

Frequently Asked Questions



What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps (pronounced Ameri-CORE) is an opportunity for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to give their time and talent to strengthen communities. Members commit their time to address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, preparing for disasters and more. Team members in our program are matched with a host partner agency to serve in a variety of roles focused on helping clients overcome barriers, improve access, and create vibrant and equitable communities. [Click here](#) to watch a short video from the AmeriCorps agency to help you understand more about what AmeriCorps does nationwide.

What would I do as an AmeriCorps Upstate team member?

Team members serve directly at a partner site for an 11-month term helping individuals and families on the road to economic mobility. Our team will utilize Mobility Mentoring® practices to provide comprehensive support to clients. This starts with assessing individual situations and barriers to success and continues with coaching, positive reinforcement, and recognition. Your daily duties could vary widely depending on your host site placement. In general, you would be spending time on the following three focus areas:

- **Economic Mobility Coaching** | Become a mentor and coach to those in need; utilizing the evidence-based EMPATH Mobility Mentoring® Model
- **Resource Navigation** | Case management, crisis assistance, connecting clients with community resources, and helping people apply for benefits through [Thrive Hub](#)
- **VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** | free tax preparation at community locations

Our entire team is trained on tax preparation and is mobilized during the 10-week tax season to help at local free tax clinics through the VITA program. During this time (late January – mid-April) team members schedules vary from the norm; there may be some weekday evening or Saturday morning service hours depending on their placement.

Why join our team?

- Make an impact in the community while gaining valuable professional experience, training, and education benefits while earning a modest living allowance.
- Gain marketable skills for your resume like tax preparation and customer service
- Take a gap year in a great community and be matched with an impactful nonprofit fighting poverty in the Upstate.
- Monthly professional development training by staff and guest speakers.

What are the benefits of national service?

- Modest living allowance of up to \$19,000 per year (about \$760 pre-tax, paid every 2 weeks)
- Education and student loan benefits:
 - [Education award](#) of \$6,495 at the end of service year (for existing student debt or continued education)
 - Federal student loan forbearance during service
 - Payment of accrued student loan interest on eligible loans after service
- [Health coverage](#) (self-only, includes dental and vision)
- [Childcare benefits](#)
- Monthly professional development training
- Skill-building opportunities
- Growing your professional network and experience in the nonprofit sector

How long would I serve if selected to be on the team?

AmeriCorps Upstate terms run from late-August through the end of July each year. Members must serve 1700 hours over the 11-month service term, averaging about 36 hours per week. Time management is up to the team member and varies by host site. Hours are longer during tax season, including some evening and Saturday morning hours.

How do I apply?

Our application opens in the spring of each year and stays open until all positions are filled or for one month after orientation, whichever occurs first. If our application is not currently open, please [fill out this interest form](#) and we will contact you when it re-opens.

- 1) **When the application is live, create a profile** on my.americorps.gov.
- 2) **Complete and save your common application** in the MyAmeriCorps system.
- 3) **Submit your application to our program** by searching for [AmeriCorps Upstate](#) or using the hyperlink. *We cannot see your application unless you choose to send it to our program.*

For more detailed application steps and assistance, [view this document](#) or reach out to the National Service Hotline at 1.800.942.2677.

What about after I apply?

Initial Interview | Selected applicants meet with program staff. We provide a general overview of AmeriCorps and assess if you are the right fit for our program and team.

Site Specific Interview | If selected to continue, you will be matched with sites that match your interests in and skills. A site partner will interview you and discuss the specifics of the role at that location.

Site Match | Applicant and site let program staff know if they feel the site match is a good fit. When all parties agree, successful applicants will be sent an acceptance letter with information about next steps.

Enrollment | Applicant submits paperwork to staff and completes background check process.

Begin Service | New team members attend orientation with the team in Greenville, SC in August.

Make a Difference! | Start at your host site and give a year of service to the community!

Who are your partner sites / host agencies?

We collaborate with other local United Ways and partner agencies to host AmeriCorps members so they can connect with the community. Sited will be applying soon; however, below is a list of our partners for the (2021-2022) service year to give you a reference:

[United Way of Greenville County](#) (Grant Holder)

[United Way of Laurens County](#) (Partner)

[United Way of Pickens County](#) (Partner)

[Family Promise of Laurens County](#)

[Goodwill Industries, Simpsonville](#)

[Greenlink](#)

[Greenville Technical College](#)

[Greer Relief](#)

[Lifelong Learning: Sullivan Center](#)

[Mill Village Farms](#)

[OnTrack Greenville](#)

[Rebuild Upstate](#)

[Root & Rebound](#)

[SC Empowerment Centre](#)

[United Ministries](#)

[Upstate Warrior Solution](#)

[Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#)

How can I learn more about the AmeriCorps Upstate experience?

Visit our website americorpsupstate.org or email us at info@americorpsupstate.org.

Find us on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) @americorpsupstate | [Twitter](#) @ACUpstate

What if our programs aren't the right fit? How else can I serve?

AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA are nationwide programs: you can serve in many ways across the United States. The focus areas include education, economic opportunity, veteran and military families, disaster services, healthy futures, and environmental stewardship. Check out nationalservice.gov for more information on other programs! Unsure whether Peace Corps (international) or AmeriCorps is right for you? [This website](#) can help you find the right path.