

# Life

# After



**Member Training:**

**Life Beyond National Service**



**Revised January, 2006**

**After AmeriCorps: A Member Training for Life Beyond National Service** is available upon request in Braille, audiotape, large print, and on computer disk.. Please call (850) 921-5172 voice/tty for alternative formats.

**Volunteer Florida**  
**401 South Monroe Street**  
**Tallahassee, Florida 32301**  
[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)

## **“Getting Things Done” Introduction Activity**

**Describe your activities during your AmeriCorps service.**

**What are your greatest accomplishments during your AmeriCorps service?**

**Who has made the greatest impact on you during your AmeriCorps service? Why?**

**What are your future plans or goals beyond AmeriCorps?**

# What's Next?!?

**Education**

**Career/Job**

**Another Year of Service**

**Connecting with Ongoing Service**

# Preparing to Use Your Education Award

The amount of the education award depends on the length of your term of service. Beginning in the 2002 program year, the amount of the education award for each term of service is as follows:

Term of Service	Minimum Number of Service Hours	Education Award
Full-Time	1700	\$4,725.00
Half-Time	900	\$2,362.50
Reduced Half-Time	675	\$1,800.00
Quarter-Time	450	\$1,250.00
Minimum-Time	300	\$1,000.00

## National Service Trust

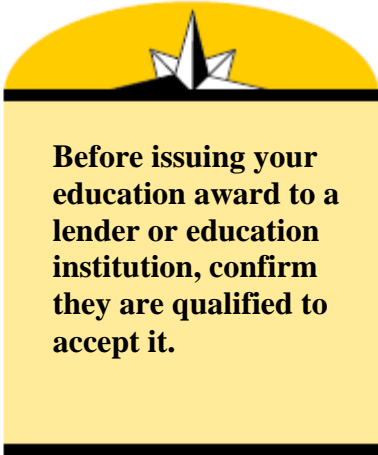
After successfully completing a term of service, you will be enrolled in the National Service Trust. AmeriCorps members who are enrolled in the National Service Trust are eligible to receive an education award.

The education award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education or training, or to repay qualified student loans. Funds to cover the Education Award and interest deferral benefits are held in the National Service Trust, a fund established by Congress expressly for that purpose.

**National Service Trust**  
**1-888-507-5962**

## Qualified Uses of Your Education Award

Once you are successfully enrolled in the National Service Trust, you may use the education award for any one or a combination of these purposes:



**Before issuing your education award to a lender or education institution, confirm they are qualified to accept it.**

- Repay qualified student loans.
  - Federal Loans (Stafford, Perkins, etc.)
- Pay educational expenses at a qualified institution
  - Most colleges, universities, community colleges.
- Pay educational expenses while participating in an approved school-to-work program.
  - Vocational programs

# Maximizing the Education Award For College

Depending on the college or university you attend, the education award may or may not cover all your college expenses. If you strategize and plan well, you can secure other financial aid to cover tuition and expenses.

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The first step to college financial aid is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Information from the application is used to generate a financial aid package to meet your needs. This aid could be in the form of grants (funds that do not have to be repaid) or student loans (funds that have to be repaid once you leave school). Your FAFSA determines your eligibility for campus-based grants and aid, plus federal student aid programs, such as:

Federal Pell Grants  
Federal PLUS Loans  
Federal Work Study

Federal Stafford Loans  
Federal Perkins Loans  
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants

## AmeriCorps Match

Based on your commitment to community action, some colleges and universities may match your AmeriCorps education award. Many schools also offer scholarships or other financial aid to students who have demonstrated civic participation and action. Check with your prospective school's financial aid department for details.

## Tax Credits

Your education award is subject to taxes when the National Service Trust pays out to a school or a lender on your behalf. The amount of taxes you will owe depends when and how much you redeem from your education award.

However, through the **Hope Scholarship Credit**, the **Lifetime Learning Credit**, and deductions on certain interest payments, you or your family may be eligible for tax benefits. Consult a tax professional for more details.

