

# VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

June 2013, Minnesota

## Google search leads to the Earth Team Volunteer Program

Who would have ever thought a simple Google search to find out more about volunteering opportunities in Minnesota would lead to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Earth Team Volunteer Program (ETV)? This is what happened to Sabrina Moore of Roseville, Minnesota.

Moore, an Americorps volunteer with the St. Paul Public Housing Agency, was searching on Google for ways in which she could spice up her role as Volunteer Coordinator for the St. Paul Public Housing Agency. Within minutes of doing a Google search, Moore found several links to the NRCS' ETV Program. After reading more about the Earth Team, Moore decided she would reach out to the USDA-NRCS in Minnesota to see if there were ways she could help NRCS by volunteering.

Moore contacted Julie MacSwain, MN NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, to see if there was something she could do for NRCS. Moore has always been comfortable and passionate to volunteer in areas focused on the environment and conservation. MacSwain came up with ideas for Moore to assist NRCS in outreach and with social media efforts, such as Twitter. This was right up Moore's alley- a current goal of hers is to build up her communications experience, so combining social media and outreach efforts was a great way and it also incorporated her hobby of photography in her volunteer role at NRCS. In just a few months, Moore has helped NRCS exhibit at National Pheasant Fest and has worked on some sample tweets for NRCS to use for National Ag Day in March, 2013.

Moore, a California native, looks forward to Spring showing up in Minnesota as she wants to volunteer in the great outdoors and see how NRCS helps people help the land.

She believes volunteering is a great way to meet new people who are passionate about their work while getting to constantly learn in the environment of the organization.

Personally, it has helped her get more acquainted living in a new city and being involved in the activities within the community.



*Sabrina Moore, an environment and conservation enthusiast, wanted to increase her communication skills, as well as getting to know her community, by volunteering with the Earth Team.*



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.