

A RARE Opportunity *for professional growth through service learning!*

Resource Assistance for Rural Environments Program Seeks Project Coordinators

Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) is a unique AmeriCorps Program serving Oregon's rural communities through economic and community development and natural resource planning. Housed in the University of Oregon's Community Service Center, we aim to link the energy, expertise of the University of Oregon with the planning and public policy needs of Oregon communities.

RARE AmeriCorps's Mission

RARE AmeriCorps's mission is to assist Oregon's rural communities while providing supported, applied experience to graduate level students from across the U.S. RARE participants live in rural communities for eleven months and serve cities, counties, non-governmental organizations or state agencies to improve economic and environmental conditions in rural Oregon. The RARE AmeriCorps Program is now in its 23rd year; over the years we have placed more than 450 participants and served every county in Oregon.

Current Projects

Each RARE participant focuses on community specific projects that fall within the following focus areas: downtown development, land use planning, economic development, renewable energy, food systems planning and natural resources planning. Current projects include:

- The participant placed with the City of Scappoose is updating the City's Compressive Plan and Parks Master Plan, organizing the Annual Town Meeting, and serving as a staff member on an array of subcommittees.
- The participant placed with Greater Bandon Association is working on the revitalization of downtown Bandon with a focus on preserving its assets and culture. This work includes managing programs such as façade improvement loans and volunteer of the month, helping run festivals and events, and coordinating grant applications for making Bandon bicycle friendly.
- The participant placed with Oregon State Extension Services is completing a two county (Union and Baker Counties) community food assessment, strengthening relationships between food system stakeholders, and supporting the growth and availability of healthy, locally produced food.

Life After RARE AmeriCorps

Following RARE AmeriCorps, most of our alumni begin careers in the public sector or enroll in graduate school. In recent years our alumni have enrolled in the following universities: University of Oregon, University of California at Los Angeles, Cornell University, University of Virginia, and University of Kentucky. These alumni have pursued master's degrees in a variety of disciplines including community and regional planning, rural studies and sustainable agriculture. Other RARE alumni work for organizations such as: Gorge Grown Food Network, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Rural Development Initiatives, City of Portland, Peace Corps, and various cities and counties.

Important Dates

Application Due:

April 28

Invited to Participate:

June 23

Community Interview Week:

July 17-21

Orientation:

September 6 - 8

Start in Community:

September 11

Member Benefits

Monthly Stipend of \$1,600

for eleven months

Health Insurance

Education Award of \$5,815

Nine graduate credits

Application Deadline is April 28, 2017

For more information about the RARE AmeriCorps Program please visit our website at: <http://rare.uoregon.edu/>
If you have any questions please email us at rare@uoregon.edu or call 541.346.2879

