



Colorado Campus Compact UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program

2010-2011

Member Handbook UCAN Serve Member Schools

ARIZONA

Arizona State University
Mesa Community College

UTAH

College of Eastern Utah
Davis Applied Tech College
Dixie State College
Salt Lake Community College
Southern Utah University
University of Utah
Utah State University
Utah Valley University
Weber State University
Westminster College

VIRGINIA

Mary Baldwin College
Virginia Tech

COLORADO

Adams State College
Colorado Christian University
Colorado College
Colorado I Have a Dream
Foundation
Colorado State University
Colorado State University -
Pueblo
Denver Public Schools
Fort Lewis College
Front Range Community
College
Johnson & Wales University
Lamar Community College
Mesa County Valley School
District 51
Mesa State College
Metropolitan State College of
Denver
Morgan Community College
Naropa University
Newman University
Northeastern Junior College
Red Rocks Community College
Regis University
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Colorado,
Colorado Springs
University of Colorado, Denver
University of Denver
University of Northern
Colorado

NORTH CAROLINA

Appalachian State University
Brevard College
Central Piedmont
Community College
Davidson County
Community College
Duke University
East Carolina University
Fayetteville State University
Gardner-Webb University
Greensboro College
High Point University
Johnson C. Smith University
Lenior-Rhyne University
Mars Hill College
North Carolina State
University
North Carolina Wesleyan
College
Peace College
Pfeiffer University
Queens University of
Charlotte
University of North Carolina-
Asheville
Universtiy of North Carolina-
Charlotte
University of North Carolina-
Greensboro
University of North Carolina-
Pembroke
University of North Carolina-
Wilmington
Wake Forest University
Wake Technical Community
College
Warren Wilson College
Western Peidmont
Community College
Wingate University

MONTANA

Blackfeet Community College
Carroll College
Dawson Community College
Flathead Valley Community
College
Fort Peck Community College
Little Big Horn College
Miles Community College
Montana State University -
Billings
Montana State University -
Bozeman
Montana State University -
Northern
Montana State University -
Great Falls
Montana Tech of University
of Montana
Rocky Mountain College
Salish Kootenai College
University of Montana -
Missoula
University of Montana -
Western
University of Montana - Helena
University of Great Falls



UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

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UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Service Scholarships for Students

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SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

If you are involved in the following service activities, you may be eligible for a service scholarship:

- Tutoring/Mentoring K-12 students
- Community-based service addressing human needs
- Community work study position in a local service agency
- Participating in service or service-learning activities

Note: Financial need is **NOT** a consideration for this scholarship.

How it works:

Engage in service activities and report time and progress to a sponsor,
Choose from one of four terms of service, correlating to four different scholarship amounts:

300 service hours in 12 months = \$1,132.28
450 service hours in 12 months = \$1,415.34
675 service hours in 12 months = \$2,038.10
900 service hours in 24 months = \$2,675.00

Accumulate your service hours over the course of a year,
Complete your service hours, and
Earn a service scholarship!

Is the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program for you?

COMMUNITY WORK STUDY:

As a community-based work study student, your hours working in tutoring, mentoring, or addressing human needs **WILL** count toward the scholarship.

VOLUNTEERING:

If you are involved in a volunteer program that addresses tutoring, mentoring and human needs, your hours **WILL** count toward the scholarship.

NURSING CLINICAL ROTATIONS, SOCIOLOGY FIELDWORK OR STUDENT TEACHING:

If you are involved in an unpaid student teaching position, practicum, or fieldwork for education, sociology, nursing, etc. in which you are addressing unmet human needs in a community, your hours **WILL** count toward the scholarship.

For more information contact the
UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on your campus.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

UCAN Serve & AmeriCorps

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Getting Things Done in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Utah and Virginia

Gain an experience of a lifetime. Unite with diverse people to improve your community. Gain leadership and job skills. Pay your school tuition and student loans.

What is the AmeriCorps Program?

AmeriCorps is a national service program initiated by President Clinton, often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps.” AmeriCorps provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for their service to their community. Nationally, over 75,000 AmeriCorps Members annually help to meet the nation’s critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, homeland security and the environment.

What Do AmeriCorps Members Do?

In the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program, Members provide service diverse as the individuals themselves. The UCAN Serve Program has three priority areas:

Education
Public Health & Safety
Community Strengthening

Depending on your school’s program, individuals may tutor and mentor K-12 children and teens, recruit and train volunteers, develop plans to revitalize neighborhoods and the environment, serve in community health organizations, develop and promote service programs on campus, or develop partnerships with local community agencies. Your school may have a program in place or may allow you to choose your own service project.

If you are already involved in service work, school-related fieldwork, clinical rotations, or student teaching, AmeriCorps is a natural fit. Plus, as an AmeriCorps Member, you will be invited to attend statewide workshops and conferences and participate in leadership training and service events.

What are the Benefits of Joining UCAN Serve AmeriCorps?

In exchange for valuable campus-community service, UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Members receive a service scholarship that can be applied to qualified school loans or to finance undergraduate and graduate school, or vocational training. The amount of the award depends on the length of service. UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program offers several terms of service, so no matter what your schedule, completing service is manageable and fun.

How Many Hours Can I Serve? What Type of Service Scholarship Can I Earn?

Choose from one of four terms of service, correlating to four different scholarship amounts

300 service hours in 12 months = \$1,132.28
450 service hours in 12 months = \$1,415.34
675 service hours in 12 months = \$2,038.10
900 service hours in 24 months = \$2,675.00

Benefits beyond the education award:

- Leadership training
- Job experience and skills
- Civic education
- Resume booster
- Can be combined with work-study
- No repayment of student loans while you are serving

AmeriCorps and Work-Study

If you qualify for Financial Aid Work Study, the hours you spend in the community or promoting service as a Community Work Study can be used toward your AmeriCorps commitment. If approved, you will receive an education award in addition to your hourly work-study wage.

What are the Program Qualifications?

Program qualifications vary depending on the objectives of each school's program. However, UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Members must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or Lawful Permanent Resident Aliens; be at least 17 years of age; and have a high school diploma, GED, or work to obtain one within their term of service.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program Contacts

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps programs in colleges and universities throughout Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Utah and Virginia are currently recruiting Members. For more information on how you can make a difference through national service, please contact the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on your campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL CAMPUS COORDINATORS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.COLORADOCAMPUSCOMPACT.ORG AND CLICKING ON UCAN SERVE. CAMPUS-BASED INFORMATION IS LISTED UNDER CAMPUS PARTNERS.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Program Specifics

B

- Who?
- Where?
- What?
- What Not?

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Identification/Eligibility Requirement

To be eligible to enroll in AmeriCorps, an individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
- Be at least 17 years old (or at least 16 years of age if the Member is out of school and a participant in a youth corps or a program for certain disadvantaged individuals);
- Have a high school diploma or GED or agree to obtain one while serving; and
- Have successfully passed a criminal background check.

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The Corporation for National and Community Service requires one of the following pieces of identification:

- A birth certificate showing that you were born in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U. S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa or the Northern Marina Islands.
- An unexpired U.S. Passport.
- A Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. citizen (FS 240) issued by the State Department.
- A Certificate of Birth-Foreign Service (FS 545) issued by the State Department.
- A Certificate of Report of Birth (DS-1350) issued by the State Department.
- A Certificate of Naturalization (Form 550 or N-5700) issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- A Certificate of Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-561) issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- A Primary Documentation of Status as a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Criminal Background Check

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The Corporation for National and Community Service has established the following provision: Background criminal record checks are required, to the extent permitted by state and federal law, for “any individual who receives a Corporation grant-funded education award.”

Therefore, all UCAN Serve Members are required to clear a criminal background check (CBC). This is to be completed upon application, prior to beginning your term in AmeriCorps. Second-term Members will not need a CBC for your second term, if that term begins less than 30 days after the end date of your first term. For Members who have already completed a CBC prior service (through your academic program or site placement) in UCAN Serve will need another check. UCAN Serve will cover the cost of all CBCs required to enroll.

Individuals may not participate in any capacity within UCAN Serve if they are currently listed on the National Sex Offender Registry or have been convicted of murder.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Criminal Background Check

HOW ARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS CONDUCTED?

Written permission is obtained from all applicants prior to conducting background checks. If permission is not granted, that individual will not be allowed to serve as a UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Member. CBCs will be completed by the UCAN Serve Coordinator before that individual is enrolled as a UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Member. Each Member’s name, birth date, and social security number are provided to ebiinc.com for an online search of various state and federal databases. The Coordinator then reviews the findings from the check and ensures that the individual is eligible to serve in AmeriCorps.

WHEN WILL MY CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK BE COMPLETED?

