



POST-GRADUATE CAREERS IN SERVICE TIP SHEET

According to a 2012 survey conducted by the Corporation of National and Community Service, 26% of U.S. citizens volunteer on a regular basis. Most people think of service as a hobby or an extra-curricular activity. Few realize that there are many opportunities to make volunteerism a career. Below is a selection of the endless volunteer opportunities that are available post-graduation and throughout your lifetime.

Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps)

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the ‘umbrella’ organization for AmeriCorps programs. While each program has a different focus area they all have similar benefits. During service volunteers receive a bi-weekly living stipend, limited health benefits, relocation/resettlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and loan deferment. After service, volunteers are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award valued at \$5,500 or a Close of Service Stipend valued at \$1,500. To apply or receive more information follow this link: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/>

- VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America): The VISTA program focuses on the eradication of poverty in rural and urban areas. Volunteers are placed at local non-profits such as The United Way or at a College or University. Each volunteer’s position description varies, but remains founded in poverty aiding or awareness. Volunteers serve for a 12 month period and must have received a college degree in order to apply.
- NCCC (National Civilian and Community Corps): The NCCC program involves volunteers through direct service in its local communities. Volunteers work hands-on with state and national parks, community centers and in response to disaster and emergency situations across the country. Volunteers serve for a 10 month period and must be between 18 to 24 years of age to apply.
- Senior Corps: The Senior Corps program involves senior citizens (55+) in service to their local community. Volunteers serve in a variety of different roles based on the needs of non-profits. Volunteers serve for a 12 month period, and the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award they earn can be gifted to a family member or friend.
- AmeriCorps State and National: The State and National program is a general AmeriCorps program in which volunteers serve at a local non-profit. The focus of each volunteer varies based on the position description. Volunteers serve periods of 9 to 12 months, and can have any age or educational background to apply.

- **Questions - Contact:** Jeremy Price - Manager of Programs and Initiatives (864) 850-7094 ext. 133
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Teach for America <http://www.teachforamerica.org/>

The goal of Teach for America is to change the effectiveness of public school education. Volunteers serve in impoverished rural and urban communities throughout the country for a period of 2 years. TFA believes that they can provide an excellent education for students in low-income communities. Although 16 million children in the United States face the extra challenges of poverty, an increasing body of evidence shows they can achieve at the highest levels with the help of TFA. During service volunteers receive a bi-weekly living stipend, limited health benefits, relocation/resettlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and loan deferment. After service, volunteers are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award valued at \$5,500.

In order to apply to Teach For America, applicants must satisfy the following prerequisites:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree by the first day of assigned summer institute
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA is at least 2.50 on a 4.00 scale
- Have US citizenship or national/permanent resident status or have received deferred action for childhood arrivals

City Year www.cityyear.org/

The City Year program was founded because of the research that showed grades 3-9 are the greatest determinant of if a child will graduate from High School. City Year works at public schools in urban, inner city areas which tend to be underfunded and understaffed. Volunteers mentor, support, and encourage students that are struggling both at home and in the classroom. During service volunteers receive a bi-weekly living stipend, limited health benefits, relocation/resettlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and loan deferment. After service, volunteers are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award valued at \$5,500.

To volunteer with City Year, Volunteers must:

- Have a college degree or have attended some college, have a high school diploma or GED
- Be able to dedicate 10 months to full-time service
- Be between the ages of 17 and 24
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident alien
- Have served no more than 3 terms in another AmeriCorps, NCCC or VISTA program
- Agree to a background or security check

Previous experiences with service, tutoring, mentoring and leadership help strengthen candidacy.

Food Corps <https://foodcorps.org/>

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of leaders that connects kids to real food and helps them grow up healthy. Volunteers are placed in limited-resource communities for a year of public service. Working under the direction of local partner organizations, volunteers implement a “three-ingredient” recipe for healthy kids. Service Members: Teach kids about what healthy food is and where it comes from, Build and tend school gardens, and Bring high-quality local food into public school cafeterias. During service volunteers receive a bi-weekly living stipend, limited health benefits, relocation/resettlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and loan deferment. After service, volunteers are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award valued at \$5,500.

To be considered for a FoodCorps service member position, applicants must:

- Be 18 years or older by the start of service (September 1, 2014)
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident of the United States
- Hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent

Peace Corps <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Peace Corps Volunteers make a difference across the globe! Their service improves the lives of people in communities around the world, informs the global perspectives of Americans, and is a life-defining experience for Volunteers themselves. Volunteers receive practical benefits, learn new languages, gain leadership and international development experience, and work with their host countries as partners and friends. The tangible benefits and support provided during service for the Peace Corps includes:

- Public student loans may be eligible for deferment
- Perkins loans may be eligible for partial cancellation
- A "readjustment" allowance of \$7,425 (pre-tax) upon completion of service
- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel to and from country of service
- A monthly living and housing allowance
- Full medical and dental coverage
- 48 paid vacation days
- Unique graduate school opportunities
- Leave for family emergencies
- Transition and job support and social networking after service
- Advantages in federal employment
- Opportunities for short-term assignments through Peace Corps Response
- No fee to participate

The minimum requirements for Peace Corps Volunteers vary on assignment. More detailed information on these requirements can be found on the Peace Corps website. In order to be considered, applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen.