



AMERICORPS PROJECT PLAN AND APPLICATION

Please limit your application to 10 typed pages
Please submit your application to cdickinson@ycvp.org

Part One

Organization Information:

Organization Name: **Montezuma-Rimrock-McGuireville Trails Coalition**
Contact Name: Janet Aniol
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Project Title: GPS Trails Mapper

Describe:

- **Your organization:** The Montezuma-Rimrock-McGuireville Trails Coalitions is more commonly known in the Beaver Creek area as MRM Trails or MRM Trails Coalition. The coalition has renamed a well-respected local 501(c)(3) as a result of the community plan survey which was completed in September 2008 and resident requests concerning transportation safety and environmental issues.
- **Your organizations purpose:** The MRM Trails Coalition recognizes the need for intra and inter-community trails and pathways in the Beaver Creek communities of Lake Montezuma, Rimrock, and McGuireville comprising the Beaver Creek Community Plan area and their surrounding areas. The purpose of the organization is to locate appropriate alignment for needed trails and pathways, to work collaboratively with Yavapai County and other County agencies, Coconino National Forest, National Park Service, ADOT, and local associations to build needed trails and pathways and to maintain trails and pathways that have been so constructed.
- **The structure of your organization (staff, Board of Directors, etc):** The organization has a five member board of directors elected by the membership. These directors are also the officers named as president, vice president, treasurer, and two secretaries. The board is elected by the members.
- **The history of your organization:** The group first incorporated as the Beaver Creek Fireworks Foundation whose goal was to provide Fourth of July fireworks at the Beaver Creek Golf Course. This corporation later was renamed and received 501(c)(3) IRS exemption as Beaver Creek Community Services, Inc. For 10 years the Services supported an afterschool program at Beaver Creek Elementary School. Then from 2005-2009 the organization supplied 100 backpacks filled with school supplies each year to students at the school. This project donated \$5000 for to the school in late 2008 to continue that effort. In 2010 the name was changed again to the present MRM Trails coalition as residents realized the need for trails and pathways and wished to get started constructing them. A plan was developed which has been incorporated in the Verde Valley Trail Plan expected to be formally adopted by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors by July of 2010.

- **The impact of your organization in the community:** The first project of the organization grew out of public requests for improved safety on a route that is commonly used by pedestrians which connects Lake Montezuma to the shopping and services located in Rimrock. Volunteers have signed up to donate funds and labor to create a safer path and have helped to create a plan for connected trails and pathways that will someday provide access like the trail systems that have been completed in Flagstaff and Sedona. The organization has begun with a plan and a first project. The Sedona trails plan is now in its 19th year and is 90% completed. The Beaver Creek communities have seen the results in Sedona and have indicated their support through surveys of the need to get started on the trails projects here.
- **Why you want an AmeriCorps member at this time:** The expertise and assistance of an AmeriCorps member would help us to move forward on executing the trails plan. With the exception of paths that may be improved in Yavapai County right-of-way, the majority of trails will be constructed in Coconino National Forest or on private property. The planning and approval process for these projects requires recording GPS coordinates. The MRM Trails Coalition realizes that our membership does not have enough expertise in that important technology, and that progress on the trails plan will be very slow if we do not have additional qualified mappers.

Describe:

- **Your project (please use clear, concise language):** The plan is to create a network of local and connector trails and pathways between and encircling residential areas throughout the Beaver Creek community that provide passage to schools, businesses, social centers, parks, churches, governmental agencies, points of interest, National Parks, and trail access to Coconino National Forest. Trails and pathways may be primarily scenic, for connectivity between subdivisions, to commercial locations, for general access, historic, recreational or a combination of these purposes. The project for the AmeriCorps member is to GPS many of the possible trails as this information is required as part of the design process for future trails. MRM Trails has made the eastern quadrant a priority, so GPS mapping will concentrate mainly in that section.
- **The population to be served by this project:** The population of the Montezuma-Rimrock Fire District is currently estimated to be around 5300 residents. Establishing and maintaining a trail and pathways system benefits all age groups.
- **The issue area(s)(unmet environmental, educational, public safety (including disaster preparedness and response), or other human needs):** The intent of the plan is to improve safety, relieve traffic choke points, provide safe routes to school, provide recreation, and encourage alternative modes of transportation. In some instances access points will help protect soil, water, plants, and wildlife. Planned access points to Coconino National Forest will increase recreational usage in a responsible manner.
- **The type of activities you expect the AmeriCorps member to accomplish:** The AmeriCorps member would be expected to GPS current social trails and potential new trails in the format that is required by Coconino Forest and to interface with Yavapai County personnel to provide updates to their GIS as is appropriate. In order to for the MRM Trails Coalition to continue this work after the AmeriCorps member completes the assignment, the organization requests that the member instruct several groups in the use of the GPS to map trails. In addition, it would be beneficial if the AmeriCorps member would participate in several litter and pathway cleanup events with local residents.