Criminal background checks through ebiinc.com take between 5-7 business days to complete. Please allow enough time during the enrollment process for the check to be completed. Members cannot be enrolled or log any hours until the findings have been returned to your Coordinator.

HOW ARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK RESULTS EVALUATED?

Results will be kept in the strictest of confidence. Colorado Campus Compact staff and your local UCAN Serve Coordinator will have access to the results and evaluate them. CBC results may indicate an individual’s prior felony and/or misdemeanor convictions. All prior convictions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the following being cause for immediate disqualification for service in AmeriCorps:

- Identification on the National Criminal Research Database as a sex offender
- Conviction of murder

Various campuses and campus programs have their own criteria for criminal background check findings that immediately disqualify an individual from serving in their program. Please refer to your campus’ specific criteria for more information.

NOTE: Results from criminal background checks will not be maintained in the Member file, but kept in the EBI, Inc. database.

Notice Regarding Background Investigation

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program (“the Company” or “Employer”) may obtain information about you from a consumer reporting agency for employment purposes. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, EBI, Inc. is considered a “consumer reporting agency” (CRA), and the reports provided to UCAN Serve are considered “consumer reports.” Thus, you may be the subject of a “consumer report” and/or an “investigative consumer report” which may include information about your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and/or mode of living, and which can involve personal interviews with employers and/or associates. Please be advised that the nature and scope of the most common form of investigative consumer report obtained with regard to applicants for employment is an investigation into your education and/or employment history conducted by Employment Background Investigations, Inc. (EBI), P.O. Box 629, Owings Mills, MD. 21117, 1-800-324-7700. These reports may be obtained at any time after receipt of your authorization and, if you are hired, throughout your employment. You have the right, upon written request made within a reasonable time after receipt of this notice, to request disclosure of the nature and score of any investigative consumer report and a Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The scope of this notice and authorization is all-encompassing, however, allowing Employer to obtain from EBI all manner of consumer reports and investigative consumer reports now and, if you are hired, throughout the course of your employment to the extent permitted by law. As a result, you should carefully consider whether to exercise your right to request disclosure of the nature and score of any investigative consumer report.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Below is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.ftc.gov/credit or write to: Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

You must be told if information in your file has been used against you. Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the information.

You have the right to know what is in your file. You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (CONTINUED)

A person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
You are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
Your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
You are on public assistance;
You are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

Additionally, all consumers are entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See www.ftc.gov/credit for additional information.

You have the right to ask for a credit score. Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.

You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See www.ftc.gov/credit for an explanation of dispute procedures.

Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. Inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.

Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information. In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report native information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.

Access to your file is limited. A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need—usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.

You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers. A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. For more information, go to www.ftc.gov/credit.

You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report. Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

You may seek damages from violators. If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.

Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights. For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/credit.

STATES MAY ENFORCE THE FCRA, AND MANY STATES HAVE THEIR OWN CONSUMER REPORTING LAWS. IN SOME CASES, YOU MAY HAVE MORE RIGHTS UNDER STATE LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR STATE OR LOCAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY OR YOUR STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The UCAN Serve Program is designed to meet community needs in three specific areas:

Education
Public Health & Safety
Community Strengthening

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Service examples include:

EDUCATION:

Tutoring, mentoring, enrichment activities, family literacy programs and extended day activities. If you are serving a nonprofit organization or public school that provides these services, you may be eligible for the program.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY:

Performing activities in nonprofit or government hospitals, fire stations, community health organizations, police stations, wildfire crews, crisis services, mental health organizations, and hospices.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING:

Serving in a nonprofit organization or government agency recruiting volunteers, delivering of human services, distributing information, providing referrals, revitalizing neighborhoods, building partnerships, building capacity, etc.



“As a UCAN Serve Member, I was provided with the opportunity to advance my personal and professional development. During my graduate program in the school of social work, I was given the chance to volunteer at the Bridge Project and Denver Health’s HIV Primary Care Clinic. These opportunities not only allowed me to give back to my community and help others, but they also provided me with hands on skills and knowledge in my field. I loved being a UCAN Serve volunteer and so will you!”

— Ruth Jones, UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Member, University of Denver

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Capacity Building Activities

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Capacity Building

AmeriCorps Members are bound by a ratio of direct (80%) and indirect (20%) service hours that may be counted toward a service term. Under the 2003 AmeriCorps Guidelines, this ratio does not change; however, Members are allowed to engage in some direct service capacity building activities. AmeriCorps Members are not permitted to count administrative support hours toward their term of service, regardless of the site in which those hours are served. When deciding whether an activity is capacity building or administrative support, ask the following question, “Does this activity provide any direct benefit to the greater community, not solely to the nonprofit organization or campus?”

Volunteer Management

AmeriCorps Members may recruit, train and coordinate volunteers. This can include developing training or other materials to use with those volunteers, planning volunteer recognition events, doing volunteer follow-up, and providing ongoing volunteer support. AmeriCorps activities must also provide benefits to the host organization that would not be there without that Member’s participation.

EXAMPLE

An AmeriCorps Member serves with the campus Service Learning Office identifying where and how academic departments are employing service learning in their courses. The Member surveys faculty and staff and develops a comprehensive list of relevant courses and their accompanying community-based partners. Along with campus mapping, the Member creates a service learning handbook for nonprofit organizations, explaining various models for campus and community partnerships. All of these hours count as direct service.

Community Outreach

Capacity building AmeriCorps activities connect the nonprofit host site to the local community, connect the campus to community-based organizations or individuals, inform or educate community members about available services, or create partnerships between nonprofit organizations. Capacity building can also include research or reporting that benefits local communities or community-based organizations.

EXAMPLE

An AmeriCorps Member serves with a nonprofit to expand that organization’s reach within the community. The Member engages in community mapping to identify where needs are critical, and then contacts other organizations to ascertain available resources. Finally, the Member creates a dissemination plan for the site to impact a great number of clients. All of these hours count as direct service.

Employee Displacement

Members may not, as part of their AmeriCorps hours, perform services that have been assigned to an employee or to an employee who has recently resigned or has been discharged. Also, programs may not use a Member in a way that will displace an employee or position.

EXAMPLE

An AmeriCorps Member takes over the responsibilities formerly assigned to the Administrative Assistant at the nonprofit organization. The Member is filing case reports, answering phone calls, and taking care of the fiscal management of the agency. These hours are purely administrative and do not count as direct nor indirect service.

AmeriCorps Members, like private citizens, may participate in any of the activities listed below on their own time, at their own expense, and at their own initiative. Any individual may take part in the prohibited activities, but they may not count that time toward an AmeriCorps term of service and may not wear AmeriCorps service gear in such instances.

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Prohibited activities fit into seven primary categories:

1. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Participating in efforts to influence legislation, including state or local ballot initiatives, or lobbying for your program;

Organizing a letter-writing campaign to Congress;

Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;

Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;

Registering voters;

Organizing or participating in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;

2. RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Engaging in religious instruction;

Conducting worship services;

Providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship;

Constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship;

Maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship;

Engaging in any form of religious proselytizing;

3. FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES

Providing a direct benefit to a for-profit entity, a labor union, a partisan political organization, or an organization engaged in religious activities;

4. UNION ACTIVITIES

Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;

Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;

5. ABORTION SERVICES

Providing abortion services or making referrals for such services;

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Prohibited Activities

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6. SAFETY FACTORS

Participating in activities that pose a significant safety risk to participants;

7. FUNDRAISING

Assisting their organizations with major fundraising efforts. However, corporation policy permits some limited activities related to fundraising by AmeriCorps Members to the extent that such activities:

Provide immediate and direct support to a specific and direct service activity;

Fall within the program's approved direct service objectives;

Are not the primary activity of the program;

Involve in-kind donations rather than cash donations.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES MEMBERS MAY PERFORM INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

Seeking donations of books from companies and individuals for a program in which volunteers tutor children to read.

Writing a grant proposal to secure resources to support the training of volunteers.

Securing supplies and equipment from the community to enable volunteers to help build houses for low-income individuals.

EXAMPLE

Securing financial resources from the community to assist a faith-based or community-based organization in launching or expanding a program that provides social services to the members of the community and is delivered, in whole or in part, through the members of the faith-based organization.

Seeking a donation from alumni of the program for specific service projects being performed by current Members.

Soliciting for in-kind donations (Member solicits recycled lumber to repair a home damaged by a hurricane).

Organizing a bake sale or yard sale to support a program or project.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES MEMBERS MAY NOT PERFORM INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

EXAMPLE

Soliciting funding for an organization's general operating expenses or endowment (as opposed to project).

Writing a grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service or to any other Federal agency.

HOW MUCH TIME MAY AN AMERICORPS MEMBER DEDICATE TO FUNDRAISING?

