

FoodCorps DC Metro Area Service Site Descriptions

Below you will find detailed descriptions of all of the service sites located in the DC Metro Area. Each description includes details about the community where the service site is based, the overall work and mission of the organization, and what an incoming service member can expect to do on a day-to-day basis at this site. We hope this document will help you to best determine where you are most interested in serving!

Please note that this is a list of FoodCorps service sites in the 2019-2020 term and is likely to change for the 2020-2021 service term. Some of the sites listed here may no longer host service members next year, and new sites may come on board.

Eagle Academy Public Charter School - Congress Heights Campus Washington, D.C.

Community Description

The majority of the students attending Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights (770 students, from PreK3 through 3rd grade) reside in Ward 8. Thirty percent of Ward 8 residents are children under 18 years old, 48% of whom live in poverty. Ninety-four percent of Ward 8 residents are African-American. Ward 8 children have the lowest state standardized test scores in reading (19% are proficient) and math (17%) in the nation's Capital, indicating a substantial achievement gap among the children of this community compared to the rest of the District and the nation. Ward 8 also has the highest proportion of elementary students (75%) who are eligible for free and reduced lunch in the District. Households with single-mothers account for 89.1% of the births in the ward. Poverty is endemic in the Ward, where the average family income is \$44,076 (compared with \$115,016 for the District of Columbia); 35% of the 73,662 residents live under the poverty level (compared with 18% for DC as a whole). Unemployment levels, currently at 25% of the adult population, are higher than in any U.S. metropolitan area with a labor force of comparable size. The structural challenges facing Ward 8 students are undoubtedly profound, and they are apparent in the relatively low levels of academic achievement. However, Eagle Academy's educational record serving students in the community is compelling evidence that high levels of academic achievement can be attained through effective program design that is coupled with comprehensive year-round support services.

Organization Description

Eagle Academy's mission is to build the foundation for a promising future for all students in a rich, robust learning environment that fosters creativity, problem-solving abilities, emphasizing cognitive, social and emotional growth by engaging children as active learners, in an inclusive learning environment. This award competition is a "right-place, right-time" opportunity to enhance the overall impact of Eagle Academy's meals program on students and families in the Ward 8 community by improving the quality and nutritional composition of meals served during breakfast, snack, lunch and dinner, as well as providing ongoing hands-on, food-based lessons to students and promoting a schoolwide culture of health. With a majority at-risk student population, for whom a large proportion of calories may be taken in during school hours, and a geographic region that truly lacks diverse healthy food options in Ward 8, Eagle Academy sees

the in-house food service program as an integral component in shaping and building healthy foundations for students and supporting our families.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps service member will be serving Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights located at 3400 Wheeler Road SE, Washington, DC 20032. Working with the School Garden Coordinator/STEAM Integration Specialist (SGC), the service member would conduct food-based education lessons in classrooms and the school garden. They would also support food education in the lunchroom, by conducting taste tests, as well as modeling healthy eating practices for our students. Working with the Director of Nutrition Services, the FoodCorps service member would be responsible for creating a resource book to accompany the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The service member would conduct research and develop a series of one-page fact sheets to be used by classroom teachers for nutrition education. The one-page fact sheets would be used to teach students about the fresh fruits and vegetables that they were consuming during school meals. Additionally, the FoodCorps service member would be part of the school's Wellness Committee, which is responsible for developing a school-wide plan for students and staff.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Eagle Academy seeks a service member that has an inquisitive mind and is a lifetime learner. We would love to have someone who shares our mission of engaging students in hands-on learning and critical and creative problem-solving. Experience with inquiry-based instructional methods or outdoor education experience would be preferred.

Service Members Need Car? Not necessary

Friendship Woodridge International Elementary and Middle School

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

Friendship Woodridge is located in Ward 5 of Northeast Washington, D.C. It is extremely diverse in character and history with quiet residential neighborhoods and local main streets. Friendship Woodridge sits within the Woodridge community tucked in the neighborhood between Rhode Island Avenue and Bladensburg Road. We serve over 500 scholars and families with a diverse student population of Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and White Non-Hispanic children. Our scholars travel to school from Ward 5, Ward 7, and Ward 8 communities.

