



# Frequently Asked Questions

## AmeriCorps NCCC's Summer of Service 2024

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

- **What are the dates of the Summer of Service program?**

- Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 29, 2024: Team Leader application period
- Jan 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024: Corps Member application period
- March 31, 2024: Application Deadline for SoS Corps Members
- Feb 1, 2024 – April 25, 2024: Member Selection Notification
- Invites should start in February and go out bi-weekly until the end of April
- May 22, 2024: Team Leaders Arrive
- May 23 – June 7, 2024: Team Leader Training in Aurora, Colorado or Vinton, Iowa
- June 10, 2024: Corps Members Arrive
- June 11 – June 20, 2024: Corps Training Institute in Aurora, Colorado or Vinton, Iowa
- June 21 – August 2, 2024: Service Project (could be anywhere nationwide)
- August 5 – 6, 2024: Closure in Aurora, Colorado or Vinton, Iowa
- August 7, 2024: Graduation and Corps Members Depart
- August 8, 2024: Team Leaders Depart

- **What are the general eligibility requirements for Summer of Service?**

- To serve as a Corps Member, you must be between 18-26 years old. To serve as a Team Leader, you must be 18 or older (no upper age limit). You may apply to Summer of Service at age 17 if you will turn 18 before arriving on campus.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident of the U.S.
- Must pass an initial drug screening test upon arrival to the program. A positive test on a drug screen for any substance (including marijuana) at any time during service could result in dismissal from the program.
- Team Leaders must have a valid driver's license, as they will be expected to drive the team vehicle.
- Must be available for the duration of the Summer of Service commitment, willing to participate in full-time service consisting of extensive travel.

- **Extension to NCCC Traditional**

- SoS service extensions will be offered to interested, service-oriented Corps Members and Team Leaders. Transition opportunities begin approximately August 8 and conclude approximately Sept 30. An additional financial award is available following completion of your extension.

- **Is Summer of Service set up like the other NCCC programs?**

- For the most part, yes.
- Summer of Service is a simplified version of NCCC's other programs, on a shortened timeframe. Summer of Service participants will pursue the same NCCC mission of "strengthening communities and developing leaders through service." As with all other NCCC programs, Members will participate in pre-service training, albeit a shorter version, and serve on teams. NCCC teams will have project sponsors, site supervisors, and address a community-identified priority.

- Members will be subject to the policies of the [NCCC Member Handbook 2023](#), including the Code of Conduct and content outlined in “AmeriCorps NCCC Policies”. There will be circumstances when a policy provision in the Handbook is specifically designed for our 1700-hour service programs and cannot be applied to Summer of Service. Members will be made aware of such situations during the Corps Training Institute.
- Despite the overall similarities, there are differences (see below). Other differences may arise as the program is further developed.

• **Are the benefits to Members the same as other NCCC programs?**

- For the most part yes, but there will be significant differences.
- The benefits made available in NCCC’s other programs and highlighted on our [webpage](#) are largely the same as those provided to Summer of Service participants. Food, lodging, a modest living allowance, uniforms, and program-related travel expenses (including from your home of record to the training site, from there to your project, and home again after graduation) are all covered by NCCC.
- All you need to provide is a positive attitude, teamwork, flexibility, and enthusiasm to serve!
- Differences from our full-term benefit packages for the Summer of Service program, include but are not limited to the following.
  - Given the short nature of the program, participants will not qualify for the President’s Volunteer Service Award or the Congressional Award solely through their NCCC service. However, their service hours in Summer of Service might count toward the award requirements.
  - Personal leave dates will be different from what is provided in a full, 1700-hour program (see below).
- As the program is further developed, NCCC reserves the right to curtail or change any program benefit intended for the 10-12 month service term for those members serving a Summer of Service term. Members will be made aware of changes during the Corps Member Training Institute.

