

Missouri Healthy Food AmeriCorps Program



What's MO Healthy Food?

The Missouri Healthy Food AmeriCorps Program focuses on food access and education in six diverse locations across the state of Missouri. With 67% of students in the service region being considered food insecure, food education and access are vital to promote a healthy lifestyle and decrease the risk of diet-related diseases such as diabetes and obesity. Through their service sites, eleven State AmeriCorps Members provide hands-on farm and garden education to folks of all ages while increasing awareness and access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables, and directly supporting the growth of strong, vibrant, sustainable communities.

Since its inception in 2013, this program has impacted thousands of kids and adults through school, community, and home gardens. In 2015, AmeriCorps members gave 1,044 presentations related to gardening and healthy food to 9,182 students throughout Missouri. Additionally, with AmeriCorps support, four schools enhanced their outdoor classroom space in 2015. The MO Healthy Food AmeriCorps Program is supported by the Missouri River Communities Network, as well as farm and garden nonprofits throughout the state.

2016-2017 Service Sites



- Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture** Columbia
- EarthDance Organic Farm School** Ferguson
- Green Thumb Project** Kirksville
- Healthy Dent County** Salem
- Kansas City Community Gardens** Kansas City
- Southern Boone Learning Garden** Ashland



**Missouri River
Communities Network**

For more information, contact MRCN:

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AmeriCorps Site Spotlights

COLUMBIA CENTER FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) located in Columbia, is dedicated to improving the health of the community. AmeriCorps Members serve in multiple programs: *The Outdoor Classroom* connects Columbia Public School children with their environment and local food systems by creating gardening and food security curriculum; *The Opportunity Gardens* program empowers low income families to grow food at their homes; and *The Urban Farm Experience* helps the community develop a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of food.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps members

Raleigh Taylor- *Opportunity Gardens Associate* [Email: Raleigh@columbiaurbanag.org](mailto:Raleigh@columbiaurbanag.org)

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Kyle Holland- *Urban Farm Educator* [Email: Kyle@columbiaurbanag.org](mailto:Kyle@columbiaurbanag.org)



AmeriCorps Site Spotlights

EARTHDANCE ORGANIC FARM SCHOOL

EarthDance Organic Farm School, located on historic farm property in Ferguson, provides farm-based education for people of all ages, local youth job training, and increases access to the freshest organic produce. EarthDance programs include the *Farm & Garden Apprenticeship*, *Junior Farm Crew*, youth field trips, and volunteer events. AmeriCorps Members grow the EarthDance mission through their work in the soil and the community.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps members

Nick Speed- *Volunteer Coordinator* [Email: volunteer@earthdancefarms.org](mailto:volunteer@earthdancefarms.org)

Kaitie Adams- *Youth Educator* [Email: Kaitie@earthdance.org](mailto:Kaitie@earthdance.org)



GREEN THUMB PROJECT

Green Thumb Project (GTP) works in a variety of personal, community, and school gardens throughout Kirksville. The Green Thumb Project empowers students and low income families through garden education. The AmeriCorps Member teaches lessons in the *Outdoor Classrooms* and *Learning Gardens* throughout Kirksville.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps member

Derek Franklin- *Outdoor Education Associate* [Email: derekfranklin90@gmail.com](mailto:derekfranklin90@gmail.com)



HEALTHY DENT COUNTY

Healthy Dent County Extension partners to host the Salem Community Garden, and works with several schools and other organizations to implement gardening programs for youth and adults. The AmeriCorps Member in Dent County provides support at the *Salem Community Garden*, teaches gardening lessons, assists with creation of new gardens at schools and local agencies, and provides nutrition activities for families and students.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps member

Crystal Adams- *Community Educator* [Email: adamscry@missouri.edu](mailto:adamscry@missouri.edu)



KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS

Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) assists low-income households and community groups in the Kansas City area grow produce in garden plots. AmeriCorps service is focused on two KCCG programs; *The Children's Beanstalk Garden* is the on-site demonstration garden that specializes in nutrition education with children and *The Schoolyard Gardens* program works to install gardens in Kansas City metro schools to help children learn about growing and eating healthy food.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps members

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SOUTHERN BOONE LEARNING GARDEN

Southern Boone Learning Garden (SBLG), located in Ashland, provides multiple programs for the students of the Southern Boone County School District; *Elementary Garden Club*, *Middle School Cooking Club*, and *the Farmer's Market*. AmeriCorps members implement garden lessons that meet educational standards to over 850 students in the district.

2016-2017 AmeriCorps members

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