

Employers of National Service



“If you’re an employer who wants to hire talented, dedicated, patriotic, skilled, tireless, energetic workers, look to AmeriCorps, look to the Peace Corps... Citizens who perform national service are special. You want them on your team.”
– President Obama

What Is Employers of National Service?

The Corporation for National and Community Service is launching the Employers of National Service initiative along with its partners the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps Alums, and the Franklin Project.

In recognition of the unique and transferable skills that participants develop during national service, Employers of National Service builds a talent pipeline to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. Through this initiative, employers will have new access to a dedicated, highly qualified, and mission-oriented pool of potential employees and national service alumni will have additional opportunities to apply their skills in the workplace.

President Obama launched Employers of National Service at the White House on September 12, 2014 as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Two dozen charter Employers of National Service were announced as part of this launch including American Red Cross, Comcast and NBC Universal, CSX, Disney, the City of Nashville, Habitat for Humanity International, United Way Worldwide, and numerous federal agencies.



The full list of participating employers can be viewed at NationalService.gov/Employers. As part of the rollout of this initiative, any employer that signs up to participate by December 31, 2014 will be considered a charter Employer of National Service.

Why Hire National Service Alumni?

National service develops essential skills that make AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni assets for organizations and companies seeking high-quality employees. National service alumni are strong leaders who are motivated, flexible, innovative, and outcome-oriented. They learn quickly and work well on diverse teams.

More than 900,000 individuals have participated in AmeriCorps over the past 20 years

and more than 215,000 have served in Peace Corps, making a lasting impact on these individuals and the communities in which they served. Peace Corps volunteers serve in 65 countries around the world, working at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment, and youth development. AmeriCorps members serve communities across the country through organizations such as Public Allies, City Year, Teach for America, and the Student Conservation Association.

These diverse national service alumni have worked as educators, emergency responders, economic development advisors, disaster preparation and recovery leaders, and counselors. Through their service, participants develop hard skills as well as the professionalism, teamwork, communication, management, and leadership skills that are so important to success in today's workplace.

AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni are solution-focused leaders and excel at taking the initiative to get the job done. By working hand-in-hand with local partners, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni know how to mobilize others to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing our nation and our world.



What Are the Benefits of Being an Employer of National Service?

Employers of National Service will have a competitive edge in reaching a large and diverse pool of talented individuals. Participating employers will have their job opportunities highlighted via promotional channels that reach a vast network of talented job seekers. They will also receive invitations to special events and garner public recognition for their commitment to national service alumni.

Which Employers Should Consider Joining the Program?

Every employer from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors should strongly consider the value that national service alumni can add to their organization. With their diverse experiences and skills, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni are high achievers in a wide variety of fields. National service alumni have demonstrated that they have the skills and dedication to be successful with employers of all kinds.

How Does an Organization Become an Employer of National Service?

To become an Employer of National Service, organizations will demonstrate policies and practices that emphasize the skills that national service alumni bring to the workplace. A commitment to be an Employer of National Service could include at least one of the following:

- Explicitly indicate in relevant job announcements an interest in recruiting AmeriCorps members and returned Peace Corps volunteers (For example, “AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service alumni are encouraged to apply.”)
- Provide an opportunity for job applicants to identify themselves as AmeriCorps or Peace Corps alumni. (For example, placing a check box on your employment application that asks a question along the following lines: “Did you serve in an AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, or another national service program?”)



During the rollout of this new initiative, employers may also propose other commitments that would qualify them as an Employer of National Service and highlight their national service alumni recruitment and employment activities.



Organizations will receive special recognition when they exceed the basic commitments outlined above. Among the additional steps employers could take are providing special hiring consideration for national service alumni (e.g., extra points as part of an application scoring system or adding a filter to resume screening processes), guaranteeing an interview for any job applicant who is an AmeriCorps or Peace Corps alumnus and meets the minimum qualifications, or creating some positions that are only open to AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni.

As part of their commitment, organizations will be asked to provide information regarding their efforts and achievements for an annual Employers of National Service summary report.

How Does an Organization Sign Up to Be an Employer of National Service?

Any company, organization, or agency can become an Employer of National Service! To sign up to be an Employer of National Service or request additional information, please contact employers@cns.gov or visit NationalService.gov/Employers.

ABOUT THE EMPLOYERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE PARTNERS

The Corporation for National and Community Service

The country's largest funder of service and volunteering, the Corporation for National and Community Service is the federal agency that helps more than 5 million Americans improve the lives of their fellow citizens through service. The members and volunteers in our programs—AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund—serve, build, and make an impact that changes lives and communities. For more information, please visit NationalService.gov.



The Peace Corps

As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences—and a global outlook—back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 139 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit PeaceCorps.gov to learn more.



AmeriCorps Alums

AmeriCorps Alums builds a community of engaged citizens and civic leaders that get things done for America. It is the only national network that connects the nearly 1 million alumni of all AmeriCorps programs who have served since 1994 (including an estimated 80,000 new alumni each year) to the people, ideas, and resources that support their commitment to a lifetime of service. To learn more about who alums are and to understand their aspirations and impact on America, read their 2014 national survey, *Untapped Potential* and more information, please visit AmeriCorpsAlums.org.



The Franklin Project

The Franklin Project is a new venture by the Aspen Institute, which envisions a future where a year of fulltime national service—a service year—is a cultural expectation, a common opportunity, and a civic rite of passage for every young American. A young person would discharge his or her national service obligation by either serving in the military or as a civilian by completing a fulltime paid service year through programs such as AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps or Teach for America. For more information, please visit AspenInstitute.org/FranklinProject.

