

# Serve in a Corps

## open yourself to new opportunities




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### What is a Corps?

Corps are programs that give teens and young adults the opportunity to learn and gain work experience by participating in service projects.

Corps are non-profit or state-run youth development organizations that engage their participants – known as “Corpsmembers” – in service projects and job training. Some Corps also offer academic programming (high school diploma/GED).

### Who can participate in a Corps?

Just about anybody between the ages of 16 – 25 (or returning veterans up to age 35). All sorts of young people - with different abilities, life circumstances and from different ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds - serve in Corps.

25,000+  
CORPSMEMBERS IN 2016

59% MALE  
40% FEMALE



\*21% identified as Hispanic

### What kinds of service projects would I get to work on?

It depends on where the Corps is located. There are Corps based all across the country, in cities as well as in small towns. Some Corps complete projects in National Parks and remote wilderness areas, while other Corps serve in places like New York City and Los Angeles. Here are examples of projects Corps work on:



- Operating recycling facilities / recycling pick-up services
- Building and maintaining urban farms and gardens
- Reclaiming abandoned lots
- Irrigation
- Building parks
- Planting trees
- Cleaning streams
- Preserving historic buildings
- Weatherizing homes
- Making homes more water efficient
- Installing solar panels
- Removing graffiti
- Community education
- Trail maintenance and construction
- Fighting wildfires
- Removing invasive species
- Prescribed burns
- Building walls/fences
- Constructing campground infrastructure (benches, shelters, outhouses, etc.)
- Species monitoring
- Landscaping
- Reintroducing native species
- Habitat restoration
- Stabilizing stream banks
- Water quality monitoring

### What would I gain from joining a Corps?

Corpsmembers receive a living stipend and, upon completing their service, usually receive an education award (scholarship). Through their service, Corpsmembers also earn professional certifications and valuable skills.

Some Corps offer traditional school programs, allowing young people to earn their high school diploma or GED while enrolled in the Corps.



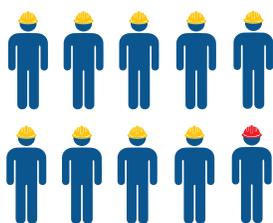
### How does it work?

Corpsmembers are generally divided into Crews. They all serve together under the supervision of a trained Crew Leader.

Corpsmembers receive training and certifications relevant to the kinds of service projects they complete.

By participating in service projects alongside their Crewmates and Crew Leader, a young person has the opportunity to make a difference in the community, gain hands-on experience in a work-like atmosphere and develop skills in leadership, teamwork and communication.

Corpsmembers also learn about potential career options. Corps partner with local, state and federal organizations and agencies to complete service projects that really make an impact.



### Pronunciation lesson

**/kôr/**

The P and the S in “corps” are silent! Think “core” like an apple core, not “corpse”! The plural of “corps” is “corps,” but you do pronounce the S (think “cores”).

With its origins in Latin, the dictionary definition of “corps” is “a group of persons associated or acting together.”

### How long would I serve?

Corpsmembers serve for a designated amount of time. Some Corps offer programs that allow Corpsmembers to serve just for the summer, while other programs engage Corpsmembers for a full year of service.



### I’m ready to serve!

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