Resource Assistance for Rural Environments

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 rural Oregon communities.

RARE AmeriCorps’s Mission

RARE AmeriCorps’ mission is to assist Oregon's resource-dependent rural communities while providing supported, applied experience to graduate level members from across the US. RARE members 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. Now in its 25th year, The RARE AmeriCorps Program has placed over 500 volunteers and served every Oregon County.

Current Projects

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

- The member placed with Klamath Basin Rural Tourism Studio is coordinating the development of agitourism opportunities within the region, developing and promoting marketing materials on cycling in the Klamath Basin and creating cultural heritage audio tours and brochures.
- The member placed with the City of Reedsport is serving as the Coordinator of the Reedsport Main Street Program, running day-to-day tasks, helping with the community events such as the Chainsaw Festival, writing grants for the Program and its projects, working with other community organizations and volunteers, and administering projects for the Main Street Program.
- The participant placed with Marion-Polk Food Share is working on a Community Food Sovereignty Assessment (CFSAs) in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and evaluation of food access/pantries in Woodburn, OR.

Life After RARE AmeriCorps

Following a term of service with the RARE AmeriCorps Program, most of our alumni begin careers in the public sector or enroll in graduate school. Our alumni have pursued Master’s degrees in a variety of disciplines including: community and regional planning, rural studies, sustainable business practices, and sustainable agriculture. Other RARE alumni work for organizations such as: Gorge Grown Food Network, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Rural Development Initiatives, Portland Development Commission, City of Portland, Peace Corps, and various cities and counties.

Application Deadline is April 26, 2019

For more information about the RARE AmeriCorps Program please visit our website at: https://rare.uoregon.edu/

If you have any questions, please email us at rare@uoregon.edu or call 541.346.2879