An AmeriCorps Member may spend no more than 10% of his or her originally agreed-upon term of service, as reflected in the Member enrollment in the National Service Trust.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Participation and Disability Benefits

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Participation in AmeriCorps can affect disability benefits for some Members. However, because UCAN Serve Members do not receive a living stipend, you are less likely to have your disability benefits negatively impacted by participation in AmeriCorps. The following guidelines will help participants navigate through the process, recognizing that disability benefit decisions are ultimately made on a case-by-case basis.

The education award is considered taxable income for Members in the year in which the award is used, not earned. There is no effect on disability benefits during the service year because the participant has not yet received the education award.

Members will not lose disability benefits as a result of participating in AmeriCorps. However, it is possible that the education award could trigger a decrease in monthly SSI benefits after the education award is used. There are several strategies for preventing any decrease or negative effect on disability benefits:

Take advantage of work incentive options and income exclusions. Work incentives are special rules that allow persons with disabilities receiving SSDI or SSI to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medicaid. Participants can find out more about these incentives and options by calling 1-800-772-1213 or visiting the website at www.ssa.gov.

SSI recipients serving in AmeriCorps automatically qualify for the Student Child Earned Income Exclusion if recipients are under the age of 22 and are neither married nor the head of household. This income exclusion can be up to \$5,200.00 per year, far exceeding the education award amount.

If SSI recipients use their education award to pay for tuition fees and other necessary education expenses, then the award does NOT count as taxable income and will not affect disability benefits. This exclusion does not cover amounts used or set aside for room and board or to repay qualified student loans.

This last piece of information is especially helpful to AmeriCorps Members with disabilities.

IF MEMBERS USE THEIR EDUCATION AWARD TO PAY FOR CURRENT TUITION COSTS AT THE INSTITUTION AT WHICH THEY ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED, THEN IT WILL NOT AFFECT THEIR DISABILITY BENEFITS AT ALL BECAUSE IT WILL NOT COUNT AS TAXABLE INCOME.

Once Members receive their education award, they issue payment using their My AmeriCorps Portal account to the financial aid office at their education institution and have the award transferred directly to the campus. Check with your financial aid officers to ensure the award is applied to tuition costs and not to room and board so that it will not be taxable.

Other resources for Members with disabilities that further explain the above strategies can be found at www.ssa.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/ and at www.ssa.gov/odhome. Information specific to AmeriCorps and disability is located at www.nationalservice.org/about/ogc/ac_disability.html.

IF YOU NEED MORE GUIDANCE AROUND DISABILITY BENEFITS AND THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR ON CAMPUS.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Grievance Procedure

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In the event that informal efforts to resolve disputes in the UCAN Serve program are unsuccessful, AmeriCorps Members, labor organizations, and other interested individuals may seek resolution through the following grievance procedures. These procedures may apply to, but are not limited to, service-related issues, such as assignments, evaluations, suspensions, or release for cause; as well as issues related to non-selection of Members, and displacement of employees, or duplication of activities by AmeriCorps.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

ADR is available, but must be selected within 45 days of the underlying UCAN Serve dispute. If an aggrieved party chooses ADR as a first option, a neutral party designated by the program will attempt to facilitate a mutually agreeable resolution. The neutral party must not have participated in any previous decisions concerning the issue in dispute. ADR is confidential, non-binding, and informal. No communications or proceedings of ADR may be referred to at the grievance hearing or arbitration stages. The neutral party may not participate in subsequent proceedings.

If ADR is chosen by the aggrieved party, the deadlines for convening a hearing and of a hearing decision are 30 and 60 days respectively. They are held in abeyance until the conclusion of ADR. At the initial session of ADR, the neutral party must provide written notice to the aggrieved party of his or her right to request a hearing. If ADR does not resolve the matter within 30 calendar days, the neutral party must again notify the aggrieved party of his or her right to request a hearing. At any time, the aggrieved party may decline ADR and proceed directly to the hearing process.

Grievance Hearing

An aggrieved party may request a grievance hearing without participating in ADR or, if ADR is selected, it fails to result in a mutually agreeable resolution. The aggrieved party should make a written request for a hearing to: UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program Director, Colorado Campus Compact, 3333 Regis Blvd., B-7, Denver, CO 80221-1099. Except for a grievance that alleges fraud or criminal activity, a request for a hearing must be made within one year after the date of the alleged occurrence. At the time a request for a hearing is made, the UCAN Serve program will make available to the aggrieved party information that is relied upon in its disciplinary decision.

The UCAN Serve program will arrange for one or more pre-hearing conferences at a time mutually convenient to the parties. Pre-hearing conferences are not a substitute for a hearing. They are intended to facilitate a mutually agreeable resolution of the matter to make a hearing unnecessary or to narrow the issues to be decided at the hearing. The format of the pre-hearing conference may be flexible, involving meetings with one party at a time and/or with both parties together. Pre-hearing conferences are conducted by the Member's site coordinator.

The hearing will be conducted by the UCAN Serve Program Director, or a neutral third party agreed upon by disputing parties. The person conducting the hearing may not have participated in any previous decisions concerning the issue in dispute. (Note: To ensure impartiality in the hearing, programs may choose to designate someone other than the Program Director to approve disciplinary actions regarding Members, leaving the program director available to conduct grievance hearings.) A hearing will be held no later than 30 calendar days after the filing of the grievance, and a written decision will be made no later than 60 calendar days after filing.

Binding Arbitration

An aggrieved party may request binding arbitration if a grievance hearing decision is adverse or if no decision is made within 60 days of the filing of the grievance. The arbitrator will be independent and selected by agreement of the parties. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will appoint one within 15 calendar days after receiving a request from one of the parties.

An arbitration proceeding will be held no later than 45 calendar days after the request for arbitration, or no later than 30 calendar days after the appointment of an arbitrator by the Corporation's CEO. An arbitration decision will be made no later than 30 calendar days after the commencement of the arbitration proceeding.

The cost of arbitration will be divided evenly between the parties, unless the aggrieved party prevails, in which case the program will pay the total cost of the proceeding, as well as the prevailing party's attorney's fees.

B

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Drug-Free Workplace Policy

B

Purpose and Goal

The UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program is committed to protecting the safety, health and well being of all members and other individuals in community-based sites. We recognize that alcohol abuse and drug use pose a significant threat to our goals. We have established a drug-free workplace program that balances our respect for individuals with the need to maintain an alcohol and drug-free environment. The UCAN Serve Program strongly encourages members to voluntarily seek help with drug and alcohol problems.

Covered Workers

Any individual who conducts business for the organization, is applying for a position, or is conducting business on the organization's property is covered by our drug-free workplace policy. Our policy includes, but is not limited to Members.

Applicability

Our drug-free workplace policy is intended to apply whenever anyone is representing or conducting business for the organization. Therefore, this policy applies during all service hours and whenever conducting business or representing the organization.

Prohibited Behavior

It is a violation of our drug-free workplace policy to use, possess, sell, trade, and/or offer for sale alcohol, illegal drugs or intoxicants.

Notification of Convictions

Any member who is convicted of a criminal drug violation in the workplace must notify the organization in writing within five calendar days of the conviction. The organization will take appropriate action within 30 days of notification. Federal contracting agencies will be notified when appropriate.

Consequences

One of the goals of our drug-free workplace program is to encourage members to voluntarily seek help with alcohol and/or drug problems. If, however, an individual violates the policy, the consequences are serious.

In the case of applicants, if he or she violates the drug-free workplace policy, the offer of enrollment can be withdrawn. The applicant may reapply after one year and must successfully pass a pre-employment drug test.

If a Member violates the policy, he/she will be terminated from his/her term of service.

Assistance

The UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program recognizes that alcohol and drug abuse and addiction are treatable illnesses. We also realize that early intervention and support improve the success of rehabilitation. To support our members, our drug-free workplace policy encourages Members to:

Seek help if they are concerned that they or their family members may have a drug and/or alcohol problem.

Utilize the services of qualified professionals in the community to assess the seriousness of suspected drug or alcohol problems and identify appropriate sources of help.

Confidentiality

All information received by the organization through the drug-free workplace program is confidential communication. Access to this information is limited to those who have a legitimate need to know in compliance with relevant laws and management policies.

Shared Responsibility

A safe and productive drug-free workplace is achieved through cooperation and shared responsibility. Both employees and management have important roles to play.

All members are required to not report to their service site or be subject to duty while their ability to perform their service is impaired due to on- or off-duty use of alcohol or other drugs.

In addition, members are encouraged to:

Be concerned about working in a safe environment.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to:

Inform members of the drug-free workplace policy.

