

STARS  AND STRIPES[®]

Transition Magazine

2016

CREATE YOUR PLAN

GAUGE YOUR INTERESTS,
LEARN ABOUT IN-DEMAND
JOBS AND SKILLS

TAKE ACTION

RESEARCH,
PREPARE, AND
NETWORK NOW

MAKE THE CONNECTION

FEDERAL INITIATIVES
CAN CONNECT YOU TO
A MEANINGFUL CAREER

SET THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR MILITARY TRANSITION

CAPITALIZE ON PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE TO YOU



AMERICORPS

A BRIDGE TO YOUR FUTURE CAREER AND COMMUNITY

Courtesy of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

Are you looking to recon your next career? Are you in a new community without a clear next step or a network to support you? Do you want to keep doing something important and challenging with other awesome people? Or are you looking for your next mission? Then consider AmeriCorps.

Serving a year in AmeriCorps following your military service can be your first step into civilian life. AmeriCorps gives you a bridge to careers that seem out of reach. AmeriCorps transitions military leaders into community leaders. AmeriCorps gives you an opportunity to gain hands-on experience, learn new skills, and build community connections that advance your resume, or job or school application. AmeriCorps is a way to keep serving your country and making a real difference in peoples' lives.

Visit AmeriCorps.gov/veterans to find an AmeriCorps position in your community, to see profiles of veterans who served in AmeriCorps, and to learn how national service with AmeriCorps can get things done for America and help you get to where you want to go next.

SERVICE IN AMERICORPS HELPS LAUNCH CAREERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

AmeriCorps programs are vetted to provide members with a positive experience and focus on training, skill development, and community involvement to support your transition. Whether you want to learn a new skill, get your bearings in a new community, or test out a new profession to see if it's

right for you, AmeriCorps has thousands of opportunities across the country every year that you can apply for. A recent survey shows that more than 90 percent of veterans want to serve in the areas where AmeriCorps has programming. AmeriCorps helps you in a few more specific ways too:

- Research shows that volunteering, including through AmeriCorps, increases a person's likelihood of finding a job by 27 percent nationwide. Volunteers in rural communities have a 55 percent higher chance of finding a job.
- Nearly 400 employers nationwide, including private employers and many state and local governments, are Employers of National Service – employers that prioritize the hiring of AmeriCorps alumni.



Photos courtesy of CNCS

- AmeriCorps members can be eligible for direct hiring into federal service.

AmeriCorps also helps veterans bridge the transition to civilian life and the workforce by providing connections in the community – in the organizations, neighborhoods, community groups, and religious institutions where they serve, and with people that you can serve with, depend on, and help. These connections

VETERANS LIKE YOU WHO SERVED IN AMERICORPS VALUED AND BENEFITED FROM THEIR AMERICORPS SERVICE:

- **90 PERCENT** of veterans serving in AmeriCorps were satisfied with their AmeriCorps experience
- **90 PERCENT** of veterans serving in AmeriCorps reported better resilience in dealing with unexpected or challenging situations
- **80 PERCENT** of veterans serving in AmeriCorps will remain actively involved in their community
- **75 PERCENT** of veterans serving in AmeriCorps said AmeriCorps furthered their professional, educational, or personal goals

support successful reintegration. More than four in five veterans serving in AmeriCorps reported feeling like part of a community and gaining an understanding of the community where they served.

Here are a few examples of AmeriCorps programs that support veteran reintegration and long-term employment (including into the federal government) and fields or industries veterans can be exposed to through AmeriCorps service:

- **VetsWork:** AmeriCorps members serve with local, state, and federal land management agencies (like the U.S. Forest Service) where they receive on-the-job training on projects like wildland firefighting, environmental conservation, public education and outreach, trail maintenance, and volunteer management.
- **Washington State Vet Corps** is a peer-to-peer AmeriCorps program where veterans and military spouses serve as AmeriCorps members to support transitioning veterans and student veterans. In 2015, 50 Vet Corps members served 9,500 veterans and military families.
- **AmeriCorps NCCC** (National Civilian Community Corps) is America's national service strike team. AmeriCorps NCCC develops your leadership and team-building skills to engage 18- to 24-year-olds to meet national and community needs like responding to natural disasters when communities need support the most. AmeriCorps NCCC is always looking for qualified team leaders (of any age) at each of its five locations across the country.
- **AmeriCorps Veterans Fire Corps** provides wildland firefighting and natural resource management training to veterans through a year-long program.



- **Environmental Stewardship:** Under GRID Alternatives' SolarCorps program, AmeriCorps members learn how to retrofit low-income homes with solar power to save energy costs while gaining connections in the booming solar industry.
- **Construction:** Serving with AmeriCorps programs like Habitat for Humanity's Veterans Build or YouthBuild gives you skills and connections to support your next steps, while doing amazing things like building homes for the homeless and mentoring at-risk youth.
- **Education:** AmeriCorps has thousands of positions in the teaching, mentorship, and academic coaching with organizations like Teach for America, Reading Corps, and Playworks that offers hands-on experience.
- **Health Care and Social Assistance:** AmeriCorps members serve in the dynamic health care field through dozens of nonprofits across the country. These programs commonly provide entry points into careers in health care, counseling, and social work.

You can find thousands of other opportunities across the country on the internet or at AmeriCorps.gov/veterans. ■

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?



AmeriCorps is domestic national service. AmeriCorps engages Americans of all ages to solve tough community challenges. AmeriCorps provides thousands of opportunities each year for veterans to serve with local nonprofits, faith-based groups, and state and local government agencies to gain skills, expand their networks, and connect to new communities.

- Every year, 75,000 Americans will join AmeriCorps and serve in more than 21,000 communities across the country.
- Since 1994, nearly 20,000 veterans and military spouses have served in AmeriCorps — using their leadership, problem solving, and team-building skills as a bridge to new job skills, networks, and communities.
- Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance, health care, child care, forbearance and deferment of student loan payments, and a flexible education award worth \$5,775 that complements GI Bill benefits.

AmeriCorps is not an internship; it is a vetted opportunity with a primary focus on providing a valuable experience to the individual AmeriCorps member. Some AmeriCorps positions enable you to be directly hired into the federal government.

VETERANS IN AMERICORPS MAKE AN IMPACT. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GAIN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE AND CONNECTIONS WHILE CONTINUING TO SERVE. VISIT AMERICORPS.GOV/VETERANS