# Using the Education Award To Pay Student Loans

## **Forbearance**

As an AmeriCorps member enrolled to receive the education award, you are eligible to postpone repayment on qualified federal student loans. This postponement, a forbearance, may be granted while you are in service. You are not required to make payments during this forbearance period, but interest will continue to accrue.

## **Accrued Interest**

After you receive your education award, the National Service Trust may pay all or a portion of the interest that has accrued during your service year. This interest paid by the Trust is subject to income taxes. Consult a tax professional for more details.

## **Paying Student Loans**

Once you've completed your AmeriCorps service and receive your education award voucher, complete the form as directed and mail it to your lender. The lender will verify and submit it directly to the National Service Trust for payment. The Trust will pay the lender directly.

## **\*\* An Important Note on Paperwork \*\***

*Do not assume that lending institutions will receive notice about your AmeriCorps service or will submit documentation to the National Service Trust.* You are ultimately responsible for completing and sending the proper paperwork to the proper agencies and institutions. Follow up regularly to confirm that your forbearance has been approved or your student loans have been paid by the National Service Trust. Failure to do so may damage your credit rating or declare your loans in default.

### **AmeriCorps\*VISTA Stipend**

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members have the option of receiving either the education award or a \$1,200 stipend at the end of their service year. Members who chose the stipend should note it is taxable income.

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members who choose to earn a stipend (instead of the education award) may be eligible to receive a Perkins loan partial cancellation for the same service period for which they earned the award. Contact your AmeriCorps\*VISTA leader for more details.

# Entering the Workforce After AmeriCorps

**What are your career goals?**

**List the trainings & skills you've gained during your AmeriCorps service.**

**List other skills you would need, or would like to have that would meet your career goals.**

# Finding the Right Career for You

## **Career Testing**

- Interests

- Aptitude Skills

- Personality

## **Job Placement & Counseling**

- Local Workforce Centers

## **Personality**

- List the things you know you do not like to do

- College Career Service Centers

## **Other Sources**

- Community resources

- Internet

# Highlighting Your AmeriCorps Experience For Your Next Job

## Elevator Speech

### Resumé

- Goals & Objectives
- Service Accomplishments
- “Action” vs. “Passive” Verbs
- *Suggestions?*

### References

- Choose different “types” of people.
- Name, position, address, and phone number
- Letters of recommendation
- *Suggestions?*

### Interviews

- Utilizing your “elevator speech.”
- Common interview questions:
  - Tell me about yourself.
  - What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
  - Why did you apply for this position? (Why do you want to leave your current job?)
  - What qualifies you for this job?
  - What are your strengths?
  - What are your weaknesses?
  - Why should we hire you?
  - How do you work under pressure? Give me an example.
  - What traits do you look for in a supervisor? (What traits were lacking in your last supervisor?)
- *Suggestions?*

**Remember: There is no ONE ideal job for you – but there is AN ideal job for you!**

# Continuing Your Service

## **AmeriCorps State & National Programs**

- Most AmeriCorps programs are funded through Governor-appointed state commissions and members work with local nonprofit agencies to serve communities.
- AmeriCorps programs available under national organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross.

## **AmeriCorps\*VISTA**

### **(Volunteers in Service To America)**

- Since the 1960s, VISTAs have been helping to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.
- Members serve full-time for a year in nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based groups throughout the country to counter illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing, and bridge the digital divide.

## **AmeriCorps\*NCCC**

### **(National Civilian Community Corps)**

- AmeriCorps\*NCCC is a 10-month, full-time residential program for Americans between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Members serve in teams of 10 to 15 people and work in projects that improve public safety, public health, or provide disaster relief.

## Other Service Programs

### **Teach for America**

- Recruits graduating college seniors and recently graduated college students to serve as teachers in low-income communities across the United States.
- For more information, log on to: [teachforamerica.org](http://teachforamerica.org).

