

VCE Community Science Coordinator Questions

Which communities and/or organizations are underreached by VCE? Are there any plans/ideas for incentives to encourage more consistent participation in these areas (and if not, are there ways the person in this role can come up with creative solutions?)

Many VCE community science participants have been centered around the Upper Valley and are largely older adults with a higher level income. We would like to reach more people throughout the state and expand our diversity of participants including age and socioeconomic level. We are developing more programming in areas like Burlington and Montpelier, but the incoming Community Science Coordinator will play an important role in developing new solutions.

Is this role focused more on depth or breadth of engagement across underreached areas? How does the person in this position make equitable decisions in making progress with volunteer retention?

We would like to see attempts at improving both the depth and breadth of engagement. We have a number of different community science projects that vary in their level of commitment from- opportunistic submissions to iNaturalist, to one day commitments, up through season long projects. We are hoping the Community Science Coordinator can increase the number of people we engage in our lowest commitment projects and identify ways to reduce barriers and encourage those volunteers to take on more intensive projects in the future

Does this role involve any direct agency involvement/communications?

Initially, this would include sharing volunteer time and mileage to state agencies that have match as a requirement of their contracts. Additional involvement with agencies may be developed over time.

Are there any specific goals (i.e. number of volunteers per county, per state, or per project) in place for expanding volunteer engagement?

This will be developed as part of a work plan and is expected to change over time.

What tools are used to track volunteer participation?

This is project dependent and ranges from excel sheets to online portals. The incoming Community Science Coordinator will help us transition to a more efficient way to track volunteer participation.

Who are some of VCES's partners/stakeholders?

We have a wide range of partners and stakeholders including state/federal agencies, universities, non-profits, conservation commissions, land trusts, land managers, and our community of volunteers

Will the person in this role be able to create other methods of delivering content (i.e. workshops) in addition to presentations?

Absolutely, we want to have more variety in our offerings

Does the role include opportunities for professional development and/or training? Is mileage reimbursed for travel?

Yes, we have funds aside for professional development opportunities, and mileage is reimbursed at the federal rate, currently \$0.67/mi

Is there flexibility with the start date?

Yes, we are looking for a spring start date but can be flexible depending on the circumstances.