- **What are the major differences between Summer of Service and the NCCC Traditional Corps and/or FEMA Corps programs?**

- The major differences are program length, program focus, the “Serve with a Friend” option, the Independent Service Project (ISP) requirement, the post-service financial benefit, the ability to pursue college credit, the loan forbearance process, and leave days.
  - Program Length: The entirety of the Summer of Service program is less than 3 months, instead of 10 to 12 months. Summer of Service will run from 5/22/24 to 8/8/24. Team Leaders will start on 5/22 and depart on 8/8. Corps Members will start on 6/10 and depart on 8/7.
  - Program Focus: Summer of Service projects will focus on (i) environmental stewardship and/or climate change mitigation; (ii) affordable housing; and/or (iii) other types of community-focused service activities.
  - Serve with a Friend: For Summer of Service applicants, NCCC will offer the opportunity to identify a friend you wish to serve alongside. More detailed information on this opportunity is included in the Serve with a Friend FAQs below.
  - Independent Service Projects (ISPs): NCCC’s ISP component will be optional for Summer of Service participants. Completed ISPs can be counted towards the minimum service hour commitment for Summer of Service participants.
  - Post Service Financial Benefit: Summer of Service graduates will receive a prorated Segal Education Award for completing a term of Summer of Service with NCCC.
  - Loan Forbearance: Participants in Summer of Service are able to place their eligible loans into forbearance through the AmeriCorps Portal.
  - Personal Leave Days: Summer of Service participants will not receive personal leave days. Two federal holidays take place during the Summer of Service program and participants will receive time off on June 19 for Juneteenth and July 4 for Independence Day.
  - Other differences may arise as the program is further developed and will be communicated during the Corps Member Training Institute.

- **What is the minimum number of successfully completed service hours required to graduate?**
  - 300 hours and successful completion of all program activities will be required for graduation.
  - As stated above, NCCC's Independent Service Project (ISP) component will be optional for Summer of Service participants. Completed ISPs can be counted towards the minimum service hour commitment for Summer of Service participants.
- **What will training be like?**
  - On arrival day, NCCC staff will meet incoming members at the airport and help them get settled on campus. During in-processing, members will receive their room assignment, a campus tour, and their uniform. Training sessions, conducted by NCCC staff, will prepare members to serve safely, effectively, and collaboratively with their teammates.
- **Do we get to choose our project, and how will we get there?**
  - Projects are solicited, developed, and selected by NCCC staff, and will be assigned to teams in a way that most effectively meets the needs of the sponsoring organizations. After training is complete, all teams will deploy to their projects in 15-passenger vans. Teams are typically 6-12 members but can vary in size. The length of your team's road trip will vary depending upon the location of your assigned project. If your drive will take more than one day, modest hotel accommodations will be planned and provided by NCCC. Come ready with playlists, travel games, and get-to-know-you questions for your teammates!
- **Where will we live when we get to our project?**
  - Upon arrival at your project site, your team will move into the lodging provided by the organization hosting your team. Accommodations can vary significantly, from a shared house or cabin, to a church basement, to camping. Your team will work together to shop for groceries using your team's food budget and will share cooking and cleaning duties.

- Any necessary tools or supplies will be provided by NCCC or your project sponsor. Come to NCCC ready for adventure, and an amazing experience will be waiting for you!

- **What type of service projects might Summer of Service members do within this environmental and/or climate change focus?**

- Examples of Summer of Service projects would be those which:
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects that focus on:
    - *Energy efficient construction and renovation actions*
    - *Agriculture and food systems actions*
    - *Environmental stewardship/education*
  - Adapt to changing climate through projects that focus on:
    - *Natural disaster preparedness and resilience actions*
    - *Natural disaster mitigation actions*
    - *Natural disaster response and recovery actions*
  - Conserve lands and waters through projects that focus on:
    - *Conservation actions*
    - *Access to outdoor recreation actions*
    - *Natural and cultural resource preservation actions*

- **What type of service projects might Summer of Service members do within this affordable housing focus?**

- Examples of Summer of Service projects in the affordable housing focus area will address the unique housing challenges facing economically vulnerable communities and communities impacted by disasters. Members will serve by renovating and/or constructing homes and existing structures, repurposing buildings to suit new needs, etc. Tasks may include drywall installation, painting, flooring installation, roofing, and ramp building.

