



# Frequently Asked Questions

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE FLORIDA CONSERVATION CORPS?

The Florida Conservation Corps (FLCC) is an office within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (Florida Park Service) that operates an AmeriCorps National Service Program. This program is divided into three project areas that each address either a major issue facing Florida State Parks or a component of the FLCC mission. The three project areas are: Project A.N.T. (AmeriCorps Non-native plant Terminators), Project R.O.A.R. (Regional Outreach and Awareness Recruiters) and Project T.R.E.C. (Trail Restoration and Enhancement Corps).

### WHAT DO FLCC AMERICORPS MEMBERS DO?

Each FLCC project will offer a member a unique experience within Florida State Parks. Members are assigned to a service location depending on the project they have applied for and are expected to complete an (11 month-1700 hour full term) or (6 month-900 hour half term, availability may vary) of service. During their term, members focus on a set series of performance measures and are guided by Florida Park Service staff on goal setting and work expectations. Depending on the project, members may work in the field treating invasive exotic plants, they may be working on repairing a trail, or they may be developing outreach material, interpreting, and recruiting volunteers to aid state parks.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN FLCC AMERICORPS MEMBER?

During a term of service, members gain valuable experience in resource management, trail restoration, and/or volunteer recruitment; while also improving their knowledge of conservation and restoration ecology. Members also learn useful skills such as interpretive program development and volunteer/community outreach. Aside from personal growth, members receive \$1,500 a month as a living stipend, and upon successful completion of a full term, members qualify for a Segal Education Award of \$6,195.

### IS HOUSING PROVIDED?

Each project area is different in terms of housing availability.

Project A.N.T.: Housing is available at some locations. Applicants will be provided this information upon selection.

Project R.O.A.R.: Housing is available at some locations. Applicants will be provided this information upon selection.

Project T.R.E.C.: Housing is currently unavailable for these members, however they are given local and affordable housing information in Gainesville, FL, they are put in contact with other members in area, and are encouraged to house together to split expenses.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

All applicants must create an application at [my.AmeriCorps.gov](https://my.AmeriCorps.gov). Please note that an application can be created at any time, but you may only submit an application to any of the FLCC projects during recruitment season. Typically, the application portal is open from October through January for full term and May-July for half term (if available).

### WHAT IF I AM HAVING AN ISSUE WITH MY.AMERICORPS.GOV?

FLCC staff does not have administrative powers over the [my.AmeriCorps.gov](https://my.AmeriCorps.gov) website. If technical issues are experienced please contact the my.AmeriCorps Support Desk at 1-800-942-2677.

## WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON THE APPLICATION?

The application page is relatively simple and asks for prior work, education, and service experience along with a motivational statement. If you have experience related to the service description it is suggested that you include it, as we are a competitive program and many of our members have prior experience in a related field. Additionally, you will be asked to provide contact information for a minimum of two professional references. These references will be emailed with a questionnaire that will need to be filled out on your behalf. It is advised that you notify these contacts as your application may be considered incomplete until the questionnaire is finished. This may also delay the FLCC staff receiving your application.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN FLCC AMERICORPS MEMBER?

Potential members must be at least 18 years of age, authorized to work in the U.S. without restrictions, and possess a Driver's License. A High School Diploma or equivalent is required & needed to receive the education award. A background in a related field is very helpful for applicants seeking a member position. This can come in the form of education, volunteer service, or work experience.

\*All selected applicants will be asked to undergo several background checks. FLCC staff will facilitate these checks through Fieldprint and Truescreen.

## HOW IS THE FLCC PROGRAM SUPPORTED?

The Florida Conservation Corps manages AmeriCorps grant based programs (Projects A.N.T., R.O.A.R., and T.R.E.C.) and is overseen by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Volunteer Florida. Within DEP the Florida Park Service's Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources manages the Florida Conservation Corps. FLCC directly administers the AmeriCorps Projects. FLCC administration is made up of a Program Coordinator, an Assistant Program Coordinator, and two Program Assistants.

