



Urban Roots: a program of YouthLaunch
A youth development sustainable agriculture program
AmeriCorps VISTA Member position



Who We Are:

Since 1994, YouthLaunch, an Austin-based non-profit organization, has created empowering opportunities for young people by engaging them in service. YouthLaunch's newest program, Urban Roots, began in 2008 and is a youth development program that uses sustainable agriculture as a means to transform the lives of young people as they increase the access of healthy food in Austin. On just over one acre of urban farmland, Urban Roots provides Austin youth ages 14-17 with a job, with leadership and service opportunities, and teaches important life skills. Urban Roots engages and empowers young people to learn about hard work, to connect with the land and food, and to serve their community.

What VISTA is:

AmeriCorps VISTA builds capacity in non-profit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty. VISTA members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. VISTA members generally do not provide direct services, such as tutoring children or building homes. Instead, they focus their efforts on building the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic develop, and otherwise assist low-income communities. VISTAs develop programs to meet a need, write grants, and recruit and train volunteers.

Job Description:

The Urban Roots Vista position will be instrumental in continuing the success of our first year. This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of a dynamic, multi-faceted program at the beginning stages.

We're looking for an enthusiastic, organized individual who can help Urban Roots:

- Facilitate our community outreach to families and research school credit opportunities for youth
- Strengthen food distribution and marketing efforts
- Coordinate our Community Lunch series with guest chefs and assist with other events
- Help with development by securing in-kind donations of materials and supplies for the urban farm

Note: VISTA members do not do direct service. They perform indirect service in order to build capacity and sustainability for programs.

Preferred Skills:

- Excellent written and communication skills
- Experience with Microsoft office
- Responsible, independent, and open to learning and feedback
- Knowledge of East Austin
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule,
- Spanish language skills a plus
- Team-oriented with a good sense of humor

Serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, you are eligible for the following:

- Living allowance of \$10,900 per year
- Education Award (Upon completion of service-\$4725)
- Health Insurance
- Student Loan Deferment

To learn more about VISTA, go to www.americorps.org/about/programs/vista.asp

To learn more about Urban Roots, go to www.youthlaunch.org/programs/urbanroots

To Apply: • Go to <https://my.americorps.gov/> and complete the online application

AND

- Email your cover letter and resume to UrbanRoots@youthlaunch.org