Communication

Communicating our drug-free workplace policy to both supervisors and members is critical to our success. To ensure all members are aware of their role in supporting our drug-free workplace program:

All members will receive a written copy of the policy in this Member Handbook.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Notice of Nondiscrimination

B

It is against the law for organizations that receive federal financial assistance from the Corporation for National and Community Service to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, age, political affiliation, or religion. It is also unlawful to retaliate against any person who, or organization that, files a complaint about such discrimination. In addition to filing a complaint with local and state agencies that are responsible for resolving discrimination complaints, you may bring a complaint to the attention of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

If you believe that you or others have been discriminated against, or if you want more information, contact:

**Office of Civil Rights and Inclusiveness
Corporation for National and Community Service**

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20525

(202) 606-7503 (Voice)

(202) 606-2799 (TTY)

(202) 606-3465 (FAX)

eo@cns.gov (e-mail)

or:

**Colorado Campus Compact
UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program**

3333 Regis Blvd. B-7
Denver, CO 80221-1099

(303) 458-4193 (Voice)

(303) 964-5299 (FAX)

ucan@regis.edu (email)

- **Teacher Education**
Site Placement Criteria
- **Education Service Activities**
Direct Service & Member Development (indirect service)

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Teacher Education Site Criteria

In order to qualify as an appropriate site placement for the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps program, a K-12 public school must be defined as high-need by meeting one of the following categories:

Title I status

Free and Reduced Lunch percentages (greater than or equal to 50%)

Student mobility percentages (greater than or equal to 40%)

Statewide Academic Assessment Tests (low or unsatisfactory rating)

Student drop-out rates (greater than 5%)

This information can be obtained through individual schools or through the State Department of Education website.

Students may also qualify separately from the site placement if they are focusing their education service in one of the following specific academic areas:

Special Education

ESL/Bilingual Education

Math and Science Education

These academic areas have been defined both nationally and regionally as areas of critical teacher shortages for K-12 public schools.

If neither the site placement qualifications nor the area of emphasis for service match with the above criteria, the student will not be eligible for participation in AmeriCorps through the UCAN Serve program.

In acknowledgement of the importance of training and reflection in providing community service, the AmeriCorps Program allows for an 80%:20% ratio between direct and indirect service provided by Members.

At least 80% of a Member's service hours must be completed in direct service, and the remaining 20% can be credited towards education, reflection and/or training that participants need to perform well in their chosen service project. Direct service is working directly with people to make change, or doing work that is involved in making that change. Indirect service activities are those that are instructional and support a Member's ability to serve effectively in their placement.

Direct Service activities include:

- Teaching students in grades K-12
- Mentoring or counseling concerning school success
- Recruiting, training, placing volunteers for educational purposes
- Developing curriculum, or other educational materials
- Performing case management (i.e. following up on student performance, working with teachers to integrate class instruction, preparing learning tools tailored to student needs, etc.)
- Assembling book collections, maintaining libraries, organizing a book drive
- Providing in-class enrichment (such as speakers, presenters), or out-of-class enrichment (such as field trips)
- Conducting home visits for instruction
- Working with parents and families on educational needs and family literacy programs
- Teaching GED or basic skills development
- Tutoring, either 1-on-1 or small group instruction
- Participating in instruction-based faculty/peer meetings
- Providing after-school enrichment programs (e.g. concerts, coaching, tutoring, mentoring)

Member Development (indirect service) activities include:

- Attending professional training and development directed at improving education skills
- Attending teacher education classes that provide added skills/knowledge for direct service activities
- Seeking out personal Member development that improves educational support skills
- Filling out monthly timesheets related to the program
- Observing students/teacher to improve educational support skills
- Attending meetings for reflection, planning, and peer exchanges
- Developing, implementing and/or participating in peer training
- Attending workshops/in-services
- Attending conferences/conventions

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Education Award

- What is an education award?
- What is it used for?
- How long do I have to use it?
- What if I need a paper voucher?
- Can I access my account online?

D

When you successfully complete your term of service, your program will notify the National Service Trust that you are eligible for an education award. You will be able to access your education award online, within 2 weeks of the Trust receiving the notification.

Highlights

You have 7 years from the date you completed your service to use the award.

You can use your education award to repay qualified student loans, to pay for current educational expenses (cost of attendance), and to attend an approved school-to-work program.

Payments are made to the school or lender, not to you.

The award can be used for degree and non-degree courses at a Title IV school.

Payments made from your education award account and interest payments are considered taxable income.

Overview of the Education Award Process

To qualify for an education award, you must successfully complete the required term of service for the program in which you are participating. It is up to your UCAN Serve Coordinator to determine if you have successfully completed your term and are eligible for the education award. Upon notification that you are eligible for an award, you may access your award online by registering for a My AmeriCorps Portal account with the National Service Trust (see section titled “Exit Process and Online Payment System” for instructions). This online system is what you will use to authorize a payment to be made from your education award account.

You can use the education award to:

Repay qualified student loans;

Pay for CURRENT educational expenses (cost of attendance) at a qualified institution of higher education; or

Pay expenses incurred while participating in an approved school-to-work opportunities system program.

You must use your education award within 7 years of the completion of your term of service. It can be divided up and used in any way you choose, as long as it is for authorized expenses. For example, a portion of the award could be applied to repay existing qualified student loans and the remainder saved to pay for authorized college costs in the future.

When you're ready to use the award, you will use your My AmeriCorps Portal account (online payment system) to authorize a payment. This sends an automated email to your lender or financial aid office, who then certifies you have an outstanding balance due. Once the payment is certified, the National Service Trust makes a payment on your behalf. By law, payments are made to the lender or to the campus, not to you directly. You can track your payment using your My AmeriCorps Portal account.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Education Award

What Are Qualified Loans?

Qualified student loans are student loans, in your name, backed by the federal government. These loans also include those made to students by a state agency, such as the Alaska Commission on Higher Education, and loans issued through a state institution of higher education to cover all or part of a student's cost of attendance.

If you do not know whether or not your loans are qualified, you should ask your lenders. For federally-backed loans, there should be a citation on the loan papers referring to Title IV of the Higher Education Act. For loans made by a state agency, the state agency should be listed as the "maker" of the loan on the promissory note. When a loan is refinanced or consolidated, the new loan must meet the definition of qualified student loan in order for a payment to be made using an education award. The original loan no longer exists.

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMMON QUALIFIED STUDENT LOANS



Federal Student Loans: Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Supplemental Loans to Students (SLS), Federal Consolidated Loans, Guaranteed Student Loans, Federally Insured Student Loans (FISL), Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford, Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Ford Loans, Direct Consolidated Loans, National Defense Student Loan, National Direct Student Loans, Perkins Loans, Health Education Assistance Loans (HEAL), Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL), Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS), Nursing Student Loans (NSL), Primary Care Loans (PCL).

Loans made directly to students in degree programs by a state college or university.

What Are Qualified Institutions of Higher Education?

For purposes of the education award, a qualified institution is one that participates in the U.S. Department of Education's student assistance program. It has an agreement with the Department of Education whereby students at that school are eligible to receive at least some type of federal financial assistance to attend the school. These are sometimes called Title IV schools. You do not have to apply for financial aid to use your education award, but the school must be one that participates in the federal student aid program.

A school may be accredited and even offer graduate degrees. However, unless it is a Title IV school the education award cannot be used there. Most postsecondary educational institutions in the U.S. are Title IV. Thousands of technical and trade schools are Title IV as well. Art schools, beauty schools, and truck driving schools may be Title IV.

Determine if a School is Qualified

Ask the school's financial aid office if it is a Title IV institution. If it is Title IV, the education award can be used there. Call the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Information Center toll-free at 1-800-433-3243. Search the Department's website at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWWebApp/FSLookupServlet>

If a foreign school participates in the Department of Education's Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, the AmeriCorps education award can also be used there. Use the number above to find out if a particular international school participates in the FFEL program. Another way to approach attending schools overseas is to obtain a qualified student loan to attend the foreign school and use the education award to repay the loan.

Qualified Expenses to Attend School

The AmeriCorps education award can be used to pay current educational expenses. Current educational expenses are expenses that were incurred by you after you first enrolled in an AmeriCorps term of service. The award cannot be used to pay for expenses that pre-date your involvement with AmeriCorps.

Degree or Certificate Program

If you want to use your award in a degree or certificate program it can be used to pay some or all of your Cost of Attendance. The term Cost of Attendance (COA) was developed by the U.S. Department of Education for use by Title IV schools. It is a school's estimate of what it will cost for a student to attend that school for a specific period of time. COA can include tuition and fees as well as allowances for books, supplies, room and board, transportation, and other expenses. It is important to note that every Title IV school determines the COA for its students and is not an amount determined by you or by the Trust.

