

EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Grant Research Specialist Volunteer Activity Description (VAD)

ORGANIZATION NAME	EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION (EPCAMR)
ON-SITE SUPERVISOR CONTACT	Bobby Hughes, Executive Director
FOCUS AREAS	<p>Primary: <i>Watershed Outreach Grant Research and Archiving EPCAMR's 30-year History</i></p> <p>Secondary: <i>Education and Outreach in Low-Income Population Centers of our EPCAMR Region and Direct Service on EPCAMR Regional Projects and Technical Assistance provided to Coalition partners</i></p>
YEAR OF PROJECT	Highlight appropriate year: 2026
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (Academic Year or Semester)	03/2026– 12/2026

PROJECT GOAL	<p>The overall goal of the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) project related to poverty alleviation is to help to increase and amplify the successful community capacity-building efforts of EPCAMR and our community coalfield partners who are removing once and for all, some of the environmental degradation left behind by legacy past mining impacts. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) Project will uplift communities out of poverty, blight, abandoned mines, and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) pollution, through assessment, restoration, reclamation, monitoring, volunteer participation in local community stewardship projects, and support for alternative energy economic development projects and environmental outreach and education efforts throughout the region.</p> <p>The focus areas are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide opportunities at EPCAMR to low-income individuals, volunteers, and students, to get workforce training, certifications, field experiences, hands-on learning opportunities, watershed experiences, education, and skills that will meet the needs of employers in the area that are in the environmental or public service sector, and 2) Support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and financial security of economically disadvantaged individuals and coalfield communities throughout the northern Bituminous and northeastern Anthracite Coalfields of Northeastern and Northcentral PA. <p>Secondarily, EPCAMR will work with the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) to support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged children in underserved school districts throughout our region through meaningful watershed education experiences.</p>
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	<p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) will produce historical content that is around how we educate youth and our environmental education programs offered and provided on our educational website such as STEM Camps, AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt and Backpack Workshops, AMD Chalk Making Activity Workshops, Macroinvertebrate Bingo, AMD & Art Workshops, and Photo Ops with Rainbow and Brookie, our Trout Puppets.</p> <p>Finally, EPCAMR would like to continue to support environmental stewardship with our governmental, non-profit partners, institutions of higher education, municipal partnerships, and local community watershed organizations to preserve, conserve, reclaim, restore, enhance, and protect abandoned mine lands and legacy polluted AMD-impacted waterways in Northeastern and Northcentral PA that drain to the Chesapeake or Delaware Bays.</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE</p>	<p>POVERTY ALLEVIATION. FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will understand the tie between environmental and economic health. They address community environmental needs and raise awareness of the environment’s role in human and community well-being through the creation of economic opportunities that benefit communities.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) project will build the local capacity of EPCAMR to alleviate some level of poverty in the region and coalfield communities that we provide project management, grant management, grant administration, technical assistance, funding assistance, environmental education, and outreach programs, hosting of conferences, workshops, webinars, historical mining programs, AMD and Art Programs, environmental stewardship project coordination, watershed assessment planning, watershed recommendations, development of coldwater conservation plans, water monitoring and flow, chemistry, and biological monitoring of streams and AMD discharges, and capacity building of other organizations, groups, and local governments.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will be to become a brand storyteller for EPCAMR to highlight the long-term solutions by engaging new volunteers, marketing, branding our work and projects, developing community outreach and engagement activities, conducting special events, developing a digital strategy and social media calendar, campaign marketing, graphic design development of our projects to get them into digestible infographics, developing new partnerships with corporate entities that might have philanthropic offices that EPCAMR might be able to apply to, and seeking media partners to highlight our work in short videos, podcasts, interviews, on field tours, and or shorts and documentary-type productions.</p>

