



Friends of the Cheat

FRIENDS OF THE CHEAT

1343 North Preston Highway | Kingwood, WV 26537 | www.cheat.org

2026 Promise VISTA Summer Associate Position Friends of the Cheat (FOC)

Friends of the Cheat is a nonprofit watershed organization dedicated to restoring, preserving, and promoting the Cheat River watershed. For more than 30 years, FOC has led efforts to remediate pollution and significantly improve water quality across the region.

Building on successful restoration efforts in Preston, Tucker, and Pocahontas counties, FOC has expanded its work to include recreational access and robust environmental education initiatives that connect communities more deeply to the river.

Friends of the Cheat is seeking a passionate, organized, and creative individual to serve as a 2026 Promise VISTA Summer Associate (SA).

This position is ideal for an energetic individual who enjoys working outdoors, engaging with youth and community members, and supporting environmental education initiatives. The Summer Associate will assist with hands-on youth programming, community events, and outreach efforts throughout the summer season.

This position would run from June 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026 (9 weeks) and is based out of the FOC office in Kingwood, WV. Limited remote work is possible depending on project needs.

Interested candidates - please, contact Lisa Maraffa at lisa@cheat.org before applying through My Americorps.

Key Responsibilities

Educational Programming

- Assist with FOC Snorkel Club events, including delivering streamside educational presentations and participating in in-river snorkeling activities with youth (strong water safety skills preferred).
- Lead or support activity stations during Education Days with local schools; station topics will vary by grade level and curriculum needs.
- Develop and assemble educational tools, presentations, crafts, and take-home kits that align with FOC's mission and partner curriculum goals.

Community Events & Outreach

- Support Trailhead Community Concerts on 3 select Fridays throughout the summer, including event setup and breakdown, merchandise and beverage sales, kids' activities, and community engagement.
- Represent FOC by tabling at partner and community outreach events.
- Curate and create FOC social media content highlighting summer programs, events, and FOC projects.
- Develop volunteer materials and checklists; assist with coordinating volunteer efforts.

Qualifications & Requirements

- Experience or strong interest in teaching and engaging children in outdoor environments.
- Strong organizational skills and creative thinking abilities.
- Ability to maintain safe, inclusive learning environments during educational and community events.
- Proficiency in swimming and water safety; First Aid/CPR certification (or willingness to obtain).
- Valid U.S. driver's license.
- Ability to meet all Promise VISTA eligibility requirements.
 - SA must be at least 18 years of age at the time of placement/start date
 - SA must not be listed on the National Sex Offenders Public Registry
 - SA must commit and serve on a full-time basis for 8, 9 or 10 weeks, a minimum of 35 hours per week
 - SA may have outside employment during the project period (cannot exceed 20 hours per week)
 - All Candidates must apply online at myamericorps: [My AmeriCorps - Registration Request](#) or click [Create Profile](#).
 - Perform mandatory online coursework and attend in person training at High Rocks.

Compensation

- A Living Allowance/Stipend to cover necessities during service: 9 weeks of service=\$4,320

- A \$1,279.90 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or Summer End of Service Cash Stipend of equal value
- Mileage reimbursement at federal rate of \$.725/mile
- Up to 3 days of leave
- Access to wifi internet and a computer at the FOC office in Kingwood, WV
- FOC branded gear