The AmeriCorps education award can be used for that portion of the COA that has not already been covered by other sources of financial aid, such as scholarships, loans, grants, and tuition or fee waivers. For example, if a school has determined that the COA for an academic year is \$12,000 and the student receives \$8,000 in scholarships, the student is eligible to use up to \$4,000 of his or her education award to pay the remaining balance.

The education award is subject to the same general rules that the school has regarding reimbursing students for other financial aid they receive for non-institutional expenses. A school which receives a check from the Trust may keep the amount that is owed to the school (tuition, fees, etc.) and may release any of the COA allowance due to you – e.g. allowances for books, transportation, off-campus room and board, etc. This reimbursement can be handled in a variety of ways. Some schools write students checks while others establish accounts in the students' names.

Non-Degree and Non-Certificate Courses

You are not limited to using your education award only for courses that are part of a degree. You may use your education award to pay for all courses at the school in which you are enrolled as a student, such as adult education courses, as long as the school is a Title IV school. Tuition, books, and fees for continuing education courses offered by a Title IV university, for example, are eligible for payment from the National Service Trust.

The Education Award and its Effect on Financial Aid

Determining the best time to use your education award and how it will affect your financial aid can be complicated. Currently, for some student loans the education award is considered in determining the amount of student aid for which the student is eligible, while for other loans it is not taken into consideration. The U.S. Department of Education has developed guidance for financial aid officers on how the AmeriCorps education award should be handled.

This guidance is included in the most recent Student Financial Aid Handbook for financial aid administrators. Financial aid officers should be familiar with how the education award is to be treated when determining the eligibility for and the amount of any financial aid for which an AmeriCorps Member qualifies.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Education Award

Talk to Your Financial Aid Office

The Trust strongly encourages you to talk to your financial aid counselor on campus for advice on the best way to use your education award. That office is responsible for developing students' financial aid packages and for providing guidance and expertise regarding student aid. Remember to let your financial aid office know that the education award is considered by the IRS to be income and is taxable in the year that the payment is sent to the school. Since income from one year can affect eligibility for certain student aid in the following year, this fact might help your financial aid officer plan when and how you might best use your award.

Book Stores and the Education Award

The Trust cannot make payments to bookstores based upon a payment request. By law, a payment for current educational expenses must be made to a qualifying school. School bookstores are unable to monitor the amount of financial assistance a student is receiving and cannot determine if the education award will cause a student to exceed the COA. Therefore, the bookstore cannot process a Member's education award to pay for books.

Payment of Accrued Interest

D

During a forbearance based on national service, interest continues to accrue on the loan. However, you are eligible to have the National Service Trust pay all or a portion of the interest that accumulates on your qualified student loans while you are earning your award. These payments are made above and beyond the education award and will not be deducted from your education award account. To be eligible to have this accrued interest paid, the loan must have been in forbearance or deferment status during the service periods, and you must have successfully completed your term of service.

Generally, the Trust will pay all of the interest for full-time Members who complete their term, and the Trust will pay a portion of the interest for part-time Members. The portion that the Trust pays is based on a formula contained in the regulations that govern the Trust.

The Trust cannot pay interest accrued outside your service period. Nor can it pay interest if you did not earn an education award. Payments for interest are considered taxable income in the year payments are made.

Process for Receiving the Interest Paid Benefit

The Trust will pay the interest when it has received:

Verification from the program that you have completed service and are eligible for the education award; and

Documentation from the lender showing the total amount of interest that accrued during your service.

Process for Receiving the Interest Paid Benefit (CONTINUED)

Normally this documentation is a completed Interest Accrual Form (see Exit Packet). You can fill out this form electronically through your My AmeriCorps Portal online account. Make sure you verify your start date and end date with your Coordinator on campus before submitting the form to your lender. Each lender will complete their portion and forward it to the National Service Trust. The Trust then makes a payment to your lender. The Trust can also make an interest payment based on receiving a statement or bill from a loan company if the document contains the correct dates of service and the total amount of interest that accrued during that period.

Income Taxes

Both interest payments and payments from the education award accounts have been determined to be taxable income. They are included as income in the tax year the payment is mailed to the school or loan company.

The Trust will report to the IRS the total of all payments that were made on your behalf. An IRS form 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) will be mailed to you in January following each year in which a portion of your award was used. Your tax burden may be mitigated somewhat by federal income tax laws regarding educational credits and deductions for student loan interest payments (Hope and Lifetime Learning credits). You should contact the IRS or your tax advisors for additional information.

Paper Vouchers

Contact the National Service Trust to request a paper voucher, if your institution is not registered to accept payment using the My AmeriCorps Portal electronic payment system.

National Service Trust **PHONE**

1-888-507-5962

National Service Trust **EMAIL ADDRESS**

edawardvoucher@cns.gov

Questions about The Online Payment System

epayments@americorps.gov

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Education Award Highlights

Information about the Education Award

If you have outstanding federally-qualified student loans, you may qualify for forbearance during your term of service.

You may register for an online account through My AmeriCorps Portal to access your education award upon successful completion of the UCAN Serve program.

Your award is valid for seven years after the end of your term of service.

You can draw on your award in increments.

You can benefit from actively participating in the financial aid process. Make an appointment to meet with a financial aid counselor and have them explain to you your aid package and show you how it works to your greatest benefit.

When using the award to repay student loans, you can either use the award to reduce the principal or to defer several payments. Depending on what you do after AmeriCorps, develop a plan that best suits you and your finances.

You are responsible for taxes on the award in the year it is used, not in the year it is earned. If you use the award over two calendar years, you will be taxed for the amount used in each calendar year.

Once you have used your award, fill our Worksheet C (income exclusion) on the FAFSA correctly. Neither your AmeriCorps living allowance nor the education award count as income on the FAFSA. However, your education award does count as a resource that can reduce your aid package in the year you use it if you are using to pay for tuition.

Once a Member has been exited, they can register for an account, check their education award balance online, and request payments to their education or financial institution. The web address to register is: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>.

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- All UCAN Serve AmeriCorps forms can be found on the Colorado Campus Compact website.
- Visit
 1. www.ColoradoCampusCompact.org
 2. Click on UCAN Serve
 3. Click on Forms

» **ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST**

Before you can be enrolled in the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program, your UCAN Serve Coordinator must receive all proper enrollment paperwork, and the information must be complete. Failure to provide the appropriate original signatures and required documentation will delay your enrollment in the program.

Criminal Background Check (CBC) Authorization Form

MEMBER

- Complete CBC Authorization Form
- Provide original signature and date at the bottom of the page

Criminal Background Check Verification Form

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

- Complete CBC Verification Form
- Provide original signature and date at the bottom of the page

AmeriCorps Enrollment Form (only complete this form if not enrolling online)

MEMBER

- Complete Part 1 and Part 2 of AmeriCorps Enrollment Form
- Provide original signature and date at the bottom of the page for Part 2

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

- Complete Part 3 of AmeriCorps Enrollment Form
- Provide original signature and date at the bottom of each page

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program Member Contract

MEMBER

- Complete all sections of the Member Contract
- Certify you have received a high school diploma or a GED, or agree to obtain either one before using the education award (last page of Member Contract)
- Provide original signature and date on the bottom of the last page
- Provide parental consent original signature (if Member is 17 years old) on the bottom of the last page

Service Summary and Pre-Service Reflection Form

MEMBER

- Complete the top portion of Service Summary page in detail. Complete one Service Summary page for each service site
- Answer all Pre-Service Reflection questions thoroughly

SITE SUPERVISOR

- Complete the bottom portion of the Service Summary page
- Provide original signature and date on the bottom of the page

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Checklist of Required Paperwork

Proof of Eligibility (see page 7 for Identification/Eligibility Requirements)

MEMBER

- Provide an original U.S. Birth Certificate or U.S. Passport (or other documents listed on page 7) to UCAN Serve Coordinator

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

Certify review of Proof of Eligibility Document is authentic and original

Mid-Term Coordinator Evaluation

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

Complete Mid-Term Coordinator Evaluation for all 900-hour and full-time Members

» **MONTHLY CHECKLIST**

Time logs are due on a monthly basis to your UCAN Serve Coordinator

Time Logs

MEMBER

- Record hours on a daily basis, separated by Member Development Hours (indirect), Fund Raising Hours and Direct Service Hours
- Answer all Monthly Reflection questions thoroughly
- Provide original signature and date on the bottom of the page
- Collect Site Supervisor's original signature and date on the bottom of the page

E

» **EXIT CHECKLIST**

Before exiting the program and to ensure your file is in compliance with the program's federal grant guidelines, you must complete the following:

Evaluations

MEMBER

- Give a copy of the Site Supervisor Evaluation letter to your Site Supervisor
- Complete the online Member Survey based on your service focus area

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

Complete Coordinator Evaluation

AmeriCorps Exit Form (only complete this form if not exiting online)

MEMBER

- Complete Part 1 of the Exit Form
- Provide your original signature and accurate exit date at the bottom of Part 1 of the Exit Form

UCAN SERVE COORDINATOR

Complete Part 2 of the Exit Form

Provide original signature and date at the bottom of the page

ALL THE FORMS LISTED CAN BE FOUND IN THE ENROLLMENT PACKET.