## WHAT IS THE WORK SCHEDULE?

Each project and service location has a different work schedule. As long as the 1700/900 hours in eleven/six months are completed, many parks or service sites are willing to work with members for a flexible schedule if needed. The standard however, is roughly 40 hours per week, typically Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm, with some weekend events or travel opportunities to neighboring locations.

## ARE THERE UNIFORMS?

Yes, members are provided 1 Class A Polo, 5 Class B t-shirts, 5 khaki service pants, 1 PFG, 1 FLCC jacket, and 1 sun-hat. However, uniforms may vary depending on our vendor. Other personal protection equipment is issued as needed and varies by project area. Members are required to be in uniform any time they are completing service hours. Members also agree to a uniform and personal appearance standard when they sign their contract.

## WHAT DO MEMBERS DO AFTER THEIR TERM OF SERVICE?

After completing a full season of field experience in direct resource management, many members are prepared for successful careers in related industries. Many members have gone on to work in environmental agencies at the local, state, or federal level. However, results will vary. The FLCC AmeriCorps Program is an excellent opportunity to develop skills needed to be an effective resource manager, team member, and environmental advocate while also having fun and enjoying the great state of Florida.

## PROJECT A.N.T. QUESTIONS

### WHAT DO PROJECT A.N.T. MEMBERS DO?

Project A.N.T. members are assigned in pairs to Host Parks across the state for an (11 month-1700 hour full term) or (6 month-900 hour half term, availability may vary) term of service. During their term, members focus on the identification, treatment, and removal of invasive exotic plants as prescribed by park, district, and department staff. Aside from treating invasive exotics, members may also repair trails, develop outreach and interpretive presentations, and participate in member development projects. A majority of members' time is spent outside, treating and surveying park property for invasive exotics plants.

### WOULD I BE ABLE TO CHOOSE MY SERVICE LOCATION?

Once the Host Parks have been identified for the program year, potential members may select their preferences from that list. FLCC Staff will do their best to match potential members with their preferred Host Parks. Applications will then be sent to Host Parks so that they may review potential members and contact them for interviews. When a Host Park identifies the members they prefer, an offer will be extended for that service site. Other applicants who have been interviewed for the Host Park will be notified when positions have been filled.

### IS HOUSING PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS?

Some Host Park locations have housing available, while others do not. This is a question better asked if selected for an interview from a Host Park, as each park location will vary. Many of the locations that are unable to provide housing are located in populous areas, where affordable housing near the park is a viable option. The program does not provide moving assistance.

### IS TRANSPORTATION TO SERVICE LOCATIONS PROVIDED?

Host Parks are only responsible for member transportation within the state parks, or for service related activities. Each park varies on the types of transportation provided, as some only need UTVs, while others provide trucks to their assigned members. Members are required to get themselves to the service location each day they are serving.

### IS A VEHICLE REQUIRED?

Although not a requirement, it is HIGHLY recommended. The Host Park is only responsible for transportation related to a member's service activities. If selected to serve, transportation for off work time would be the member's responsibility. However, many current term members bike, carpool, or use public transportation. The circumstances with each park varies, so a viable option for one location may not be true for another.

### WHAT TYPES OF TRAININGS ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS?

Members are required to take the standard DEP New Employee Trainings, in addition to the FLCC Online Training Series that covers topics such as safety, disability awareness, emergency preparedness, introduction to interpretation, and volunteer recruitment. All members also attend workshops on how to properly identify, survey, and treat invasive exotic plants. Members will also receive Basic First Aid, CPR, and AED trainings if they do not have them before joining. Additional trainings such as wild land firefighting and chainsaw safety may be available, depending on the park's needs.

## PROJECT R.O.A.R. QUESTIONS

### WHAT DO PROJECT R.O.A.R. MEMBERS DO?

Project R.O.A.R. members are assigned individually to regional service locations for an (11 month-1700 hour full term) or (6 month-900 hour half term, availability may vary) term of service. During their term of service members are focused on volunteer recruitment and management, and outreach or interpretation presentations. These members also work closely with Florida Park Service and FLCC staff to reach volunteer recruitment goals and prepare outreach materials. Most of members' time will be spent communicating the impact of AmeriCorps service, the value of volunteer-ism in our state parks, while assisting with other project/event planning/outreach for the other FLCC project areas.

