



Eau Claire County Cooperative Extension AmeriCorps*VISTA Summer Associate

Program Overview:

AmeriCorps*VISTA's mission is to create and expand programs that ultimately help bring low-income people and communities out of poverty. The Eau Claire County AmeriCorps*VISTA will serve as a member of the Eau Claire County UW-Extension educator team. In cooperation with the educators, Eau Claire County Master Gardeners, and other community partners, the VISTA will reach underserved and underrepresented Eau Claire County audiences through work with community gardening activities and educational programs. Support will be provided for gardens at the Bolton Refuge House, North River Front, McDonough Park, Chippewa Head Start, and Session Street Apartments. Participants in community gardening projects learn about gardening and the importance of eating a healthy diet.

Position Responsibilities:

- Serve as a member of the Eau Claire County UW-Extension educator team
- Provide garden upkeep including watering, weeding, planting, harvesting
- Coordinate and teach weekly school-aged gardening programs, one hour per day, three days per week, throughout the summer
- Coordinate gardening events such as family harvest evenings
- Assist Nutrition Educators with nutrition programming at the gardens
- Work in partnership with the Eau Claire County Master Gardeners and the Horticulture Educator to expand gardening programs and build the capacity of limited resource families to grow and prepare their own food.
- Prepare and deliver reports to the county Extension Education Committee, County Board of Supervisors, and other community stakeholders as requested by the Eau Claire County UW-Extension department heads
- Contribute to Cooperative Extension Western District priority initiatives
- Participate in VISTA orientation and professional development, and additional in-service training as needed

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum age 18
- Excellent organizational skills including the ability to coordinate program details and organize workloads
- Competence working with Microsoft Office programs and the internet
- Ability to work in a context of individual and cultural differences
- Ability to schedule evening and some weekend work as a regular part of position duties
- Transportation adequate to fulfill positions responsibilities
- Ability to communicate ideas effectively verbally, in writing, and through educational technology to both youth and adults
- Commitment to a team work environment

Preferred Qualifications:

- Some higher education or a college degree
- Volunteer or paid experience working with people from culturally diverse groups
- Knowledge of gardening
- Experience in program marketing

Direct Supervisor:

Erin LaFaive, Eau Claire County Horticulture Educator
University of Wisconsin-Extension
erin.lafaive@co.eau-claire.wi.us
715-839-4712

Office Location:

This position will work out of the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office, 227 1st St W,
Altoona, WI

Remuneration:

- The AmeriCorps*VISTA is a volunteer position. The volunteer will receive a living stipend of \$833 per month (\$1,533 for the term of service). Direct deposit of stipend into member's bank account is required
- If service is successfully completed, the volunteer will receive either a \$1,000 Education Award or a \$200 monetary award
- Travel and approved job-related expense reimbursement
- Professional development opportunities

To Apply:

Applications are accepted on-line. Go to www.americorps.gov/vista where you will be asked to create a "My AmeriCorps" account and you will be able to complete an on-line application. Apply to the position titled: "**Eau Claire County UW-Extension Community Garden Project**".