Criminal Background Check Authorization Form

Criminal Background Check Verification Form

Enrollment Form

Member Contract

Service Summary and Pre-Service Reflections

Proof of Eligibility

Forbearance Form

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Time Logs

- Make copies of the time log, including the monthly reflection page, for each month of your service.
- Submit monthly time logs to your campus coordinator.
- Use the Cumulative Hours Log to track your total direct and indirect service hours.
- Download time logs specific to a month and year from the Colorado Campus Compact website: www.ColoradoCampusCompact.org.

REMINDERS!

Time Logs are due on a monthly basis, to your UCAN Serve Coordinator.

Please have your Site Supervisor sign the bottom of each time log after your hours are served.

Don't forget to complete the Monthly Reflections on the back of each Time Log.

Member Development hours can account for no more than 20% of your total hours served.

Fundraising hours can only account for up to 10% of your term of service.

Members can record a maximum of 65 hours a week.

Be sure to record your hours to the nearest quarter hour (.00, .25, .50, .75).

G

“My involvement with UCAN Serve has changed my life. I didn't realize that there were so many opportunities to help me understand issues facing our community in my home town. As a UCAN Serve Member, I mentor an underprivileged 14 year old boy once each week. At first I didn't think I would have time in my busy schedule, but after seeing how it has affected both our lives I wouldn't trade it for the world! He's doing better in school and has more friends; he is much happier and so am I.”

— Jason Jensen, UCAN Serve Member,
Utah Valley University



UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Monthly Time Log

MEMBER NAME

MONTH/YEAR

SERVICE SITE



HOW TO RECORD YOUR HOURS

Record your hours to the nearest quarter hour (.00, .25, .50, .75).

*Member Development:

Member Development (MD) can only account for up to 20% of your total hours.

Member development hours include education, reflection, and/or training you need to perform well in your service project.

Examples

Class time providing reflection or learning about your service.

Professional development opportunities

Research

Workshops or conferences around your service themes

300 hour term = 60 MD hours

450 hour term = 90 MD hours

675 hour term = 135 MD hours

900 hour term = 180 MD hours

**Fundraising

Fundraising can only account for up to 10% of your term of service.

Members may only raise funds directly in support of activities for your service project.

Use this form to keep a log of your service hours throughout the month. **Time logs are not valid unless the time report and reflections are completed.**

DATE MM/DD/YY	*member development hours	**fundraising hours	direct service hours	TOTAL HOURS
Each week must correspond to the month being reported				
S				
M				
T				
W				
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 1 TOTAL HOURS				
S				
M				
T				
W				
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 2 TOTAL HOURS				
S				
M				
T				
W				
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 3 TOTAL HOURS				
S				
M				
T				
W				
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 4 TOTAL HOURS				
S				
M				
T				
W				
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 5 TOTAL HOURS				
Member Development		Fundraising	Direct Service	TOTAL
MONTH TOTAL				

MEMBER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SITE SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Service Reflections Form

MEMBER NAME: MONTH/YEAR

Describe the service activities you have performed during this month, and some of the results you have seen. For example: I tutored three elementary aged children this month and have noticed that they are completing and returning their homework more often.

What challenges have you experienced this month in your service, and what steps have you taken to resolve those challenges?

Describe what you are planning to do in the month ahead.

Please provide highlights (quotes or stories) from your service that illustrate your impact on the organization that you serve, or on the local community.

Statistical Information

Approximate number of clients, students, patients, other served this month. Describe any changes in progress from last month.

Return the signed original form to your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on campus.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Cumulative Hours Log

This form is for your use, to stay up to date on how many hours you accumulate each month, including how many hours of member development you complete. **Hours may not exceed 20% of your total hours recorded and fundraising hours may not exceed 10% of your total term of service.**

month	member development	fundraising	direct service	TOTAL	date submitted
Month 1					
Month 2					
Month 3					
Month 4					
Month 5					
Month 6					
Month 7					
Month 8					
Month 9					
Month 10					
Month 11					
Month 12					
TOTALS					

FOR 2 YEAR 900 HOUR TERMS

month	member development	fundraising	direct service	TOTAL	date submitted
Month 13					
Month 14					
Month 15					
Month 16					
Month 17					
Month 18					
Month 19					
Month 20					
Month 21					
Month 22					
Month 23					
Month 24					
TOTALS					

G

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Sample Time Log

MEMBER NAME

Susie G.

MONTH/YEAR

January/2007

SERVICE SITE

American Red Cross



HOW TO RECORD YOUR HOURS

Record your hours to the nearest quarter hour (.00, .25, .50, .75).

*Member Development:

Member Development (MD) can only account for up to 20% of your total hours.

Member development hours include education, reflection, and/or training you need to perform well in your service project.

Examples

Class time providing reflection or learning about your service.

Professional development opportunities

Research

Workshops or conferences around your service themes

300 hour term = 60 MD hours

450 hour term = 90 MD hours

675 hour term = 135 MD hours

900 hour term = 180 MD hours

**Fundraising

Fundraising can only account for up to 10% of your term of service.

Members may only raise funds directly in support of activities for your service project.

Use this form to keep a log of your service hours throughout the month. **Time logs are not valid unless the time report and reflections are completed.**

DATE MM/DD/YY	*member development hours	**fundraising hours	direct service hours	TOTAL HOURS
Each week must correspond to the month being reported				
Do not exceed 65 hours per week				
S				
M 1/1/07	0	0	0	0
T 1/2/07	0	0	0	0
W 1/3/07	0	0	0	0
T 1/4/07	0	0	0	0
F 1/5/07	5	0	0	5
S 1/6/07	0	0	0	0
WEEK 1 TOTAL HOURS	5	0	0	5
S 1/7/07	0	0	0	0
M 1/8/07	2	0	5	7
T 1/9/07	2	0	9	11
W 1/10/07	0	0	10	10
T 1/11/07	0	0	8	8
F 1/12/07	2	0	6	8
S 1/13/07	0	0	0	0
WEEK 2 TOTAL HOURS	6	0	38	44
S 1/14/07	0	0	0	0
M 1/15/07			<i>holiday</i>	
T 1/16/07	1	0	10	11
W 1/17/07	0	0	9	9
T 1/18/07	2	0	8	10
F 1/19/07	2	0	8	10
S 1/20/07	0	0	0	0
WEEK 3 TOTAL HOURS	5	0	35	40
S 1/21/07	0	0	0	0
M 1/22/07	2	0	5	7
T 1/23/07	2	0	10	12
W 1/24/07	1	0	6	7
T 1/25/07	5	0	5	10
F 1/26/07	0	0	5	5
S 1/27/07	0	0	0	0
WEEK 4 TOTAL HOURS	10	0	31	41
S 1/28/07	0	0	0	0
M 1/29/07	1	0	6	7
T 1/30/07	2	0	5	7
W 1/31/07	2	0	10	12
T				
F				
S				
WEEK 5 TOTAL HOURS	5	0	21	26
	Member Development	Fundraising	Direct Service	TOTAL
MONTH TOTAL	31	0	125	156

MEMBER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SITE SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Example of How to Calculate Hours

How did Susie Q. calculate her hours?