- **If I am willing to serve and contribute to any service project, what other types of service projects might Summer of Service members do?**

- Examples of typical summer projects include cabin maintenance, park and reserve preservation, education projects such as tutoring, trail maintenance, supporting food banks to alleviate hunger, and other community-identified priorities.

- **What if I've never done anything like this before?**

- Summer of Service project sponsors will be ready to train your team how to do critical work tasks, as well as why those tasks are important to their organization and community. No prior training is necessary! Be prepared to try new things, learn from your sponsors and teammates, and wrap up your summer with new skills and experiences under your belt.

- **Will I get any days off?**

- Your project schedule will be determined by the sponsoring organization. Many projects will operate on a typical full-time, Monday-Friday schedule, but there are often exceptions, and you won't know your specific schedule until you are assigned to your project. Serving in a hot climate? Your project may start early in the day and end early or build in a break during the heat of the day, to maximize your team's safety and wellbeing. Serving with an organization that needs support on the weekend? You may work a Tuesday-Saturday schedule. Deployed to an immediate disaster response project? You could be asked to serve longer days with fewer days off while helping to meet urgent needs in that situation.
- Members are permitted to take sick days if they aren't feeling well and can be granted emergency leave on an as-needed basis. For Summer of Service, participants will not receive personal leave days. Two federal holidays take place during the Summer of Service program and participants will receive time off on June 19 for Juneteenth and July 4 for Independence Day.

- **For those who have served previously in NCCC, are we eligible to participate in Summer of Service?**

- In most cases, yes!
  - Summer of Service is a program under NCCC's portfolio. As such, eligibility requirements for participation are addressed with the typical restrictions in place for serving in consecutive AmeriCorps NCCC terms, regardless of whether those terms are Traditional Corps, FEMA Corps, or Summer of Service. If you have served in both Class 28 and Class 29 in any NCCC program, you would not be eligible to serve in Summer of Service, which is considered part of Class 30.
- **For currently serving NCCC members (including Team Leaders), how can we participate in Summer of Service?**
    - NCCC's Summer 2023 class, operated through the Southern Region campus in Vicksburg, MS, is scheduled to graduate on 5/16/24. As such, those interested in participating in Summer of Service will graduate, exit, and re-enroll as Summer of Service participants.
    - NCCC's Fall 2023 classes are set to graduate on 7/18/24 (Southwest Region) and 7/29/24 (Pacific Region). Current Pacific and Southwest members will have the option of extending their service or to graduate early, exit and re-enroll as Summer of Service participants. Pacific and Southwest fall class members who wish to exit and re-enroll would need to have their 1700 hours complete by the Summer of Service start dates for Team Leader Training (5/23/24) or CTI (6/10/24).
  - **What about health and safety precautions for COVID?**
    - The Summer of Service program will adhere to all NCCC's current [COVID-19 health and safety guidance](#).
    - Vaccinations Required:
      - Up-to-date Tetanus vaccine, and 2 doses of the MMR
      - Up-to-date on the COVID-19 vaccine
    - To request a reasonable accommodation, please complete the [Reasonable Accommodation Request Form](#) in its entirety and click submit at the end of the second page. If you would like to request a Reasonable Accommodation verbally, you may do so by calling 202-360-8082.



