



## Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

**Position Title:** *River Monitoring Coordinator*  
**Host Site:** *South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)*  
**Site Supervisor:** *Betsy Harbert, River Science Manager*  
**Contact:** *betsy@syrcf.org 530.265.5961 ext 224*

### **Service Commitment:**

SNAP AmeriCorps members are passionate and committed to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, SNAP and AmeriCorps. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve a nonprofit organization or public agency in the Sierra Nevada. The SNAP Term of Service is from mid-October 2017 – mid-September 2018 (exact dates TBD).

### **Position Location:**

SYRCL's office is in Nevada City, CA – a lovely town and community in the Sierra foothills. Historic Nevada City is regarded as a cultural, artistic and environmental hub within the Sierra Nevada Range. Once the epicenter of the California Gold Rush, Nevada City—in proximity to the South Yuba River -- is undergoing a multi-decade renaissance as a model community pursuing ecological and economical sustainability through innovative green enterprises, neo-agrarian renewal and watershed restoration. All of our work is conducted in the beautiful and inspiring Yuba Watershed.

### **Organization Description:**

SYRCL is the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River and greater Yuba Watershed. Founded in 1983 through a rural, grassroots campaign to defend the South Yuba River from proposed hydropower dams, SYRCL has developed into a vibrant community organization with over 3,500 members and volunteers based in Nevada City.

Since achieving Wild and Scenic status for the South Yuba River in 1999, SYRCL has developed a variety of successful programs for inspiring environmental activism and supporting responsible watershed stewardship. These range from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to a River Science Program with a large citizen component and strong standing in collaborative forums. Most recently, SYRCL launched the River Ambassadors Program, a volunteer-based initiative to reach out to Yuba River users about to keep the river clean, safe and healthy. River Ambassadors is a response to the uncertain future of management of the State Parks lands along the South Yuba River, and a request from State Parks to be supported by SYRCL's pool of volunteers. SYRCL is also involved in a variety of watershed restoration and protection initiatives.

SYRCL is the leading regional supporter for creating resilient human and natural communities throughout the greater Yuba River basin by restoring creeks and rivers, restoring wild salmon populations, and inspiring and organizing people – from the headwaters to the sea.

**Program Description:**

SYRCL's River Science Program informs priority issues and restoration opportunities through extensive monitoring, analysis of conditions and trends, and collaborative watershed assessment. The program includes an increasing number of restoration projects that require monitoring and assessment. SYRCL's citizen-based River Monitoring program utilizes over 50 volunteers to collect water quality data on a monthly basis at more than 30 sites throughout the 1,300 square mile watershed. The program also monitors water quality conditions for mine impacted streams and meadow restoration projects. Program volunteers are trained in the identification of sensitive and invasive species, bioassessment, photo documentation, temperature logger deployment, and meadows health assessment. In 2010, the publication of the on-line Yuba River Watershed Information System ([www.yubashed.org](http://www.yubashed.org)) created a repository for River Monitoring data and a platform for watershed assessment.

**Position Description:**

The River Monitoring Coordinator will provide leadership and the primary coordinating capacity for SYRCL's renowned water quality monitoring program. The coordinator will participate in a range of data gathering activities with SYRCL's River Science Program, and take primary responsibility for certain monitoring and reporting tasks, including the coordination of and training of volunteers. The River Monitoring Coordinator will work closely with SYRCL's Hydrologist to implement the River Monitoring Plan and ensure quality of data. The River Monitoring Coordinator will also assist the River Science staff with pre- and post- restoration project monitoring. The River Monitoring Coordinator will work with SYRCL's River Monitoring Plan to collect new data in order to resolve issues around mine land streams, pollution concerns in the Yuba, restoration, dam affected reaches, fish habitat requirements, in addition to bacteria, nutrients and algae. The River Monitoring Coordinator will also provide outreach and education at community events and for school groups.

**Required Qualifications:**

A successful River Monitoring Coordinator should have the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in physical or biological sciences with coursework in watershed sciences, aquatic ecology, or related subjects and/or equivalent experience
- Strong interpersonal skills and experience organizing and motivating people
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Good leadership and team skills
- Ability to multi-task and prioritize
- Organized and attention to detail, especially when assembling materials and equipment for field work
- Experience in biological fieldwork and willingness to work outdoors in strenuous physical activity under diverse weather conditions, such as hiking with equipment, work during high temperatures for up to 8 hours
- Willingness to do office work, data entry and analysis
- Available to work occasional weekends and evenings
- Comfortable in water and river environments
- Valid driver's license
- Personal vehicle available for work assignments with reimbursement

**Desired Qualifications:**

Additional skills and experiences are:

- Concentrated experience working in west slope Sierra rivers, mountain meadows, or floodplains and wetlands
- River monitoring equipment management and maintenance skills
- Scientific study design, monitoring, and analysis skills
- Experience with flow monitoring and discharge relationships
- Knowledge of terrestrial and aquatic invasive and sensitive native species
- Basic GIS skills

- Demonstrated experience teaching science content

**Additional Benefits:**

- Participation in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival
- Rafting tours of the lower Yuba River with training as a Salmon Naturalist
- Networking among hundreds of community organizers and environmental professionals.

**Website:** [www.yubariver.org](http://www.yubariver.org); [www.yubashed.org](http://www.yubashed.org)