



Preparing for Service

This checklist is a resource for applicants to use during the search and selection process.
Site staff: please provide this document to anyone who is interested in serving with you.

Eligibility

- Citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident of the U.S.
- High school graduate or GED recipient (some exceptions apply. Contact WSC for more information).
- Able to pass all the required [National Service Criminal History Checks \(NSCHC\)](#)
- Able to serve an average of 40 hours per week and participate in National Days of Service (MLK, Cesar Chavez, Earth Day) for the entire term of service.
- Able to complete the minimum number of required hours for the term length (a full term is 1700 hours for 10.5 months).
- Demonstrate all required skills and abilities to complete the duties associated with the position (determined by site staff).

Member Benefits

- Professional experience to explore or begin building your career.
- Tiered monthly stipend (\$1,942 - \$3,723).
- Medical insurance.
- Member assistance program (including unlimited tele-health mental health counseling, life and financial coaching, legal assistance, and more).
- Education award of up to \$7,395 upon successful completion of a full term of service.
- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment on qualifying loans.
- Subsidized childcare through GAP Solutions Inc., if eligible.

Readiness Checklist

- Familiarize yourself with the community where you plan to serve.
- Search for and secure affordable housing and transportation.
- Develop a budget that will allow you to live on your position's stipend amount.
- [Review the Washington Service Corps benefits.](#)
- Research how to access local resources such as SNAP, food banks, reduced cost transit passes, memberships, etc.
- [Review WSC policies and procedures and prohibited activities.](#)
- Confirm that you understand the difference between AmeriCorps service and a traditional job.

Questions to Ask Site Staff During Your Interview

Mission and Vision

- How does this AmeriCorps position fit into your organization's mission?
- How will the community benefit from my service?

Position

- What skills and characteristics are critical to this position's success?
- What days and hours would I serve each week? Are there any weekends or holidays when I would be expected to serve?
- Can you tell me what a typical day would look like in this position?
- Who would be my primary and secondary support, and what are their roles in the organization?
- Who else would I be interacting with on a daily and weekly basis?
- What kinds of professional training and mentorship can I expect to receive?

Benefits and Support

- Can you confirm the stipend amount for this position?
- Are there other benefits you offer that are unique to this site?
- What happens if I get sick or injured during my term, and I'm unable to serve for a period of time?
- I understand that the site will provide any specialized gear necessary for the project. Are there any clothing or shoes I should consider getting for myself if I'm selected for the position?
- Am I allowed to work or attend school part-time while serving in this position?
- Where would I find affordable housing in this community?
- Is there reliable public transit access to the service site?