



# Serve in a Corps!

Open yourself to new opportunities



@TheCorpsNetwork #CorpsWork

## WHAT IS A CORPS?

*Corps are locally-based programs that give young adults the opportunity to learn and gain hands-on work experience through service to our country.*

Corps are organizations that engage young adults and recent veterans in a defined term of service (usually a few months to a year). Corps participants - known as "Corpsmembers" - work on important projects that address conservation, disaster response and community needs. Through their service, Corpsmembers gain work experience, earn certifications, and develop skills in leadership and communication.

## 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 serve in Corps, representing different abilities, life circumstances, and different ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. For most Corps, you don't need to have specific skills or experience to join.

**25,200+**  
Corpsmembers  
served in 2017

58% MALE  
41% FEMALE

47%+ IDENTIFIED AS  
PERSONS OF COLOR



## WHAT DO I GAIN FROM JOINING A CORPS?

Corpsmembers receive a stipend and, upon completing their service, often receive an education award (scholarship). Through their service, Corpsmembers also earn professional certifications and valuable skills. Some Corps also offer traditional school programs, allowing young people to earn their high school diploma or GED while enrolled in the Corps.

## 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.

## 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 definition of "corps" is "a group of persons associated or acting together."

## WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS WOULD I WORK ON?

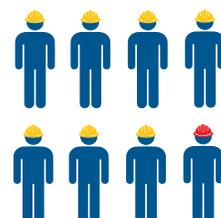
It depends on where the Corps is located. There are Corps in cities as well as in small towns. Some Corps complete projects in national parks and remote wilderness areas, while other Corps serve in places like New York City and Los Angeles. Here are examples of projects Corps work on:



- Operating recycling facilities
- Building and maintaining urban farms and gardens
- Reclaiming abandoned lots
- Irrigation
- Building parks
- Planting trees
- Cleaning streams
- Preserving historic buildings
- Weatherizing homes
- Installing solar panels
- Removing invasive species
- Community education
- Fighting wildfires
- Removing graffiti
- Prescribed burns
- Building walls/fences
- Constructing park infrastructure
- Species monitoring
- Landscaping
- Restoring habitats
- Stabilizing stream banks
- Monitoring water quality
- Maintaining and building trails and bridges

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Corpsmembers generally serve in crews (under the supervision of a Crew Leader) with up to a dozen other Corpsmembers.



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 have an impact.

## I'M READY TO SERVE!

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corpsnetwork.org/impact/corps-by-state

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