- **Who can I contact if I would like more information about Summer of Service?**

- Before and during the application process, please contact: [ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov).
- Once you have accepted the invitation to join the Summer of Service program, please reach out to the email address for your assigned region:
  - Southwest Region - [ncccsouthwest@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:ncccsouthwest@AmeriCorps.gov)
  - North Central Region - [ncccnorthcentral@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:ncccnorthcentral@AmeriCorps.gov)

## **SERVE WITH A FRIEND QUESTIONS**

- **How many friends can I identify as those I would like to serve with?**

- While you can encourage as many of your friends to join you in this amazing service opportunity as possible, just one friend can be identified as part of our Serve with a Friend program.

- **Will NCCC guarantee I can be on the same team with my friend?**

- Requests to serve with a friend will be given full and due consideration when constructing teams. To the extent possible within NCCC program requirements, NCCC will place friends on the same team. However, we cannot guarantee friends will be assigned to the same team, nor can we guarantee friends assigned to the same team will remain as teammates for the duration of their Summer of Service commitment.

- **What are examples of “program requirements” which might cause NCCC not to place me on the same team with my friend or keep us together on the same team?**

- For safety reasons, NCCC requires each team have a certain number of trained and certified drivers.
  - If you and your friend are both drivers and the Summer of Service program is experiencing a shortage of drivers, it is possible you could be asked to move to another team to ensure sufficient drivers.
  - NCCC teams are sometimes called on to respond to natural disasters. Disaster response teams can be constructed by taking 1-2 members from existing teams. There could be a scenario in which you or your friend are called on to join a disaster response effort and the other is not.
  - AmeriCorps NCCC provides reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with federal law. Not every NCCC service projects may be suitable to our commitment to supporting a member's approved accommodation and successful service experience.
- **Is Serve with a Friend possible for both Corps Member and Team Leader positions?**
    - No, given the scope of Team Leader responsibilities, Serve with a Friend only applies to individuals serving together as Corps Members.
  - **Do we apply to NCCC together, as a pair of friends, or do each of us apply independently?**
    - Both you and your friend must complete the application process independently and be invited to serve based on your own qualifications. Eligibility requirements for Summer of Service 2024 opportunities are the same as the requirements for AmeriCorps NCCC opportunities and can be found at [americorps.gov/nccc](https://americorps.gov/nccc).
  - **How will I let NCCC know about the friend(s) I want to serve with?**
    - As you apply to join the 2024 Summer of Service, you can email [ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov) to identify the friend you wish to serve with.
  - **Should my friend email [ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:ANCCC@AmeriCorps.gov) as well, or is one of us doing so enough?**

- To ensure consent, each of you must request the other for NCCC staff to attempt to honor the request. If you name your friend but your friend does not name you, or vice versa, we will not attempt to place you and your friend on the same team.
- **Will my friend and I be roommates while on campus?**
  - The 2024 Summer of Service program will be run out of the Southwest Region in Aurora, Colorado and the North Central Region in Vinton, Iowa. Each campus uses barrack style dorm facilities, with 10-20 members living in each room together. Dorm rooms are same sex facilities. When possible, the Region will work to place you in the same room with your friend.
- **Will my friend and I be roommates while on our project?**
  - Lodging for NCCC teams is provided by the sponsoring organization NCCC serves. As NCCC does not control the lodging a sponsor identifies, beyond providing requirements for team safety precautions, including COVID safety, we cannot make this commitment.
- **Will my friend and I work alongside each other on our project?**
  - Not necessarily. While NCCC teams work on a single project together, that project can sometimes involve multiple work locations. For example, if your team is working on a climate change mitigation project, such as weatherization of homes, it is possible you could be working on one home while your friend is working on a different one.
- **Will NCCC offer the opportunity to serve with a friend to members in the Traditional Corps and/or FEMA Corps programs, or is this opportunity limited to Summer of Service?**
  - Serve with a Friend for Summer of Service. We are also offering it for Summer Traditional Corps for the first time.

- We are using the Summer Corps to test this approach and see if it allows more Americans an opportunity to serve their nation through NCCC. If we see the results are positive, we are committed to learning from the experience and how it might impact service in other Traditional Corps, FEMA Corps, and Forest Corps, programs in the future.

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