A common problem among AmeriCorps Members is under-reporting hours. Look how Susie Q. calculated her hours for the first two weeks of service to get an idea of what counts as Direct Hours and what service counts as Indirect or Member Development Hours.

	member development	fundraising	direct service
Friday, January 5, 2007 Before starting her volunteer service, Susie met with her Site Supervisor at the American Red Cross to go over service activities and responsibilities.	2 hours of Member Development		
Susie attended the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps orientation.	2 hours of Member Development		
Susie went home to go over the materials from the American Red Cross and the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Member Handbook.	1 hour of Member Development		
TOTAL HOURS FOR FRIDAY = 5	5 HOURS OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT		
TOTAL HOURS FOR WEEK 1 = 5	5 Member Development Hours	0 Fundraising Hours	0 Direct Service Hours

	member development	fundraising	direct service
Monday, January 8, 2007 Susie meets the staff at the American Red Cross and begins to review her presentation to recruit volunteers.			5 hours of Direct Service
Another AmeriCorps Member wants to exchange ideas about recruiting volunteers for a nonprofit organization, so they meet after school.	2 hours of Member Development		
TOTAL HOURS FOR MONDAY = 7	2 HOURS OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT		5 HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE

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UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Example of How to Calculate Hours

	member development	fundraising	direct service
<p>Tuesday, January 9, 2007 Susie continues to prepare her presentation to recruit volunteers. She begins calling a list of potential volunteers to find out their interests.</p> <p>Susie attends a workshop facilitated by the volunteer center on managing volunteers.</p> <p>TOTAL HOURS FOR TUESDAY = 11</p>	<p>2 hours of Member Development</p> <p>2 HOURS OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT</p>		<p>9 hours of Direct Service</p> <p>9 HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 10, 2007 Susie continues calling a list of potential volunteers to find out their interest and starts to schedule meetings.</p> <p>TOTAL HOURS FOR WEDNESDAY = 10</p>			<p>10 hours of Direct Service</p> <p>10 HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE</p>
<p>Thursday, January 11, 2007 Susie creates a database of potential volunteers for American Red Cross.</p> <p>TOTAL HOURS FOR THURSDAY = 8</p>			<p>8 hours of Direct Service</p> <p>8 HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE</p>
<p>Friday, January 12, 2007 Susie continues making calls to potential volunteers, refines her presentation, and continues entering names into the database.</p> <p>Susie attends a reflection session conducted by the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on campus.</p> <p>TOTAL HOURS FOR FRIDAY = 8</p>	<p>2 hours of Member Development</p> <p>2 HOURS OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT</p>		<p>6 hours of Direct Service</p> <p>6 HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE</p>
<p>TOTAL HOURS FOR WEEK 2 = 44</p>	<p>6 Member Development Hours</p>	<p>0 Fundraising Hours</p>	<p>38 Direct Service Hours</p>

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Direct Service

Direct service is serving directly with people to fulfill the mission of your service site AND service directly related to that mission. For example, if you are serving at an elementary school, the time you spend with students at that school (tutoring, mentoring, teaching) counts as direct service time. Also any work you do that will directly affect the students' learning at that school counts as direct service time even though you are not in direct contact with students. These non-contact direct service activities would include preparing lesson plans, parent-teacher conferences, assembling materials related to students' learning, arranging for guest speakers, and coordinating field trips.

Member Development (Indirect Service)

Member development activities (or indirect service) include the time you spend reflecting on your service or receiving training to improve your ability to perform your service. These activities include talking with other student teachers about your service experiences, corequisite class time spent reflecting on how to improve teaching skills, in-service training, and attending conferences related to your direct service. Your initial UCAN Serve AmeriCorps orientation counts as Member development as well as the time it takes you to fill out your monthly time sheet (remember there's a reflection component to the time sheet on the back).

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Member Exit Process

- Exit Process and Online Payment System
- Evaluations
- Exit Form
- Interest Accrual Form
- Congratulations on Successfully Completing Your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Term of Service!

(forms are in Exit Packet)

Once you have completed your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Term of Service, complete the exiting process (Site Supervisor Evaluation, Member Survey and fill out the Exit Form) and return the completed Exit Form to your UCAN Serve Coordinator on campus.

You should be able to access your education award online within 2 weeks after you have been exited from the program.

Complete the Interest Accrual Form if your loans are unsubsidized, federally-qualified student loans (your loans were accruing interest while enrolled in AmeriCorps).

My AmeriCorps Portal

Once you have exited the program, you have the option to use the “My AmeriCorps Portal” that will allow you to request your Eli Segal AmeriCorps Education Award benefits online. Once you register, you can create your requests online and submit to your Education or Financial Institution for processing. Through the online payment system, you can request AmeriCorps Education Award payments, Interest Accrual payments and Forbearance on your qualified student loans. Additionally, this automated system will let you view the status of your requests, provide up to date information on your AmeriCorps Education Award balances, show the history of your requests and even let you update your contact information online.

Register at this site:

<http://www.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>

Or follow these steps:

Go to the AmeriCorps.gov website

Click on the link to “login” next to “My AmeriCorps”

Click on where it says “Register to create a new Member/Alum account”

Enter your Last Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number and Email Address

Once you have successfully registered, you will receive an email with a link giving you access into the system. Once there, you will be asked to create a User Name and Password. The system will then bring up your personalized home page and show your award balance. From this site, you can request AmeriCorps Education Award payments, Interest Accrual payments and Forbearance on your qualified student loans. Once you have submitted a request for payment, you will be able to view the status of your requests from your home page. You will also be able to view your payment history on your home page. In addition, you can edit and update your mailing address, permanent address, email address and phone numbers.

Through this account, you can also receive verification of completion of your term of service. Once logged in, click on “My service letter” on the left menu, enter the applicable service term, enter the address where verification is being sent, and print.

For a step by step guide to using the My AmeriCorps system, go to the Colorado Campus Compact website at www.ColoradoCampusCompact.org, click on the link to “UCAN Serve,” click on the link to “AmeriCorps Members,” and view the document titled “My AmeriCorps Portal Tutorial.”

If you have questions about the automated process, send an email to epayments@americorps.gov and a representative from the National Service Trust can assist you.

- Criteria
- Application
- Scholarship Report Form
- Reimbursement Form

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Careers in the Common Good Criteria

The UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program provides up to \$30,000 annually to current Members for Careers in the Common Good (CCG) scholarships. The CCG Scholarships support professional and Member development opportunities for up to \$250 per Member. These opportunities include professional conferences, site-specific trainings, personal development workshops, and topic-specific forums addressing critical community needs. For most Members, the CCG Scholarship supports their first professional or Member development experience, further solidifying their commitment to serving community needs through their specific field or interest area and connecting them to other professionals in the field.

To be eligible for the CCG Scholarship, Members must meet the following criteria:

An active Member (not exited in management database)

Member's time logs are current in management database

Applying for a Member or professional development event that clearly connects to Member's direct service, separate from any academic or service site related required trainings*

Submit the UCAN Scholarship Application with details of the event and requested scholarship amount, not to exceed \$250 per Member

Each Member is eligible for a total of one award

*CCG Scholarships will not be awarded to attend study courses for exams, to pay for licensure exams, or for tuition or required training materials

CCG Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the sponsoring agency for registration fees, and to the Member as a reimbursement for lodging, travel, and meal expenses. Members must submit original, itemized receipts (note: credit card receipts are not itemized receipts) along with the UCAN Serve Reimbursement Form and UCAN Serve Scholarship Report for reimbursements. These forms must be received within 30 days of attending the event.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of scholarships available, UCAN Serve will review each application and fund the requests that most closely connect with the Members' UCAN Serve term of service. Similarly, partial scholarships may be awarded to Members. For example, if 25 applications are received for the same event or program within one academic year, all 25 Members may be awarded a partial award of \$125.00 each, rather than the full \$250.00 per Member.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Careers in the Common Good
Scholarship Application

NAME:

EMAIL:

UCAN SERVE PARTICIPATING CAMPUS:

START DATE OF UCAN SERVE AMERICORPS TERM OF SERVICE:

Type of event you plan to attend: (i.e. Conference, Professional Lecture, Training, etc)

Name of Event:

Summary of the event:

EVENT START DATE: EVENT END DATE:

LOCATION OF EVENT (CITY AND STATE):

Briefly describe the service project you are completing during your AmeriCorps Term of Service:

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Careers in the Common Good Scholarship Application

Describe how this event relates to your AmeriCorps Service Term (i.e. what will you gain that will help you better serve your community by attending this Event):

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Budget: (detail of how the scholarship will be used) **FILL IN EACH BOX ONLY IF APPLICABLE**

Registration Amount	\$
Where to mail registration fee (include specific instructions and attach registration form)	
Transportation Mileage = miles x \$0.350, Car Rental + Gas, or Airfare/Bus/Train	\$
Meals	\$
Lodging	\$
Other (please list expenses)	\$
TOTAL REQUESTED AMOUNT (not to exceed \$250)	\$*

*By receiving scholarship funds from the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program, Member agrees to complete a Scholarship Summary Report within 30 days of event participation. Final expenses will be reported at that time.

The UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program will pay advance registration fees prior to the event.

Members will be reimbursed for transportation, meals, lodging, etc. after submitting the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program Reimbursement Form.

Please mail application to:

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program
Careers in the Common Good Scholarship
Colorado Campus Compact
 3333 Regis Blvd., B-7
 Denver, CO 80221

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Careers in the Common Good Scholarship Reimbursement Form

Scholarship Report must be attached for reimbursement.