### **Peace Corps**

- Created in 1960, the Peace Corps has recruited Americans to serve in 136 host countries to work on many issues, including: education, youth outreach, and community development; health and HIV/AIDS; agriculture and environment; business development; and information technology.
- For more information, log on to: [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

### **Other Opportunities**

# Continuing Your Community Involvement

## Now vs. Then

A Year Ago	Today

**What are ways you can continue serving in your community?**

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**As a result of my year of service, I commit to continuing to change my community by:**

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## **Important Websites**

### **AmeriCorps**

**[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)**

Learn more about other AmeriCorps programs and download member forms. Once your service ends and you officially receive your education award, you can access your current balance in the National Service Trust from the website.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

**[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

Register online for student financial aid and learn about available federal loans and aid to finance your college education.

### **National AmeriCorps Association**

**[www.lifetimeofservice.org](http://www.lifetimeofservice.org)**

Connect with other AmeriCorps alumni, access member services that include low cost health insurance and networking opportunities, or browse through a directory of colleges and universities that match the education award.

### **National Service Alumni Network**

**[www.nsan.org](http://www.nsan.org)**

This organization offers networking opportunities for alumni from many different service programs.

### **Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovations**

**[www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org)**

This State of Florida website offers information on employment opportunities throughout Florida, including an online job database. The website also features a directory of One Stop Centers that offer reemployment and career building services.

### **USA Jobs, the official job website of the United States Federal Government**

**[www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)**

Browse through the online database of U.S. government for federal jobs. This website may be particularly useful for AmeriCorps\*VISTAs, who upon successful completion of one full year of service, earn noncompetitive eligibility for federal government jobs. This, however, does not mean you are guaranteed a federal civil service job.

### **Idealist.org**

**[www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)**

Explore volunteer and job opportunities in non-profit organizations both nationally and internationally.

### **Volunteer Match**

**[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)**

Continue the volunteerism spirit and browse through this online database of volunteer opportunities available in your community.

### **Volunteer Florida**

**[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)**

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Service, Volunteer Florida serves to strengthen communities through volunteerism and service. The website includes links to volunteer centers across Florida and can help you connect with volunteer opportunities in your community.

# AmeriCorps Florida Alumni Interest Form

Are you interested in continuing to support AmeriCorps after your service ends? Let us know today!

AmeriCorps Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city, state, and ZIP)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am/was:

- AmeriCorps State
- AmeriCorps National
- AmeriCorps\*VISTA
- AmeriCorps\*NCCC

As an alum, I am interested in continuing to support AmeriCorps by: *(check all that apply)*

- Advocating community support for AmeriCorps.
- Meeting regularly with AmeriCorps members to discuss community and volunteerism issues.
- Mentor AmeriCorps members as they serve.
- Network for job and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Recruiting and sharing my experiences with potential new AmeriCorps members in my community.
- Virtual volunteering via my computer to support AmeriCorps programs and members.
- Volunteering together with other alumni on a service project.
- Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments:

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Send to:



401 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-921-5172 voice/tty  
850-921-5146 fax



The following information will be used to improve future presentations. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. For each statement below, please circle the number that best reflects your opinion about the statement. You need not write your name on this form. Thank you.

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Disagree.....</b>				<b>Agree</b>
	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitator(s) were well prepared and knowledgeable.	1	2	3	4	5
The training objectives were clearly stated.	1	2	3	4	5
The training objectives were achieved.	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitator actively involved the participants.	1	2	3	4	5
The format used facilitated my learning.	1	2	3	4	5
The information I learned will be useful to me.	1	2	3	4	5
The visual aids and handouts were helpful.	1	2	3	4	5
The length of the training was appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5
The training room was comfortable and appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5
I would recommend this training to my peers.	1	2	3	4	5

What new skills and/or information did you learn from the training?

How will you apply the new skills or information to improve your program?

What would you change about the training?

*Please share additional comments on the back of this page.*

# **Additional Comments**