Organization Description

Friendship Public Charter School spans 12 campuses, including online, for students in grades Pre-K3 to 12. Our rigorous curriculum, exemplary instruction, resource-rich forums and total commitment to student advancement have made Friendship one of D.C.'s top charter systems. Friendship has developed one of the most comprehensive roadmaps for student success anywhere. Our culture is driven by great educators, academic rigors that cultivate curiosity and confidence, and the belief that every child can achieve to the highest standards. Friendship empowers students to grow and thrive as scholars.

The mission of Friendship Woodridge International School is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring life-long learners who actively contribute to their global community through intercultural understanding and respect.

Friendship Woodridge International is ranked among the top 10 in DC Public Charter School Board 2017 school quality ratings. Praised for our International Baccalaureate and high performing school status, Woodridge has a robust and rigorous academic environment and nurturing staff. Teachers ensure every student achieves mastery of content by integrating a range of learning experiences in daily instruction; with offerings such as, outdoor learning in the robust school garden, an interactive library, art, music and Spanish language.

Service Activities Description

Friendship Woodridge International has partnered with FoodCorps since 2014. Our FoodCorps member currently oversees the planning and implementation of environmental literacy skills; coupled with hands-on learning activities to encourage the use of our school garden. Our site member coordinates the school garden market where fruits and vegetables are made available weekly to the school community. Our corps member also facilitates a number of learning activities including (but not limited to): classroom lessons focused on healthy eating habits; African American garden innovators and growers; monthly lunch time taste test; and outdoor garden-based learning activities. The goal of our partnership to ensure the sustainability of our green space by engaging classroom teachers and students in experiential learning.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Knowledgeable of elementary age, grade appropriate skills, content, and behaviors. Exposure or knowledge of Next Generation Science Standards applicable to garden learning.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Kid Power

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

Service members will be serving Kid Power students who are drawn from low-income communities attending Title 1 underachieving DC Public Schools (DCPS). While specific community need varies by school site, all Kid Power students and communities served share several critical needs which Kid Power's holistic programs and dedicated staff seek to address.

First, students face academic challenges and only 27% of DC Public School students tested at proficiency in Reading and only 25% were proficient in Math last year (DCPS, 2016). Kid Power's recent program expansion into Wards 7 and 8 supports youth facing even greater challenges. For example, in two of Kid Power's Ward 8 schools, Malcolm X and Stanton, these rates were even lower (5.1% and 9.2%, respectively).

Second, DC students face a wide variety of social threats, including a 26% child poverty rate (Kids Count Data, 2014). In Ward 8, this rate is almost double, with just over 50% of children living in poverty (Neighborhood Info DC). Further, nearly 70% of DCPS middle school youth had been engaged in a physical fight and 30% had been bullied on school property (Center for Disease Control, 2013). While research indicates that service-learning promotes community connectedness and improved social and academic skills, youth often lack opportunities to engage with their community or participate in meaningful service (Youth.gov, 2016; Texas School Safety Center, 2013).

Finally, these issues are compounded by food hardship and insecurity. In DC, nearly one in four households with children could not consistently afford the food they needed, representing the second worst rate of food hardship in the country (Food Research & Action Center, 2012). In addition to malnourishment, a lack of nutritional options and information contributes to obesity and other health problems. An alarming 35% of children and adolescents in DC are considered obese or overweight (Center for Disease Control). Most Kid Power participants come from the above mentioned food insecure households, in which food stamps often run out before the end of the month and healthful foods are often not readily available or familiar. Kid Power provides students with a snack and supper after school, however, staff noticed that despite their hunger, students would leave their fruits and vegetables untouched. Thus, the VeggieTime Project not only provides youth access to fresh produce but provides them with

nutritional, health, and STEM knowledge and venues for gardening, cooking, and healthy living practices.

Organization Description

Kid Power inspires youth leadership by promoting academic advancement, physical and emotional wellness, and positive civic engagement in underserved communities throughout the District of Columbia. Our programs include: The Academic Power Hour, The VeggieTime Project, The Citizenship Project, and The Summer Leadership Academy.

Kid Power operates three school-year programs and a Summer Leadership Academy that address the interconnected academic, social and health needs facing DC youth. After school programs operate for 3 hours/day Monday- Friday. One of Kid Power's programs, and the program that FoodCorps service members will support is the VeggieTime Project, where students study sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and environmental science. Reading comprehension lessons are reinforced through hands-on science experiments and exploratory learning. Then, students apply these lessons to school-based gardens. Acting as stewards of their plots, youth help led garden design, maintenance, and harvesting efforts. Youth also record data on plant growth and produce yield in garden logs, which provide an engaging platform for math and science instruction. Harvested produce is primarily used in monthly cooking classes and quarterly parent cooking nights. A portion of harvest is sold at school and farmers markets to support community engagement and help youth acquire financial concepts and marketing techniques. Finally, students apply what they have learned to improve community health through PSA's on healthy eating, school-wide greening initiatives, and more. After school, youth participate in VeggieTime activities weekly, but devote increased time to garden maintenance and market operations as seasonally appropriate. Further, Kid Power implements a modified version of the program during the school-day that utilizes increased STEM activities.

