

Thank you for your interest in EarthCorps programs for international applicants. Please note that the application process for these positions is lengthy and extremely competitive. On average EarthCorps receives up to 20 applicants per available position.

EarthCorps is truly a life changing experience however it might not be the right program for you. This document is meant to help clarify your expectations of the EarthCorps program.

Please remember that EarthCorps is a field based service-learning program. The projects that participants complete in the field help pay to make this program possible. EarthCorps program is best described as manual labor with a focus on environmental restoration. AmeriCorps, an EarthCorps sponsor, has a good definition of what service learning is: <http://www.americorps.org/>.

General Overview: The position at EarthCorps that you are applying for is known as corps member. Corps members are part of a five-person team led by a Crew Leader. This team is made up of both US Americans and international participants. 80% of the EarthCorps experience is in the field with a crew five days a week, eight hours a day. This program involves a lot of hard, physical environmental restoration projects.

EarthCorps Field Projects: EarthCorps performs environmental restoration from early morning to late afternoon (usually 0730 – 1700), every day, and every week. Most of EarthCorps field projects involve invasive plant removal, restoration of waterways and trails construction. At least twice a month there are education days designed for participants to explore deeper into important environmental topics and techniques

Environmental restoration is the process of renewing the health of a damaged area until natural processes alone can maintain ecological stability. At EarthCorps this can involve pulling weeds or a project building structures in a stream for fish habitat.

We don't just talk about environmental work, we do it! EarthCorps restoration projects involve lifting, digging, carrying, using heavy tools and moving large objects. EarthCorps programs focus on hands-on field service to teach participants about environmental restoration, community building and leadership. This is not a classroom or workshop – 80% of the program is in the field, in all weather conditions and requires participants to be very physical. View a typical day at EarthCorps here: http://www.earthcorps.org/day_in_the_life.php.



EarthCorps is a service-learning program. The major opportunities for learning here are from participating in real field projects. EarthCorps makes contracts with owners of public land or other funders to complete restoration projects. This program is like an apprenticeship in which participants learn through doing.

Most of what participants learn is from the reflections they make of their experiences on a daily basis: conversations with other participants and homestay family; the field activities they perform; the interactions with crew members, leaders of the corps, and professionals from agencies. This program involves the following activities and their approximate percentages:

- Field based restoration projects (70%)
- Orientations (5%)
- Education workshops and discussions (10%)
- Planning forums to discuss global issue (1%)
- Presentations on your organization's work and projects (2%)
- Crew meetings, All Corps meetings (2%)
- Occasional weekend field trips (1%)
- Events (4%)
- Evaluations and performance reviews (5%)

TYPES OF EARTHCORPS FIELD PROJECTS

- **Stream Restoration:** stream bank stabilization, erosion control, native planting projects for biodiversity and shading, monitoring, bio-engineering techniques, in-stream habitat creation and decreasing water velocities.
- **Wetland Restoration:** nursery development and native planting projects for enhancement of wetlands.
- **Trail Building:** trail work in sensitive watershed areas, in-stream habitat construction, trail construction, bridges and boardwalks.
- **Volunteer Management/Leadership:** lead community volunteers in environmental restoration projects.
- **Stewardship:** invasive plant removal, care of existing restoration projects through repairs, maintenance, monitoring and watering.

