

AmeriCorps Alumni Speaking Script

Slide One

- Introduce yourself to audience.
 - Name
 - Current job title/role
 - AmeriCorps program served or program you are highlighting
- Thank audience for invitation to speak with them about service with AmeriCorps.
- Give an overview of what will be covered in the presentation:
 - What is AmeriCorps
 - Benefits of Service
 - Discuss AmeriCorps service opportunities
 - Share your experience or specific program
 - Questions

Slide Two

What is AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps is the federal agency that focuses on volunteerism and community service in the US. It provides opportunities for American adults to share their time and talents with the goal of getting things done across the country.

Slide Three

What makes AmeriCorps opportunities unique is that members can customize their experience. You have the option of choosing the length of your service. There are a few programs that have service term lengths that we will discuss later. Others you can decide if you are interested in part time or full-time opportunities. There are even summer positions that are available.

Secondly, you can choose the location of your service. If you are interested in staying in your own communities, traveling around the country or even relocate to a different city, AmeriCorps has an opportunity for you.

And lastly, serve with organizations that advance causes you care about. You can search for opportunities in areas of environmental stewardship, disaster response, education, economic opportunity, health or veterans and military families. There are thousands of service opportunities to choose from.

Slide Four

Seen here are the many nonprofits, community organizations and local and tribal governments AmeriCorps partners with. Our partners rely on AmeriCorps members, to reach their goals and fulfill their mission.

Slide Five

The model of AmeriCorps is to provide the funding and people power to address the needs of communities. You will have the unique opportunity to serve alongside these community members and organizations as you help to improve the lives of others and create change that lasts.

Slide Six

We've talked a lot about what AmeriCorps entails. Let's talk about the benefits of serving with AmeriCorps.

Slide Seven

There are several benefits of service while dedicating your time and talents in AmeriCorps.

- The first being, you're making a difference. Our members are driven by their motivation to make a difference in communities in need.
- You can serve anywhere in the US. Find opportunities in your own community, explore a new city, or even travel around the country during your service.
- Earn a modest living allowance. While this benefit varies from program to program, it is a great way to know that you can take care of your necessities while serving.
- Lastly, professional development. Gain valuable skills that not only enhance your AmeriCorps experience but also professional experience and growing your network.

Slide Eight

In terms of benefits after service, there are two we will focus on. The first, you can earn money for school. The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award can be used to repay qualifying student loans or future education costs. The Education Award is the equivalent of the Pell Grant each year.

You will also receive a competitive edge in your job search with over 600 Employer of National Service. At the completion of your service, you can the network, which connects you with hundred of employers from private, public, and nonprofit sectors who are committed to hiring AmeriCorps alumni.

Slide Nine – Slide 14 (AmeriCorps program slides)

This is your opportunity to talk more about the program that you completed when you were a member. Feel free to adjust slide deck to fit your audience and program(s) you will be discussing. Use [Sharing Your Story 101](#) as a guide.

*Slides have been formatted with AmeriCorps branding for ease of use.

Slide 10 AmeriCorps NCCC & FEMA Corps

First, we have AmeriCorps NCCC and FEMA Corps, which give young adults the opportunity to strengthen communities and develop leadership skills through direct (hands-on), team-based service. Members will work with multiple sponsor organizations over the course of 10 months or 3 months during the summer to meet the variety of community needs. Individuals 18-26 years of age may serve as team members, while anyone over the age of 18 can serve as a team leader.

Slide 11 AmeriCorps Seniors

Those who are nearing retirement, or for those looking for volunteer opportunities for your loved ones, there is AmeriCorps Seniors. This program provides Americans 55 years and older the opportunity to engage in volunteer service. Seniors can choose from three service programs, the Foster Grandparent Program mentoring, teaching, or acting as role models for teens at local schools or community centers. The RSVP Program performing a wide range of services such as supporting workforce development, helping with food security or other critical community needs. Or the Senior Companion Program befriending older adults and assisting with their daily living tasks at a supportive housing program.

Slide 12 AmeriCorps State & National

Our AmeriCorps State & National network offers several service opportunities. It is what we like to call the matchmaker of national service. Interested applicants can select from thousands of organizations that see service as a solution to local, regional, and national challenges that work on issues like education, public health, environmental preservation, and more.

Slide 13 Public Health AmeriCorps

Public Health AmeriCorps helps meet the public health needs of local communities and provides pathways to quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training.

The COVID-19 pandemic intensified existing challenges in our country and highlighted the need for more people to pursue careers in public health. Public Health AmeriCorps provides a valuable opportunity to engage new communities and individuals in public health. Adults of all ages and education backgrounds are eligible to serve with Public Health AmeriCorps. There are a wide range of project areas that members may focus on, including health equity, COVID-19 recovery, behavioral health, and reducing barriers to care. Public Health AmeriCorps can also provide a steppingstone into permanent jobs in the public health field.

Slide 14 AmeriCorps VISTA

And finally, the AmeriCorps VISTA program gives members the opportunity to live and work alongside community leaders, for one year or a shorter summer term, to expand the impact of nonprofit and community-based organizations. Open to adults 18 years or older VISTA also can be a step for those looking to re-enter the workforce or pivot to a new career. VISTA members serve in a professional setting focused on anti-poverty solutions.

Slide 15

How do you decide which AmeriCorps program is best for you? Here some factors to consider when finding your fit.

Slide 16

First, your age. Some opportunities may require you be at least 18 years of age and some opportunities are created for individuals who are 55 and older.

Location is also important when selecting your service opportunity. Do you want the opportunity to serve in your own community, or are you looking for the chance to explore new cities or regions?

The time you are looking to commit to national service is also an important factor to consider. You may only have the time to serve for three months during the summer, or you may be looking for a full-time, yearlong service opportunity.

Last, consider your areas of interest. There are opportunities for service in disaster response, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures and public health and veteran and military services.

Considering these four factors can help you narrow down your choices and best find your fit for service.

Slide 17

Use this slide to share your own AmeriCorps experience or specific program. *(Can be moved around to fit your presentation flow)* The questions below can be used to tell your story.

1. Initial interest/discovery in AmeriCorps
2. “Fit Factors” you considered (Location, time, age, interest) and how you selected your program (unique benefits of that program, how it matched your future care goals)
3. How your experience impacted your future (career path, opportunities)
4. Tips you may have to help others find their fit

Slide 18

Are you ready to apply? Here are few steps you’ll need to take before starting your service journey.

Step 1- Search opportunities via My.AmeriCorps.gov. There you will find the program, location, and time commitment that fits you

Step 2- Create your profile. Complete profile application with some basic information and verify your email address.

Step 3- Complete an application. Enter your education, professional experience, skills, and names of two references to create a “common: app.

Step 4- Finally, submit your application. Apply to one or more opportunities that interest you the most. You can apply to as many opportunities as you’d like.

Slide 19

We have come to the end of the presentation. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding AmeriCorps, [my experience or program] and the benefits that are offered.

*After the Q&A: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share AmeriCorps' many service programs and for your interest in being a part of the solution through service.

Be sure to follow all of AmeriCorps social media accounts @AmeriCorps on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.