Part Two

Volunteer Assignment Description

VISTA Member Activities and Steps Checklist	Planned Period of Work
<p>Goal Help provide the technical expertise needed to execute the MRM Trails Coalition Plan.</p>	
<p>Activity 1: Provide GPS coordinates for public easements on privately owned land in the eastern quadrant. Step 1: GPS potential routing from Montezuma Avenue to Wickiup Mesa in Lake Montezuma. Step 2: GPS the historic Old Stage Road from I-17 to Beaver Creek Rd. Step 3: GPS pathway to connect Montezuma Haven to Montezuma Estates.</p>	
<p>Activity 1 Comments/Summary of Accomplishments:</p>	<p>Activity 1 Completed (date): __9/2010__</p>
<p>Activity 2: GPS Map social trails in the vicinity of planned trails in the eastern quadrant of the community. This is a Coconino Forest requirement that must be completed prior to requesting the establishment of a new designated trail. Step 1: Interface with Coconino Nation Forest personnel to establish the correct and acceptable procedures for GPS data collection and mapping for that organization. Step 2: Provide the collected GPS coordinates to CNF and to MRM Trails. Step 3: Provide information to Yavapai County GIS as requested.</p>	
<p>Activity 2 Comments/Summary of Accomplishments:</p>	<p>Activity 2 Completed (date): __12/2010__</p>
<p>Activity 3: Participate in MRM Trails Coalition volunteer projects. Step 1: Participate in cleanup of a Coconino National Forest area in the community. Step 2: Participate in a litter pickup project on a local roadway. Step 3: Help at a carwash to raise funds for the MRM Trails Coalition future projects.</p>	
<p>Activity 3 Comments/Summary of Accomplishments:</p>	<p>Activity 3 Completed (date): _ __12/2010__</p>

Is this application for a full-time, 1700 hour AmeriCorps member, a part-time, 900 hour or a quarter-time, 450 hour AmeriCorps member? (Please Check)

__Full-Time

If you are applying for a part-time member, does the project plan necessitate the member to concentrate their hours in 6-month time period or to spread them out over 6-12 months?

__Part-Time_X_450 hours__ 900 hours Desired dates of service _June to December 2010__

Part Three

- Describe how your project will impact one or more of these areas:

X Increasing purposeful civic engagement, mobilize and engage citizens to take action

This project will encourage residents of all ages to help build and improve trails. It will provide the data base needed to start to provide a network of neighborhood links, secondary and hub trailheads to access public lands. It is the intent to utilize many volunteers and to create educational materials and guides that make the use of these trails fun and encourage users to help keep trails and paths clean and safe. This is a project that will bring this organization to the level where the residents can begin to complete the plan themselves and to move forward with it.

- **What specific skills and qualities are you looking for in this AmeriCorps member?**

The organization would appreciate the help of a member who enjoys using a GPS outdoors and who likes to do long hikes. The member will at times be interfacing with local residents, Coconino National Forest staff, and Yavapai County GIS. Sufficient proficiency is required to provide trail and path coordinates for mapping and to train some community members in the use of a GPS device. It would be a plus if the member could provide their own GPS. If this is not possible, we will supply one for use on the project. We would like to make this a good experience for the AmeriCorps and are willing to work out a schedule that allows for school or another job as well as vacation time. If the member could work 15 to 30 hours a week or so, that would work out well for the organization. This would give us adequate time to process the data and make decisions with it. We can be flexible with when the hours are worked and which days. It is important that the individual be self-motivated and okay with spending much time hiking and walking in our area.

- **Can you support the Project Site requirements (As explained in the MOU)? Please put a check in front of any that you cannot support.**

- Designate a site supervisor for the AmeriCorps member
- Provide acceptable work plans and a plan for the use of AmeriCorps members.
- Provide day-to-day supervision of the activities of the AmeriCorps members.
- Provide transportation and/or transportation reimbursement for project related travel expense for AmeriCorps members as indicated in the project application.
- Provide materials and supplies related to the performance of assignments and adequate working space to permit AmeriCorps members to perform their assigned duties. Specifically, office equipment, computer, internet access, email, and telephone.
- Assist in reviewing performance of AmeriCorps members.
- Provide AmeriCorps with On-site Orientation and Training (OSOT)
- Provide monthly project updates to AmeriCorps Supervisor
- Provide for any unique budget/financial requirements of the project.
- Provide for any project specific training requirements outside of the AmeriCorps sponsored training.
- Provide staff and time for one (1) on-site review of project.
- Notify the Sponsor immediately regarding unscheduled termination of AmeriCorps members and unscheduled changes of status and conditions of AmeriCorps members, such as arrests, hospitalization, and absence without leave.
- Maintain such records and accounts and make such reports and investigations concerning matters involving AmeriCorps members and the project as the Corporation may require. The Project Site agrees to retain such records as the Corporation may require for a period of three years after completion or termination of the project or longer if required for administrative proceedings and/or litigation purposes, and to provide access to such records to the Corporation for the purposes of audit, litigation or examination.
- Allow AmeriCorps members to participate in local emergency disaster relief efforts if needed.
- Allow AmeriCorps members to participate in Days of Service, i.e., Martin Luther King Holiday, National Volunteer Week, Make a Difference Day, and Old North End Spring-Up.
- Allow AmeriCorps members to participate in tri-weekly meetings and occasional trainings.
- Sign off on monthly time sheets for member.

Assure that AmeriCorps members do not participate in prohibited activities while in service at your site.

- **Are you able to support an AmeriCorps member with disabilities?** We are certainly supportive and very willing to have the help of any AmeriCorps member who can do the GPS mapping that we need. Many types of disabilities would not interfere with this project, so would not be a problem for us.