	<p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will conduct research on abandoned mine land history of former coalfield community collieries, towns, mining disasters, and landmarks across the EPCAMR Region that will be incorporated into our technical reports, watershed assessments, and recommendations for future historic preservation and or conservation.</p>
MEMBER ACTIVITIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) will work with other EPCAMR volunteers, another FWS volunteer, Stanley Shimko, and our AmeriCorps VISTA (s) to research and update our newly created GIS Tool of Historical Coal Mines, Collieries, Breakers, and Washeries in the Northern, Middle, and Southern Anthracite Coalfields, and historical photos from across the EPCAMR Region. (Historical Coal Mines, Collieries, Breakers, and Washeries in the Northern, Middle, and Southern Anthracite Coalfields) 2. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) will develop a deep understanding of the needs of community watershed organizations, regional non-profit environmental organizations, and Conservation District partners in the EPCAMR Region to allow EPCAMR to survey and seek to learn about the needs of our partners that would allow us to provide them with more targeted technical assistance, water monitoring, grant writing assistance, and environmental education and outreach within their communities as a trusted community resource. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Step 1: Network and be introduced through the EPCAMR Staff to existing and new community watershed organizations who are working on AMD, water monitoring, land reclamation, and environmental education and outreach efforts throughout the EPCAMR Region and talk with volunteer members and Conservation District Watershed Specialists who attend the 28th annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in October 2026 at a location to be determined; www.treatminewater.com</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Step 2: Highlight the existing and new partnerships between EPCAMR and the community watershed groups and Conservation Districts that we support within the EPCAMR Region through the creation of blogs, social media posts, storytelling writeups on our website, and through possible creation of story maps to showcase the uplifting community work being done by everyone in the coalfields.</p> 3. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will participate in community cleanups where EPCAMR will coordinate volunteer efforts with local partners to inventory, assess, plan, implement, and recruit our EPCAMR volunteers and local community volunteers to assist with the recycling of illegally dumped tires and proper disposal of roadside trash, trash in streams, streamside trash, and trash illegally dumped on abandoned mine lands, in our impoverished community roadside areas, and our State PA DCNR Forestry and State PA Game Commission Game Lands.

	<p>4. Track Performance Measures (outputs and outcomes) and submit monthly and final progress reports inclusive of qualitative and quantitative data.</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE</p>	<p>FUND DEVELOPMENT & GRANT WRITING. FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will build capacity and create a legacy of long-term improvement and sustainability in the communities they serve by identifying fiscal support and community resources.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will develop materials and infographics that will be used for FUND DEVELOPMENT & GRANT WRITING efforts that EPCAMR continues to seek throughout the year. Justifications and needs for grants as well as demographics and other literature and referenced documentation will be created by the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer to improve the quality of the grant application proposals. Graphical representations or maps of the proposed projects or watershed areas will be created by the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will assist with researching and comparing prices for supplies, equipment, field gear, sampling equipment, environmental educational supplies, office supplies, and other materials needed.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will work to collectively work as a team with the EPCAMR Executive Director and other Staff to pull together project proposals, budgets, justifications, and or graphical representation of materials that could be utilized in future grants.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will help in the planning and marketing of EPCAMR’s upcoming 30th Anniversary in September of 2026, which is a huge milestone for the organization and its founding Executive Director. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will be able to work with the AmeriCorps VISTA, Development Committee, EPCAMR Staff, and Board to seek sponsors to establish an endowment fund for the organization.</p>
<p>MEMBER ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>1. Prepare and work with the EPCAMR to secure future funding, allowing available funds to cover the costs of Staff time, administrative expenses, equipment, supplies, indirect costs, and travel to build organizational capacity from within.</p> <p>Step 1: FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will work with the EPCAMR Executive Director and AmeriCorps VISTA to identify appropriate grant funding opportunities and pull together any maps, graphical representative of statistics, infographics, project summaries, photo essays, and GIS data layers that may provide better justification for grant proposals written by EPCAMR.</p> <p>Step 2: Work with EPCAMR Staff and AmeriCorps VISTA to successfully submit grant proposals during the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) term.</p> <p>Step 3: Create press releases in WordPress on anticipated award projects and post to EPCAMR social media outlets.</p>

	<p>2. FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will become familiar with Canva or already have previous experience in the software application to be able to create meeting agendas, flyers, posters, infographics, designs for reports, story maps, watershed maps, social media posts, and documents in Adobe Illustrator.</p> <p>Step 1: Become familiar with Canva and Adobe Illustrator software to create branding themes and documents that resemble the color scheme of EPCAMR’s current logo.</p> <p>Step 2: Work on identifying corporate partners to provide them with consistent marketing and branding resources from EPCAMR that will need to be created based on the criteria of the grant application packages or Letters of Inquiries and Intent.</p> <p>Step 3: Develop social media posts and reels from past projects and story maps that are published as well as video productions and documentaries.</p> <p>3. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will work with the AmeriCorps VISTA to archive and digitize EPCAMR’s 30 years of historical records, news media clippings, projects throughout the term.</p> <p>4. Track Performance Measures (outputs and outcomes) and submit monthly and final progress reports inclusive of qualitative and quantitative data.</p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT & ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES. Volunteer will provide support and generate organizational interest through the engagement of community-based volunteers.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will allow the FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer to create outreach and awareness campaigns and posters or flyers to advertise and promote EPCAMR’s VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT & ENGAGEMENT PRACTICE efforts across our regional coverage area.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer can follow up with incoming recruited volunteers to determine their interests, skills, expertise, time availability, and abilities and create spotlight backgrounds on each of them as they become more involved with EPCAMR Projects, Programs, and Events.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer can also create more appealing and eye-catching volunteer descriptions that we can post on our website to recruit volunteers.</p>
MEMBER ACTIVITIES	<p>1. Create eye-catching and engaging posters and descriptions of the various EPCAMR Volunteer Opportunities for the placement of the marketing and outreach materials on the EPCAMR website on the Volunteer Page</p> <p>Step 1: Welcome volunteers to EPCAMR and determine their schedules and inform them that EPCAMR is flexible with our opportunities.</p>