NAME:

EMAIL:

UCAN SERVE PARTICIPATING CAMPUS:

EVENT START DATE: **EVENT END DATE:**

Make check payable to:

Address to mail reimbursement:

ADDRESS 1:

ADDRESS 2:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Mail form and original, itemized receipts to:

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program
Careers in the Common Good Scholarship
Colorado Campus Compact
3333 Regis Blvd., B-7
Denver, CO 80221

Date	Meals (and tips)	Lodging	Personal Vehicle (# of miles x \$0.350)	Air Transportation	Car Rental	Other (explain)	DAILY TOTAL
.....	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
.....	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
.....	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
.....	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT \$

ALL ORIGINAL, ITEMIZED RECEIPTS* MUST BE ATTACHED

* Credit Card receipts are not itemized receipts.

MEMBER SIGNATURE: **DATE:**

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Resources and Information

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to serve at a public school to qualify for this program?

No! The goals of the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program are to address unmet needs in three areas: education, public health and safety, and community strengthening, through service in a nonprofit or government agency. See the section on “UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Priority Goals” of the Member Handbook for examples of service in each of these areas. If you are unsure if your site or service qualifies please contact your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on campus.

Can I change my term of service once I am enrolled in the program?

Yes, you have 30 days from your start date to change your term of service. However, please consider carefully how many hours of service you will be able to complete during your year of service before you sign the Member Contract. Once you have committed to a certain number of hours, you will be obligated to honor that commitment or forfeit your AmeriCorps education award.

When will I get my education award?

Complete your contract hours and your AmeriCorps Exit Form (see Exit Packet) and return it to your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on campus. You will need to give your Site Supervisor the letter in your Exit Packet, to complete and submit electronically the Post-Service Evaluation (online at www.coloradocampuscompact.org). As well, you will need to complete the online Member Survey (instructions on taking the survey can be found in your Exit Packet). You should be able to access your education award online approximately 2 weeks after your Exit Form, your supervisor’s survey, and your Member Survey have been received by the AmeriCorps office.

What can my education award be applied toward?

Your education award may be applied directly to your current enrollment expenses for the cost of attendance. You can also use your award to pay qualified student loans if you have them, or you can hold on to your award for up to seven years to use it for future educational expenses. Refer to the section on “Information About the Education Award” of your Member Handbook for examples of how your award may be used. You may also contact the National Trust (the entity that sets up your account) with specific questions. Please call 1-888-507-5962 or email edawardvoucher@cns.gov.

Can the education award be applied to the same university term in which I am completing my service hours?

The AmeriCorps Education Award can be used to pay current educational expenses. Current educational expenses are expenses that were incurred by you after you first enrolled in an AmeriCorps term of service. The award cannot be used to pay for expenses that pre-date your involvement with AmeriCorps. Refer to the section on “Education Award” of your Member Handbook for examples of how the award may be used. You may also contact the National Trust with specific questions. Please call 1-888-507-5962 or email edawardvoucher@cns.gov.

Can I receive my education award in advance?

No. However, if you have tuition due you can apply for a student loan. Keep in mind that when you do receive your award, it can go directly to pay off that loan. You may also contact the National Trust (the entity that sets up your account) with specific questions. Please call 1-888-507-5962 or email edawardvoucher@cns.gov.

When are the forms due?

There is no official due date for enrollment, but be aware that enrollment spots are limited and space is granted upon a first come, first served basis.

Please consult your UCAN Serve Coordinator as to when monthly time logs are due.

Are there other qualifying volunteer experience if I can't fulfill my contract for some reason?

YES! Check your enrollment packet or contact your UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Coordinator on campus if you need other suggestions.

What forms does UCAN Serve AmeriCorps require in order to enroll in this program?

Criminal Background Check Authorization Form

Criminal Background Check Verification Form (completed by your Coordinator)

Proof of citizenship

Enrollment Form

Member Contract

Service Summary/Pre-Service Reflections

Is there information available on the web?

Yes!

www.coloradocampuscompact.org, click on the link to "UCAN Serve"

www.americorps.gov

www.nationalservice.org

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Resources and Information

For any questions about the education award, ordering a paper voucher, or questions about your My AmeriCorps Portal account, please contact:

The National Service Trust
1-888-507-5962
edawardvoucher@cns.gov

To check and access your education award balance online:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>

For information about other AmeriCorps opportunities nationwide, go to:

www.americorps.gov

To connect with other AmeriCorps Members by joining AmeriCorps Alums, perform job searches, look for colleges and universities that will match your education award, and stay connected:

www.americorpsalums.org

Other helpful websites:

www.cns.gov (Corporation for National and Community Service office)

www.compact.org (national Campus Compact office)

www.coloradocampuscompact.org (Colorado Campus Compact)

www.nationalservice.org

www.nationalserviceresources.org

www.peacecorps.gov

www.ed.gov

www.vote-smart.org

www.whitehouse.gov

www.idealists.org

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

Join AmeriCorps Alums

- What is it?
- What do they do?
- How to join.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Alumni Information

What is AmeriCorps Alums?

AmeriCorps Alums is a community of experienced volunteer leaders who share a commitment to a vision of a more perfect America. It is a national network of over half a million alumni from the AmeriCorps national service program (including NCCC, VISTA and AmeriCorps VISTA).

As the premiere national service alumni organization, AmeriCorps Alums is uniquely positioned to be on the cutting edge of the civic leadership community. Their vision is that the lifetime engagement of alumni is a transformational force for change in America's communities.

Their mission is to fully realize the potential of national service alumni as leaders in communities. The goal is to get alumni connected, equipped and engaged in order to foster their natural leadership drive and potential.

AmeriCorps Alums provides all alumni:

- Connection to fellow alumni through searchable database and social media
- Cool gear to show off your "AmeriPride"
- Meaningful volunteer opportunities where you live with like-minded alumni
- Access to low-cost higher education in public service
- Leadership programming to support public service career track

From Los Angeles to Boston, and many cities in between, AmeriCorps Alums chapters have sprung up because alums are still fulfilling their oath "to take this commitment with me this year and beyond." Chapters are the backbone of the AmeriCorps Alums. By joining your local chapter, you remain engaged in service, stay in touch with other Members near you, and have access to AmeriCorps Alums services.

At AmeriCorps Alums, we are driven by four key values:

- Engaging in our communities through service
- Support for local AmeriCorps programs
- Advocacy for national service
- Benefits for alumni Members

What do AmeriCorps Alumni do?

SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES

Provide alumni with the resources necessary to organize and act effectively within communities, as well as provide the infrastructure for this network of concerned advocates to work together to affect change.

SUPPORT TO CURRENT AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

Through its affiliation with 50 HandsOn Network organizations throughout the country, alumni will be immediately connected to service and civic engagement opportunities within their local communities.

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ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SERVICE

Develop strong networks with current AmeriCorps programs so alumni can continue to contribute to their success.

NETWORKING CONNECTIONS

Provide a menu of benefits and services to alumni as they enter the job market or continue their education and/or build networks in their communities. These benefits are designed to support their advancement as leaders.

What does this mean for you?

Provides you with a continued opportunity for service. You can join a local chapter. If there isn't one in your community, you can take the initiative to be a leader in starting one!

CAREER RESOURCES

Job openings on the website, conferences, resume building, etc.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Become a HandsOn Network Volunteer Leader, work with a HandsOn Network Affiliate to become a project leader, join the AmeriCorps Alums leadership circle and provide training, attend outreach events, etc.

NETWORKING

Networking and professional opportunities at AmeriCorps Alums national and regional conferences and through national task forces.

DISCOUNTS/ADDED BENEFITS

How to utilize your education award to its maximum benefit, hostel discounts, income tax support, etc.

Continued advocacy to keep AmeriCorps growing.

UCAN Serve AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Alumni Information

What is an Alum Home Chapter?

Alum Home Chapter refers to the closest chapter to which you currently reside. Alum Home Chapters are organized by state. When registering, all members should choose the city where they currently reside as their “Alum Home Chapter.” This is the chapter you will be most closely affiliated with. You may still associate your profile with other chapters, but your main chapter, the one in closest geographic proximity to you, is your “Alum Home Chapter.”

How do I connect with my local Chapter?

The Chapter Leaders’ names are listed in the right margin on the home page of each respective Chapter. Contacting your local Chapter Leader is a good place to begin. To contact your Chapter Leader, simply click on his/her name, and you will be redirected to his/her profile. You may then contact your chapter leader via email or phone (if listed). If no Chapter Leader is listed, your chapter currently has no chapter leader. If you are interested in becoming a Chapter Leader, please contact Whitney Soenksen at wsoenksen@americorpsalums.org.

How do I get involved?

Membership is open to all AmeriCorps alumni and soon-to-be-alumni (current Members). To join, all you need to do is go to the AmeriCorps Alums website:
www.americorpsalums.org

Look for the Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Utah or Virginia Member Groups (www.americorpsalums.org/members/group_select.asp?type=166), and register at www.americorpsalums.org/general/register_member_type.asp?
It’s Free to join!