Service Activities Description

The FoodCorps Americorps Service members will serve at Malcolm X Elementary School, Stanton Elementary School and Barnard Elementary School with one service member per school site. The service member's time will be divided between Kid Power's VeggieTime program, in-school garden based lessons, and a regular cafeteria presence at the school. In addition to VeggieTime, FoodCorps service members will collaborate with the school staff and community to create an overall culture of wellness through the school garden, sustainability and health initiatives. Some examples of these initiatives include: Parent cooking nights,

Harvest of the month cafeteria taste tests, Recycling and compost school-wide projects, Food justice fairs, school-based garden markets and garden volunteer days

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The ideal candidate would first and foremost have a passion for serving youth and school communities. Additionally, candidates should have an interest in causing social change and a desire to create equal opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Further, the willingness to serve in outdoor settings and an open-minded approach to learning basic gardening and carpentry skills is a must. Experience in horticulture, culinary arts, and/or gardening education is important but not a requirement.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Washington Youth Garden

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

Washington Youth Garden partners with schools in Northeast and Southeast DC (Wards 5, 7 and 8) in primarily lower-income neighborhoods. The majority of the students we serve are African American and receive free or reduced price lunches. Our schools are located in the Trinidad, Ivy City, Deanwood, and Anacostia neighborhoods. Our main office and one acre demo garden are located in the beautiful 446-acre National Arboretum. The surrounding neighborhood is being developed slowly with the addition of breweries, distilleries, and coffee shops, but remains low-income and industrial, with more corner stores than healthy food options.

Organization Description

WYG nurtures curious minds and healthy bodies by connecting youth to food, the land, and each other. Founded in 1971, the Washington Youth Garden (WYG), a program of Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA), provides a unique, year-round environmental science and food education program for DC youth and their families. Using gardens as living laboratories, the Washington Youth Garden teaches participants to explore their relationships with food and the natural world. WYG partners with schools in Northeast and Southeast DC (Wards 5, 7 and 8) in primarily lower-income neighborhoods. The majority of the students we serve are African American and receive free or reduced price lunches. Our schools are located in the Trinidad, Ivy City, Deanwood, and Anacostia neighborhoods. Our main office and one acre demo garden are located in the beautiful 446-acre National Arboretum.

Service Activities Description

FoodCorps Service Members will support our school garden partnership program, Garden Science. Service Members will have one primary school, and will also support one other Washington Youth Garden FoodCorps member school. This team-leadership model will ensure FoodCorps members have adequate additional support to lead in-depth activities with small groups. They will coordinate and lead in-school field trips on cooking and garden-based learning, cafeteria taste tests, and support WYG staff in teacher trainings. They also collaborate in organizing the school community around the maintenance of the school garden space, distributing harvest, and planning healthy activities to go along with build days. Service members will serve at the following 4-5 schools, with one being their primary school and one as

their support school: KIPP Webb Campus, Hendley Elementary, Center City Trinidad Campus, or Bishop Walker School for Boys.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Garden skills, community organizing, and teaching elementary age students are all important skills to bring to this position. Independence, self-motivation, flexibility, and a passion and understanding of the power gardens to promote health and self-awareness are desired. We're looking for individuals who don't need black and white answers but understand that there are multiple ways to reach a common goal and it's important to ask and listen to the school community to reach those goals.

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

D.C. Bilingual Public Charter

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

DC Bilingual (DCB) has a diverse community that is primarily Latino, with African American, White, and Asian populations as well. We operate as a bilingual community, and encourage everyone to learn both Spanish and English. While not every teacher is completely fluent in both languages, we collaborate to communicate with our community in Spanish and English. Many members of our staff have been a part of the DCB community for over 5 years, which gives students, staff and families a strong sense of stability and culture. The teachers are incredibly dedicated and as a result, our school is one of the highest performing charter schools in the city. We are located in Ward 4 of Washington, DC, in a neighborhood that is gentrifying along with the larger trends of the city presenting cultural and financial challenges for our community.

