and professional growth.

Context

Depending on your school placement, you may work to steward and strengthen a garden program that has already been created at your site or you may work to help create something new. This might mean creating an edible garden from scratch, determining what elements are necessary to make the space a functional outdoor classroom, procuring tools, and/or continuing to maintain and enhance an existing school garden. Get ready to get your hands dirty!

Position Competencies

The Climate Corps Education Outside position is demanding and has many moving parts. We are seeking optimistic, organized, and professional individuals who are passionate about this work. In order to build a successful program in a school community, CCEO fellows must be effective leaders and communicators.

While each CCEO fellow is part of a supportive and collaborative network of Climate Corps and staff members, much of your on-site work will require a high degree of confidence, autonomy, self-direction, and initiative. You must possess the desire to understand your community's needs and to constantly seek ways to address them.

Climate Corps Education Outside Fellow Commitment

- Commitment to serve a minimum of 1,700 hours over a 11.5-month term
- Participation in one National Day of Service
- Active participation in ongoing meetings and professional development with the Climate Corps cohort of emerging education and sustainability professionals

Program Strands and Responsibilities

The Climate Corps Education Outside Fellow focuses on three strands: learning and teaching outdoors, community engagement, and outdoor classroom design.

I. Learning & Teaching Outdoors

Climate Corps Education Outside fellows will provide garden-based lessons that help students practice science and connect to the natural world. CCEO fellows will:

- Prepare for and teach multiple lessons per day to various grade levels
- Create a safe and positive outdoor classroom culture

- Apply equity and anti-racist lenses to all teaching and learning with students
- Adapt and implement the CCEO curriculum for their school site
- Collaborate with teachers to integrate indoor and outdoor learning experiences
- Coordinate harvesting, cooking, and eating in the garden with students

II. Community Engagement

Climate Corps Education Outside fellows will build strong relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders, communicate effectively about their work, and identify and support needs in the school community. CCEO fellows will:

- Manage the Climate Corps Education Outside program at their school
- Facilitate out-of-class opportunities for students to connect to the natural world (e.g. after school programs, recess activities, student green team, field trips, etc.)
- Facilitate sustainability projects and learning opportunities on campus and in their community
- Build strong relationships with community members in order to serve the needs of the school and students
- Act as a liaison between the school community and the local environmental education network
- Spread awareness of the program through conversations, presentations, photos, blogging, newsletters, bulletin board displays, etc.
- Support organizational data tracking by accurately collecting and inputting data related to corps fellow activities

III. Outdoor Classroom Design

Climate Corps Education Outside fellows will build, maintain, and grow an effective, inviting, and productive garden classroom. CCEO fellows will:

- Collaborate with their school community to maintain and improve the school garden
- Plant and maintain perennials for long-term garden habitat
- Plant and maintain an edible garden
- Develop site infrastructure to support learning outcomes
- Engage in grant writing and fundraising to support garden infrastructure improvements and purchase garden and instructional materials and supplies

Relationships/Supervision

Climate Corps Education Outside fellows will:

- Report to and collaborate with their SEI Regional Supervisor and Site Supervisors
- Participate in bi-weekly trainings, composed of CCEO fellows with a similar focus working at other school sites as well as Climate Corps Fellows working at governmental, non-profit, and for-profit organizations
- Meet regularly with their school principal or other key stakeholders to share updates
- Support volunteers at their school sites

Basic Eligibility

AmeriCorps members must:

- Have ability to work in the US
- Have a high school diploma/GED
- Be 17 years old or older
- Pass state criminal and FBI background checks
- Be negative for tuberculosis
- Be able and willing to commit to the 9-month service term

Additional Qualifications

- A commitment to Climate Corps Education Outside's mission and vision
- A commitment to social justice
- College degree or equivalent experience
- Experience prioritizing and managing projects
- Experience teaching and working with groups of students (especially ages 5-12) outdoors
- Experience working with children and adults from diverse backgrounds
- Experience with gardening or farming
- The ability to thrive in an environment characterized by significant growth, ambiguity, and constant change
- The ability to self-direct and successfully juggle many tasks at once, shifting from one situation or task to another fluidly
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills
- Comfort speaking in front of students and working with groups
- Ability to be responsive to email, phone calls, and other means of communication
- Ability to live frugally with the modest AmeriCorps financial stipend.
- Experience in and the drive to address racism and create race equity with the team members and programmatically
- Competency in Spanish or Chinese is a plus, but not required

Travel Requirements

At the start of each program year, Climate Corps Education Outside holds a weeklong orientation for all fellows. Some travel may be required for this orientation period. Climate Corps Education Outside fellows will be responsible for transportation to and from their work sites, as well as occasional trips to bi-weekly training locations, other school sites, and National Day of Service events.

Typical Physical & Mental Demands

Requires prolonged activity with some bending, stooping, and stretching; eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity sufficient to operate garden tools, a keyboard, telephone, photocopier, calculator, and other office equipment. Requires normal range of hearing and eyesight to communicate with students as well as maintain data records. Also requires flexibility to readily adapt to a changing environment.

Compensation

You will receive a living allowance stipend of \$2,255 per month and a projected AmeriCorps end of program education award of \$10,000.

LifeLab Opportunity

For the 2021-22 school year, we are excited to partner with LifeLab to expand our program to 7 elementary schools in Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Life Lab seeks energetic, skilled and dedicated educators who have a passion for engaging elementary-age children, and a devotion to teaching experiential Garden Science and Classroom Cooking. The ideal candidate will help shape Life Lab's programs for sustainability and future growth. If you are interested in this special position, working in partnership with LifeLab, please indicate this in your application and on your initial call with our staff.

To Apply

Please apply through our website at <https://www.climatecorps.org/cceo-fellowship.html>.