### WHERE DO PROJECT R.O.A.R. MEMBERS SERVE?

Project R.O.A.R. members serve at one of the five regional District locations. Specific work locations will vary by district, but members will be provided with all necessary resources and equipment to complete assignments. With a regional focus these members have the opportunity to assist with events at various sites across their District.

### IS A VEHICLE REQUIRED?

Although not a requirement, it is HIGHLY recommended. A member's service site is only responsible for transportation related to a member's service activities. If selected to serve, transportation for off work time would be the member's responsibility. However, many current term members bike, carpool or use public transportation. The circumstances with each location varies, however, so a viable option for one location may not be true for another.

### WHAT TYPES OF TRAININGS ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS?

Members are required to take the standard DEP New Employee Trainings, in addition to the FLCC Online Training Series that covers topics such as safety, disability awareness, emergency preparedness, and introduction to interpretation. Members will also receive Basic First Aid, CPR and AED trainings if they do not have them before joining. Project R.O.A.R. members will also receive specific communication and presentation trainings (Member Outreach Development) to prepare them for their service roles. As advocates for the entire Florida Conservation Corps, Project R.O.A.R. members may shadow various other trainings or service assignments to become familiar with what other members are doing. These members may also receive high-quality, comprehensive, disaster response trainings. Additional trainings may also become available.

## PROJECT T.R.E.C. QUESTIONS

### WHAT DO PROJECT T.R.E.C. MEMBERS DO?

Project T.R.E.C. members are part of a traveling team, based out of Gainesville, FL, serving in many parks throughout the state for an (11 month-1700 hour full term) or (6 month-900 hour half term, availability may vary) term of service. During their term, members focus on assessing, preserving, improving, and otherwise supporting recreation trails within state parks as directed to by park, district, and department staff. Members improve and advocate for recreational trails through physical trail maintenance, creation of signs and brochures, and utilizing opportunities for volunteer recruitment and management. A majority of members' time is spent outside, improving and surveying trails. Cross collaboration with other FLCC project areas is encouraged. These members will also serve as part of the AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) for the state of Florida, and may be deployed during a natural disaster.

### WOULD I BE ABLE TO CHOOSE MY SERVICE LOCATION?

Project T.R.E.C. members will report to the FLCC main office, located at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Gainesville, FL. Members will begin and end their projects from this location, but will serve in several parks throughout the state, with each project lasting anywhere from 1 – 2 weeks, depending on need.

### IS HOUSING PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS?

A primary residence will not be provided for members during off time, but each project location will be required to provide accommodations while onsite. This includes cabins or camp sites, with necessary amenities. Members will be responsible for their own bedding and personal items (potentially including a tent and other camping gear) while on travel. Gainesville, FL is home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, however, and there are numerous affordable options available for members. Additionally, selected members are connected prior to the start of the program term to allow them the option to find affordable housing together if desired. Members should be prepared to be away from their primary residences for extended periods of time while serving on their pre-scheduled projects.

### IS TRANSPORTATION TO SERVICE LOCATIONS PROVIDED?

Members will travel to and from project sites in a van with a travel trailer for equipment and gear. Service locations are only responsible for member transportation within parks, or for service related activities. Members are required to get themselves to the designated meeting spot prior to each project.

### IS A VEHICLE REQUIRED?

Although not a requirement, it is HIGHLY recommended. The program is only responsible for transportation related to a member's service activities. If selected to serve, transportation for off work time would be the member's responsibility. However, many current term members bike, carpool or use public transportation.

### WHAT TYPES OF TRAININGS ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS?

Members are required to take the standard DEP New Employee Trainings, in addition to the FLCC Online Training Series that covers topics such as safety, disability awareness, emergency preparedness, and introduction to interpretation. All members also attend workshops on how to properly maintain, access, and create trails. Members will also receive Basic First Aid, CPR and AED trainings if they do not have them before joining. These members will also receive high-quality, comprehensive, disaster response trainings, as they will also serve as part of the AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) for the state of Florida.