	<p>Step 3: Organize and host small gatherings and networking opportunities within the EPCAMR Region to socialize and allow the EPCAMR Staff to meet with volunteers interested in dedicating time to the organization.</p> <p>Step 4: Work to identify targeted corporate sector industries that might have Volunteer Incentive Programs that might be interested in working with EPCAMR or have philanthropic offices within their companies that might consider future grant applications from EPCAMR or donations to EPCAMR.</p> <p>2. Review online volunteer organizations within the EPCAMR Region that would allow EPCAMR to post our opportunities to their page, such as Volunteer Match that is merging with Idealist, Volunteers of America-PA, or the United Way.</p> <p>Step 1: Review each of the websites and sign EPCAMR up if they don't already have an affiliation or partnership with each of the organizations.</p> <p>Step 2: List EPCAMR Volunteer Opportunities and link up our EPCAMR volunteers with the various listings of other partners.</p> <p>Step 3: Meet with the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) in Pittston, PA to see if there are any of our membership benefits that are related to volunteer opportunities and marketing of those chances of working with EPCAMR.</p> <p>3. Track Performance Measures (outputs and outcomes) and submit monthly and final progress reports inclusive of qualitative and quantitative data.</p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. Volunteer will engage the community they serve to ensure awareness of organizational efforts and generate community commitment to the impact-driven activities being performed.</p> <p>The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will engage with the existing partners in the EPCAMR Region to develop new partnership relationships and expand on current ones to determine if there are ways that additional collaborations can be developed and financial support could be provided to existing projects and programs. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT efforts will be highlighted, branded, and marketed in such a way that EPCAMR can continue to be seen as a leading environmental organization in the region that gives proper credit to all of its partners, funders, sponsors, and donors.</p>
MEMBER ACTIVITIES	<p>1. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer will engage with various EPCAMR Regional partners to build additional partnerships on projects to find ways that we can support one another or seek grant opportunities together to benefit the watersheds and coalfield communities we are all working in collectively.</p>

Step 1: Review partners in each of the Counties covered by EPCAMR that are listed in our annual report to the PA Department of Environmental Protection from 2024 to know where they are all located geographically.

Step 2: Understand and learn about existing project partnerships and collaborative projects that are underway in the EPCAMR Region.

Step 3: Provide outreach support to EPCAMR and their partners to help them successfully build new partnerships and submit grants and foundation proposals to reclaim abandoned mine lands, restore watersheds impacted by abandoned mine drainage (AMD), conduct outdoor meaningful watershed education experiences and watershed tours, assess watersheds impacted by legacy abandoned mine lands, support conferences, and workshops, and cleanup of our coal-impacted landscapes and waterways.

2. The FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) volunteer can work to help secure funding for short video productions or a short series of videos on all the various projects and programs being undertaken by EPCAMR to help us create a broader awareness of our work and the devastating impacts on the landscape. These videos can also provide opportunities to partner with other journalists, artists, videographers, and documentarians interested in our work who may want to develop independent films or documentaries.

Step 1: Research funding opportunities in the arts and history sector that EPCAMR might be able to consider applying for to help bring a greater sense of awareness to the type of work and activities involved in our work to a larger segment of the public.

Step 2: Work with existing partners and a few of our EPCAMR Board Members who have expertise in videography, YouTube channels, cinematography, short films, and documentary work to generate ideas for future videos that we could add to our [Streamside Science Education Hub](#) page.

Step 3: Storyboard ideas and brainstorm concepts with the EPCAMR Staff and Board Members to come up with pitch decks for future funding opportunities for educational video productions.

3. Track Performance Measures (outputs and outcomes) and submit monthly and final progress reports inclusive of qualitative and quantitative data.