



AmeriCorps
Ohio



2025-2026 Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps Program

Agroecology Practitioner and Educator

About MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) is a non-profit institution that provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world. Seminary Hill Farm (SHF), an initiative of MTSO, spans ten acres and includes a greenhouse, two high tunnels, several low tunnels, a children's garden, ADA accessible gardening beds, perennial asparagus beds and production fields. Seminary Hill Farm is nested within wetland, woodland, prairie, and landscaped ecosystems across the remaining 70+ campus acres. We operate within the framework of agroecology, recognizing interconnection, synergies and the vital importance of diversity- from the soil to those who eat food that is produced.

Seminary Hill Farm engages interns, students, volunteers, visitors and outside organizations as co-learners in responsible land use that promotes biodiversity, nutrition, beauty, and ecological health. We grow fresh food for our campus community and local food banks. We cultivate relationships and provide educational opportunities through Community Shared Agriculture via both sales and investment in communities, linking resources with need, and partnering with movements, organizations and institutions working for community health and wellness.

MTSO is located at 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio, 43015.

Further information can be found on MTSO's website: <https://www.mtso.edu> and <https://www.seminaryhillfarm.org>.

AmeriCorps Program and Position Overview

This is a national service position affiliated with the Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps State and National program. MTSO serves as one of 9 different

AmeriCorps member host sites for the Collaborative. AmeriCorps is the federal government agency for national service and volunteerism in the U.S.

The Agroecology Practitioner and Educator AmeriCorps position will be part of a 16-member cohort for the 2025-2026 cycle of the Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation AmeriCorps program. **This is a Full Time term of national service that requires a minimum of 1,700 hours of service to be served over the course of one year (September 8, 2025-August 31, 2026).** The position will work under the direct supervision of the Seminary Hill Farm Liaison (Laura Ann Bergman) with supplemental supervision of the Seminary Hill Farm Manager and AmeriCorps Program Coordinator.

In order to meet the 1,700-hour requirement, expect to work ~35 hours/week during the service term with the exclusion of federal holidays. Hours may fluctuate in consideration of seasonal changes, projects, and events. Availability on some evenings and weekends (with advance notice to member) is desired.

Key Duties

- **Educational Programming:** Serve as an educator for visiting groups of all ages (tours and specific programming) with a focus on practical skill development, sensory awareness, and cultivation of personal agency in regenerative food and farming systems.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Cultivate a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere for all volunteers. Assist volunteers with task organization and accompany them for task execution.
- **Agroecology Practice - Community Greens:** Provide leadership in overall management, including crop cycles, production, care and harvesting of season-long vegetable greens for distribution to food insecure communities with support of the Farm Liaison and Farm Manager. Communicate with partnering non-profits to coordinate delivery and provide educational materials as needed to assist food bank/pantry clients in fresh vegetable utilization.
- **Administrative Tasks:** Assist Farm Liaison with communication and instruction for interns, students, volunteers, and outside organizations across all platforms. Complete mandatory online trainings in a timely manner. Provide support in creation and distribution of key documents which may include educational brochures, presentations, newsletter articles, spreadsheets, grant proposals, and other materials.

Additional Duties

- Participate in volunteer events in the Children's Garden and ADA Garden.
- Receive training on ergonomics, safety, operation, maintenance of power equipment and hand tools to support farming operations.

- Collaborate on design, planning and facilitation of immersion experiences for children and youth during weekly Community Supported Agriculture distributions.
- Collaborate with the farm team to establish new perennial plantings and installations (living deer fence, windrows, insectaries, etc.).
- Assist the farm team with vegetable field production to cultivate contextual awareness for facilitating outreach and education programs.
- Assist the land stewardship team in riparian, prairie, and woodland regeneration projects.
- Participate in conservation workdays, trainings, and team-building activities with the program cohort.
- Engage in on-the-ground conservation projects with the program cohort.
- Support on-the-ground conservation work for other program host sites (activities to be pre-approved by the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator).
- Complete member timesheets, program reports, and other administrative items as scheduled.
- Participate in ServeOhio sponsored programs and activities.

Minimum Eligibility

- Must be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien.
- Must be at least 17 years of age by start date of service.
- Possession of a high school diploma or GED equivalent certificate.
- Ability to pass criminal background checks (having a background does not automatically exclude you from the position).

Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of Microsoft Office and Google Suite.
- Ability to work outdoors in adverse weather conditions (heat, cold, insects, poison ivy, etc.).
- Ability to lift 30 pounds.
- Ability to traverse up to 0.5 miles over uneven terrain while potentially carrying equipment, tools, and supplies with or without accommodation.
- Ability to work both independently and in a team setting. Comfortable in leading projects and communicating with others.
- Excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills (both written and verbal).
- Able to take direction and respond positively to feedback.

Benefits

- Living stipend distributed in equal biweekly payments of \$884 or \$915 (to total up to \$22,984 or \$23,790 for the entire term of service).
 - The living stipend is considered taxable income by the IRS, but it is NOT counted as income for eligibility for government assistance programs, such as SNAP.
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$7,395 (contingent upon completion of service) that can be used toward qualifying student loans and/or future educational expenses (such as tuition, fees, and supplies).
- Access to member healthcare and childcare during the term of service.
- Supplies and travel reimbursement of up to \$200 each.
- Training stipend of up to \$200 and a guarantee that at least 10% of service hours (170 hours) are dedicated to professional development activities.
- Access to federal student loan forbearance while actively serving, including forgiveness of interest accrued during service (contingent upon completion of service).
- Full Time AmeriCorps service is considered qualified employment for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
- Ability to work alongside environmental professionals and build a career in the environmental field.
- On-site housing in a graduate school apartment. This benefit is unique to this position.
- Potential opportunity to renew.

How to Apply

Complete an online application via the following link: <https://arcg.is/1bPOK4>. Contact the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Abby Thiel (athiel@franklinswcd.org) with any questions. The application review process will start in June and remain open until the position is filled, with a priority start date of September 8.



Useful Links:

- Seminary Hill Farm: <https://www.seminaryhillfarm.org>
- Methodist Theological School in Ohio: <https://www.mtso.edu>
- AmeriCorps Central Ohio Collaborative: <https://www.franklinswcd.org/ameri-corps>
- AmeriCorps, the federal government agency for national service and volunteerism in the U.S.: <https://americorps.gov/>
- ServeOhio, Ohio's state commission on service and volunteerism website: <https://serve.ohio.gov/home>

Disclaimer: This position constitutes a *national service* opportunity and NOT employment.