

Guidance: Preparing for Life after AmeriCorps

From Service Year Alliance

The Corps Network partners with Service Year Alliance (SYA) on a number of projects, and we like to promote the good work SYA does. In May 2019 they released a series of guides to support Corpsmembers as well as alums, “Transition After your Service Year”. The series links to guides that will help members/alums set goals during their job search, practice telling their story, update their resume, network, and interview.

Even from day one of your term of service, you are probably already thinking about what you will do when your term is completed. Will you be looking for a job? Using your Education Award to continue your education? Maybe doing another service term with your same Corps or a new one? No matter where your next steps take you, your service term is a great time to build your professional skills and be thoughtful about what you want for your future. This guide is especially helpful when you are in job search mode, but you can also work on these skills during your entire AmeriCorps term of service.

Note that SYA uses the term Service Year where TCN generally calls it a Term of Service or Service Term. Link to member resources [here](#).

Post Service Year Prep

Preparing for your next steps after your service year should start the moment your service year begins. Use the handout on [this website](#) to evaluate steps you can take each month to make sure you’re ready to hit the ground running. (*Note: This resource was created for programs, but we think it could be helpful for any service year corps member to see and use as a guide.*)

Goal Setting

Whether you have clear career plans or no idea what you want to do after your service year, identifying goals you set and achieved throughout your service year is valuable information that can assist you in your job application and interview process. [Find our guide](#) to help you think big picture and make achieving your goals a breeze. Also, setting goals is a great way to keep your job searching on track!

Options for Free and Cheap Classes, EBooks, and More

During your service year and throughout your professional career, it’s always helpful to brush up on your skills or learn something new. [Search for this guide](#) that provides recommendations for free and affordable online classes and other learning resources to help you keep you sharp. There are also specific courses such as job-searching basics like resume writing, LinkedIn, and more!

Tell Your Story

Telling your story effectively is an important part of the post-service year process. You'll likely tell your story during interviews and while networking so you want to make sure you know your story with ease. Who knows, your story may even encourage others to do a service year, too! See [here](#) to find resources that can help.

Translating Service Year Skills

We know that you are building important skills during your service year. We also know that sometimes it can be tricky to translate what you are doing and learning into terms that resonate with employers or translate into a potential job description. Use our guide to understand the framework employers use to evaluate your skills and how to translate your service year skills so that you can stand apart when applying for jobs. See [here](#) for resources.

AmeriCorps Alums Resume Guide

Curious on how you should list your AmeriCorps service year on your resume? Check out guides that provides detailed instructions on formatting your resume and highlights tips and tricks to ensure your service year and previous job experiences make you look like the best candidate so you can land your dream job! See [here](#) for resources.

Starting a New Job

You've landed a new job — congratulations! Now it's time to make great first impressions, fight those new job jitters, and learn how to make the most of your time right before and right after your new job starts. This guide will provide you with all the information you need to begin your new job on the right foot! See [here](#) for resources.

