



# Position Description

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**Type of Position:** LINKS AmeriCorps Member

**Service Dates:** April 5, 2010 through Feb. 2, 2011

**Length of Term** Approx. 37 hours a month from April to Sept. 15 hours a month from Oct to Feb. 300 hours total.

**Interviews:** Applicants are interviewed & placed on an on-going basis until positions are filled. Interviews are underway.

**Application Deadline:** Open until filled.

**Position Title:** Water Quality Technician – 300 hours (1 position)

**Project Sponsor:** Columbia Riverkeeper, Adopt-a-River program, [www.columbiariverkeeper.org](http://www.columbiariverkeeper.org)

**Sponsoring Organization's Mission:** To protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River from its headwaters in Canada to the mouth of the Pacific Ocean.

**Project Location:** Wenatchee Valley College, 1300 5<sup>th</sup> St. Wenatchee, WA 98801

**Transportation Information:** Member is responsible for getting to the office, however, for long days spent in the field CRK will pay for a car rental, or reimburse mileage.

**Position Summary:** Help restore abundant salmon runs to the Columbia River and contribute towards a clean, cool and healthy Columbia River. One of the many factors currently threatening Columbia River salmon are high summer temperatures which encourage disease, stunt growth, encourage non-native predators like Bass and Walleye, and at 73°F become fatal. Temperature and its associated parameters are the focus of Columbia Riverkeeper's volunteer monitoring program.

The Water Quality Tech positions for Columbia Riverkeeper involve extensive temperature monitoring on the mid and lower Columbia River, data entry and management, and maintaining water quality equipment and quality control for the Adopt-a-River water quality monitoring program. Water Quality Techs will learn how to deploy and retrieve continuous temperature loggers, use high-quality monitoring equipment for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, and pH, as well as how to prepare data for submittal to Oregon and Washington state environmental agencies. The data collected will be used to identify areas where we can create or restore cool-water temperature refuges for migrating juvenile salmonids.

## **General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):**

1. Help recruit, train and coordinate volunteers including one-on-one onsite sampling assistance.
2. Receive training to become an expert in field measurements of pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, and specific conductivity.
3. Deploy, maintain, and download continuous temperature loggers once a month in your service area.
4. Help manage and enter data collected from temperature loggers and volunteers in Xcel spreadsheets.
5. Assist with water quality equipment calibration, accuracy checks and maintenance before and during volunteer sampling weeks (between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of every month).
6. Answer public enquiries while working in the field, distribute CRK literature, and hand-out River Use surveys to people encountered while in the field.
7. Complete and submit all necessary LINKS AmeriCorps Program paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
8. Attend and complete LINKS AmeriCorps Program orientation and enrollment session.
9. Wear an appropriate LINKS identifier and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

## **Requirements:**

1. Must be adventurous, physically fit, and able to hike or kayak in to areas without easy public access along the Columbia shoreline in order to camouflage temperature loggers.
2. Must be able to swim and be cognizant of safety precautions when wading or boating in the river.
3. Must be able to work independently and with limited oversight.
4. Must have good communication skills with a remote supervisor via email and phone.
5. Must be detail-orientate regarding equipment and field protocols, and data entry.
6. Must be willing and able to carry a cell-phone at all times in the field, and use a PC lap-top computer.
7. Must have a passion for rivers.
8. Must be able to represent Columbia Riverkeeper in a friendly and professional manner.
9. Must have a valid driver's license.

10. LINKS members must be at least 17 years of age at the time of enrollment in the program.
11. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
12. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
13. Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
14. Submit to a criminal history background check and National Sex Offender Registry search.
15. Regular and reliable attendance.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

1. Comfortable with using Excel spreadsheets.
2. Previous science or water quality monitoring experience preferred including use of GPS.
3. Preference will be given to students enrolled for the entire year at one of the participating community colleges.

**Member Benefits Include:**

- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$1,000. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or for trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay a portion of the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Experience gained through this position will greatly benefit persons looking to further a career in water resources and upon successful completion will earn a letter of recommendation from CRK staff.
- Members will receive discounted or free entry to CRK sponsored events such as the annual Hanford Reach kayak trip.

**How to apply:**

**Step 1** - Email your résumé to [links.recruitment@esd112.org](mailto:links.recruitment@esd112.org) and to [lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org).

**Step 2** - Complete your application online at the AmeriCorps website. [AmeriCorps Application](#)

1. If you do not already have a username and password, you must create a profile. [Create A Profile](#)
2. Once you have created a profile, log in and complete an application by clicking “Applications” under the “My AmeriCorps” menu.
3. To apply to this specific position, click “Search Listings” under the “My AmeriCorps” menu and search for program name **LINKS**.
4. Select the position listing and click “Apply Now” at the bottom of the page.

**Questions about the project? Contact:** Lorri Eberle, Water Quality and Outreach Director, at 541-399-0769 or [lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org).

**Questions about AmeriCorps, LINKS or our recruitment process? Contact:**

LINKS

2500 NE 65th Ave

Vancouver, WA 98661

p 360) 750-7500 x 114

f 360) 360-694-2491

[links.recruitment@esd112.org](mailto:links.recruitment@esd112.org)

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