Organization Description

DC Bilingual implements an innovative dual-immersion Spanish and English learning program for all students, regardless of home language. Through our rigorous academic curriculum, our comprehensive arts and athletic offerings, and our celebration of diverse cultures, DC Bilingual's students learn the skills and values they need to become global leaders. Our school prides itself on emphasizing a Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community model that includes comprehensive wellness and Farm to School programming. Students, staff and families, learn about growing, harvesting, preparing and eating healthy food year-round.

Service Activities Description

The current and past FoodCorps service members have coordinated a variety of tasks and initiatives that fit into our school wellness program, including:

- Coordinating activities for student engagement in the cafeteria
- Facilitating cooking and gardening workshops during and after school
- Collaborating with external stakeholders to provide resources for our school
- Leading the monthly family food market
- Organizing volunteer workdays

The school recently underwent a massive renovation adding a self-operating kitchen to prepare food on site.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The ability to speak Spanish is highly desired. Especially in the arena of food and the new kitchen, Spanish is the most commonly spoken language. The service member must be interested in coordinating volunteers and community events.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Not necessary

Fairfax County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services

Springfield, VA

Community Description

The two school communities that we serve through FoodCorps have many similarities. Both schools have a large Hispanic student population of English as a second language (ESL) learners. While their students bring many strengths, many of their families are challenged by economic hardships. Because of the urban areas surrounding both schools, students don't have access to outdoor education opportunities nor do they have additional support in nutritional health education. For families in both communities, walking is their primary mode of transportation to school. Lynbrook is in the bustling area of Springfield and Mount Eagle is in the heart of Alexandria on the Route 1 corridor.

Each school boasts a professional learning community of reflective practitioners who strive to integrate larger ideas and understanding throughout all curriculum areas.

Organization Description

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is committed to serving the whole child. we offer numerous programs to support student academic achievement and overall health. While some of the programs like Breakfast in the Classroom, Super Snack and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are unique to certain schools; programs like the Real Food for Kids Salad Bar and Summer F.E.E.D.S (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) are available to students throughout the county.

Service Activities Description

Both FoodCorps service members will help FNS and the school sites create a healthier school environment by building and strengthening connections between the classroom, the cafeteria, and the school garden .

At Lynbrook, the service member will engage the broader community by creating presentations for families focused on healthy food and providing professional development for teachers on how to incorporate nutrition and food education into other areas of the curriculum.

At Mount Eagle, they have several partnerships with community-based organizations such as Arcadia and Common Threads. The service member will deepen these partnerships and collaborate with those organizations to innovate new ways to support students.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Service members will thrive here at FCPS if they are passionate about children and eating healthy. They will need to be able to communicate and collaborate with a variety of stakeholders including teachers, families, students, and community based organizations.

Lynbrook would like someone with an understanding of small-group learning and food education, and experience with families in Latino communities. Mount Eagle would like someone with knowledge of and passion for gardening and cooking with kids.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required for Lynbrook ES, helpful for Mt. Eagle

Leckie Education Campus

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

Leckie started as an elementary school, but grew to serve the needs of our students becoming an education campus (Pre-K through 8th grade) in fall of 2016. To continue serving the needs of our students, improving our approach to learning about healthy choices is paramount. Many of our students come from the military joint base that houses families in all branches of the military, in conjunction with the local community in Ward 8. The transient military population will take the teaching of learning and growing healthy with them all over the world. In addition, we have the privilege of having a unique outdoor classroom to support outdoor learning.

Organization Description

At Leckie, we cherish and maximize every minute of the school day by spending 120 minutes on literacy instruction and at least 90 minutes or more for math every day. Our students attend various enrichment classes including Spanish, music, physical education, art and library/media classes. We believe in both working hard and playing hard, which is why our students have a wide variety of after-school offerings including soccer, cheerleading, basketball, chess, Boy and Girl Scouts as well as opportunities for mentorship from the Joint Base Anacostia- Bolling.

Service Activities Description

The service member serving at Leckie Education Campus will collaborate with all members of the school community -- the Garden Coordinator, the Wellness Leader, Food & Nutrition staff, the Parent Coordinator and the administration -- to plan engaging activities for the students, staff and community. The service member will engage the students, staff, and community in growing food that we can be proud to eat and learning how to make healthy choices.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The service member will need to have the skills to garden in D.C.'s climate and interest in engaging students of all ages in gardening. Additionally, they will need to be self-motivated and feel comfortable taking the initiative to start new projects.

