



*Incorporating AmeriCorps and Recent Grads Into Local Programs*

## A Resource List

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### THIRD THURSDAY WEBCAST SERIES

The Third Thursday Webcast Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

### TOPIC

Having full-time dedicated AmeriCorps or recent high school graduates on staff can be mutually beneficial to your organization and those individuals. Nonprofit tree groups benefit from low-cost, hard-working staff, while young adults (typically ages 17-24) work on building a team-based life experience and service-learning opportunity. Programs can be designed to build an ethic of service among young adults from diverse backgrounds, forming a corps of informed and trained advocates prepared to address local environmental and community concerns. Most importantly, you provide these young adults with the motivation and financial resources to contribute to the community or pursue further education.

More information at: [http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/incorporating\\_ameriCorps\\_and\\_recent\\_grads\\_int.php](http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/incorporating_ameriCorps_and_recent_grads_int.php)

### TRAINERS

#### **Yvonne Lee**

Assistant Director  
Shreveport Green  
3625 Southern Avenue  
Shreveport, LA 71104  
318-219-1888, x18  
[ylee@shreveportgreen.org](mailto:ylee@shreveportgreen.org)

#### **Ashley Atkinson**

Program Director  
The Greening of Detroit  
1418 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48216  
313-237-8736  
[ashley@greeningofdetroit.com](mailto:ashley@greeningofdetroit.com)

**Yvonne Lee** joined Shreveport Green in 1993. As Assistant Director, her responsibilities include daily management of Shreveport Green's annual operating budget, grant writing, management of ShrevCORPS- an AmeriCorps national service program- and management of a multitude of special projects. During her last 5 years with Shreveport Green, Yvonne has successfully written and managed \$1,028,268.00 in Federal, State, National and Local grants and helped develop and sustain an active public-private partnership base of over 50 partners. Yvonne attended Stephen F. Austin State University where she majored in accounting.

More information at: [www.shreveportgreen.org](http://www.shreveportgreen.org)

**Ashley Atkinson** Ashley Atkinson is the Director of Project Development and Director of Urban Agriculture for The Greening of Detroit. She has worked in the field of community gardening, urban greening, and vacant land reuse for over ten years - first in Flint where she co-founded The Flint Urban Gardening and Land Use Corporation, then as the director of the Detroit Agriculture Network, and currently with The Greening of Detroit where she works with community groups to plan tree plantings, community gardens, and other greenspace in Detroit. Ashley is a graduate of both Michigan State University and The University of Michigan where she studied International Development, Community Organization, and Environmental/Land Use Planning.

More information at: [www.greeningofdetroit.com](http://www.greeningofdetroit.com)





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### **AmeriCorps**

AmeriCorps State and National supports a broad range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive service to meet critical community needs. AmeriCorps VISTA provides full-time members to community organizations and public agencies to create and expand programs that build capacity and ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps is a full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-24, that strengthens communities while developing leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. Looking for more information about various program options, eligibility, success stories, funding opportunities, tools, training, how to apply, and other information, then visit: More information at: [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

### SUCCESS STORIES

#### **Shreveport Green (Shreveport, LA)**

ShrevCORPS is a two-time national award-winning program and has been recognized by President Clinton, Governor Blanco, Louisiana Senators Breaux and Landrieu, Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP) and the American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC) as one of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the U.S. More information at: [www.shreveportgreen.org](http://www.shreveportgreen.org)

#### **The Greening of Detroit (Detroit, MI)**

The Greening of Detroit's AmeriCorps volunteers spread the message of the value of trees while ensuring that plantings are properly cared for in the summer months when they need the most attention. They travel around the city caring for the 28,000 trees that The Greening of Detroit has planted. Corps members learn about urban forestry and horticulture as well as team work during the course of the summer. More information at: [www.greeningofdetroit.com](http://www.greeningofdetroit.com)

#### **Our City Forest (San Jose, CA)**

Our City Forest recruits 22 full-time AmeriCorps members every year. Their program mobilizes people from all walks of life for a year of full-time environmental service, giving them the skills and opportunities needed to create change. As environmental educators and hands-on coaches, these young leaders are cultivating greener and healthier schools and neighborhoods throughout San José and Silicon Valley. This program runs from September through the first week of August and hires individuals into one of two tracks: *Urban Forestry Specialists* receive technical training in areas including: urban forestry, arboriculture, young tree structural pruning, tree installation and establishment, tree care, and community organizing. Specialists serve in the field with community volunteers to gain additional hands-on experience planting, pruning, and coordinating planting events. Specialists will also do basic data entry and in office customer service. These technical trainings and experiences may qualify members for arborist certification. *Environmental Education and Outreach Specialists* also receive technical training as well as perform tasks ranging from volunteer recruitment to coordinating classroom presentations and outreach projects. Specialists will also do basic data entry and in office customer service. More information at: [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org)

#### **Delaware Center for Horticulture (Wilmington, DE)**

The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) partners with the national service program, AmeriCorps VISTA. Through the VISTA program, DCH has had 7 volunteers spend a year or more in Wilmington promoting urban greening since 2003. The DCH Tree Program has been able to reach many more people in the community, thanks to the VISTA partnership. More information at: [www.dehort.org](http://www.dehort.org)





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### **Organizing Workprograms for High School Students**

High school workprograms are a great opportunity for youth leadership through environmental education and job training. The work teaches basic tree maintenance and landscaping skills including watering, weeding, mulching, some pruning, and cleanup, using shovels, rakes, buckets, hoses, and other hand tools, or the chance to hone math, science, and computer skills working with GIS data, statistical analysis, measuring storm water runoff and contaminants, and tree planting and maintenance.

More information at: [http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/organizing\\_workprograms\\_for\\_high\\_school\\_stude.php](http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/organizing_workprograms_for_high_school_stude.php)

