

FEBRUARY 2022

# GROWTH RINGS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA NEWSLETTER



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Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area promotes and supports a network of partnerships based around our unique Forest Heritage. We work in 16 West Virginia counties and 2 counties in Western Maryland.

To learn more about us and the work we do, including our AmeriCorps program, visit [afnha.org](http://afnha.org) or contact Lukas Ray at [lukas@afnha.org](mailto:lukas@afnha.org) for more information

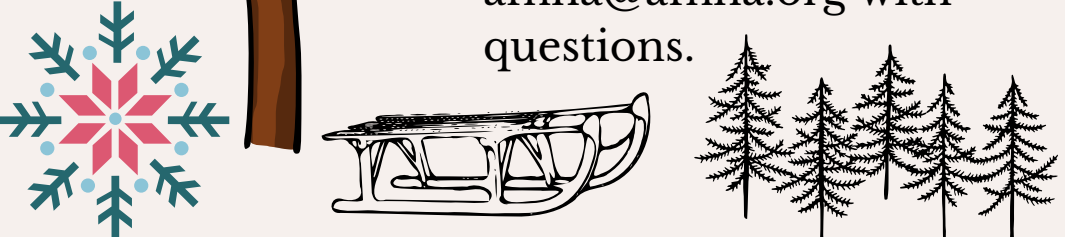


## AFNHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

AFNHA announced last month a new Tourism Development Grant available to governmental or non-profit organizations to enhance or create new tourist experience opportunities, network visitor opportunities together to create a larger attraction, and/or address challenges, such as from the COVID-19 pandemic, accessibility, or increasing the diversity of the stories told and/or the audience.



Please follow the link to our website for the grant application and more information on how to apply. Email us at [afnha@afnha.org](mailto:afnha@afnha.org) with questions.



Grant requests can be from \$1000 up to \$5000. Recipients are expected to provide a local match (cash or in-kind) equal to 50% of the amount received.

**Applications are due by March 1, 2022.**



# SITE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2022-2023 TERM!



AFNHA is seeking applications from non-profit organizations or associations, or government agencies, as sub-sponsor sites for AmeriCorps member assignments for the new program year to run September 7, 2022 through August 19, 2023.



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia

We will offer a new opportunity for new sites and supervisors to learn more about the program with a virtual Site Orientation, **Thursday, March 3, at 10 am.** This is encouraged for sites applying for the first time, who have not had a member before, for new supervisor staff, or just if you want a refresher. This orientation will cover basic responsibilities, writing a scope of service, application questions, and site role in recruiting. This is in addition to required supervisor training for selected sites in August.

**\*Contact Chrissy at [chrissy@afnha.org](mailto:chrissy@afnha.org) for more Info!**





## Environmental Education with Project Learning Tree

By: Lucia Botnaru

When I became the Education and Outreach Aide for the West Virginia Division of Forestry, I was looking forward to teaching others about the environment. Since my arrival in West Virginia I learned about Project Learning Tree (PLT) - a program that has helped me discover engaging teaching modules. PLT is an environmental education program made for educators to work with children from preschool to grade 12. PLT has been training teachers and educating students about the environment since the mid-1970s and is used in all 50 states. According to the PLT website, the program “reached 138 million students and trained 765,000 educators!”



Click [HERE](#) to read more of Lucia's story!

## Management Planning Update!

Our consultant team continues to construct the actual Management Plan. But the job isn't done just yet..... when the plan is fully written we will seek more public comment and feedback before the final draft is sent to the NPS. Be on the lookout for that. We plan to hold virtual public meetings to get comments back from you! This will occur sometime in April. Remember, you can always contact us at [planning@afnha.org](mailto:planning@afnha.org) with any questions on upcoming meetings and steps.





# We still have OPEN slots for the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Term!



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia



AFNHA AmeriCorps has been awarded a competitive AmeriCorps grant for 34 members for the 2021-2022 term, plus an additional 8 positions just awarded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. In addition, the ARPA funding will raise member stipends to \$16,000 a year. This gives us a total program of 42 member positions, our largest ever. Because these additional funds were just awarded, we are still recruiting for a number of positions. While the new term starts September 8, we will continue recruiting through the fall until all positions are filled.

Contact Chrissy Hall, Program Manager at [chrissy@afnha.org](mailto:chrissy@afnha.org) with any questions on our AmeriCorps program.



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