Service Members Need Car? Not necessary

Miner Elementary School

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

As a Title 1 school in northeast Washington DC, Miner is a school where most of the nearly 400 students qualify to receive free and reduced price meals, many of whom live in a food desert neighborhood, and a significant number of whom are experiencing homelessness. Therefore, the students at Miner Elementary would uniquely benefit from the continued revival, expansion, and integration of the school garden into their educational experience.

Organization Description

Miner Elementary School is eager to build and grow its school garden program with the support from FoodCorps, Inc. Over the past two years thanks to a grant from OSSE, our PTO teamed with the urban farming organization Cultivate the City to work collaboratively with Miner school leadership, staff, and teachers to achieve the following program goals: (1) integrate hands-on, experiential learning from the school gardens into school programming and instruction, particularly with regards to healthy eating and Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)-focused lessons; (2) enhance and expand the garden infrastructure; and (3) increase the knowledge and comfort-level of students and teachers in using and applying urban farming in their educational and personal lives. As the life-cycle of the OSSE grant concludes, FoodCorps is a natural next step partner to solidify the existing program goals and further the momentum gained.

Service Activities Description

The service member will build off work initiated over the past two years via the OSSE garden grant. Ideally, the member will help teachers who have not been actively utilizing the garden for their students educational experience. The school Wellness Committee, established during the 2016-17 school year, could be expanded to include additional staff, teachers, and parents to provide additional support for the service member to integrate school garden curriculum into P.E./health classes, hands-on STEM classes, and further amplify the 2018-launched after school Garden Club. Improving school meals through collaboration with our food service vendor, SodexoMAGIC would also be a high priority.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

A service member with extraordinary communication skills and willingness to build bridges between members of the Garden Team and Wellness Committee and staff/teachers with a lack of garden familiarity will be vital. The service member must be committed to reaching out to classroom teachers who are under immense pressure to perform well on standardized tests, and therefore have not previously engaged in garden-based lessons. Further, the service member must be able, willing and adept at handling young students who face significant adversity in their home lives and often present challenging behaviors.

Service Members Need Car? Not necessary

Seaton Elementary School

Washington, D.C.

Community Description

Our school is located in the Shaw neighborhood of DC. Like our school, our neighborhood is very diverse in every way. There are many Spanish and Chinese speaking families who live near our school and whose children attend Seaton. Shaw is an urban neighborhood, very accessible to downtown DC via walking or Metro. We are lucky to have so much outdoor / green space in the middle of the city!

Organization Description

Seaton is very committed to providing a learning environment for students that emphasizes the importance of health and wellness. We have an active wellness committee and have competed for gold and silver status with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation multiple times. We have a large school garden that includes edible growing space as well as space for nature play and environmental exploration. Having a Food Corps member on site to help strengthen our current programs by involving a higher percentage of our students will really solidify our focus on wellness as a core value of our school.

Service Activities Description

Our school is lucky to have a garden space for hands on learning as well as a well-stocked cart of cooking supplies that can be used in classrooms. This is all perfect for any Hands-On Learning that our Food Corps member would be facilitating for students. Teachers will be eager to partner with the Food Corps member on hands-on activities relating to cooking or gardening because so far, many teachers are interested but some are hesitant to take on something new and so different from their typical day, on their own.

Our cafeteria team is friendly and easy to work with our Food Corps member can focus on promoting and encouraging Healthy School Meals. Our cafeteria ambiance has a lot of room for improvement-- past events like taste tests, "Love Your Lunch Day", special menu days, etc are always well received by students but we've lacked a staff member who is able to effectively lead them or make them into regular occurrences (since most staff on Wellness Committee are committed with their own particular class all day and cannot attend multiple lunch periods, etc).

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

- Some gardening experience. We do work with City Blossoms and their staff is awesome as far as supporting us with garden knowledge and expertise but the day to day work is done all by Seaton staff and families.
- Some prior teaching experience, so that the member can hit the ground running with collaborations with teachers.
- Some experience cooking with kids (outside of a kitchen preferred!).
- Ability to speak Spanish or Chinese can be helpful especially at family events, but this is not necessary. We have other staff members who are always willing to help with translation.

Helpful Languages? Spanish or Chinese

Service Members Need Car? Not necessary