

Sustained Enthusiasm for National Service: Highlights from the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey - 2019, 2021, 2023

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Abstract

This report explores how AmeriCorps members responded to select questions of the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey (MES). The AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) designed the AmeriCorps MES to capture members' attitudes towards their service experiences upon exiting their AmeriCorps Programs. Data in this report is from 2019, 2021, and 2023 to mimic the same cadence in which the U.S. Census Bureau collects data in the Civic Engagement and Volunteering (CEV) supplement.

Across the five years spanning this analysis, data from the AmeriCorps MES tell a story of stability in the AmeriCorps member experience. The majority of members personally and professionally valued their service experiences, felt they had grown as individuals, and viewed their service as beneficial for the common good.

Though responses to AmeriCorps MES questions do not greatly change year to year, the proportion of members serving in AmeriCorps with high school diplomas and *no* college degree increased from 2019 to 2023. Given that AmeriCorps MES responses remain fairly positive across all years, this suggests that the AmeriCorps service experience is beneficial for *all* incoming members, regardless of their educational attainment.

Introduction

AmeriCorps' mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. The AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation advances this mission, in part, by building our nation's understanding of civic engagement. For example, over 400,000 exiting members have completed the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey (MES) since 2015, reporting on their service experiences and future plans to engage in civic behaviors like participating in organizations and donating their time and money. AmeriCorps has also partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to track civic engagement trends through supplements to the Current Population Survey for over two decades. The current version, the Civic Engagement and Volunteering (CEV) Supplement, launched in 2017. This nationally

representative biennial survey of 45,000 American households asks about a range of activities such as formally volunteering through an organization, attending public meetings, and informally helping neighbors. Taken together, the AmeriCorps

The term civic engagement has no standard definition, but AmeriCorps uses it to describe the constellation of activities individuals engage in to make a difference in their communities and promote the common good.

MES and CEV represent the most robust surveys about the varied ways AmeriCorps members and Americans overall make a difference in their communities and promote the common good across the country and over time.

Following the same cadence in which the U.S. Census Bureau administers the CEV, this report highlights responses to select questions of the AmeriCorps MES from the years of 2019, 2021, and 2023. These three specific years of data across the last five years of available AmeriCorps MES data provide insights on the AmeriCorps member experience from just before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic to the years following its peak.

The AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey (MES)

The AmeriCorps MES examines members' experiences across the three AmeriCorps programs: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps NCCC, and AmeriCorps VISTA.¹ AmeriCorps collects MES data on a rolling basis as members exit their service terms throughout the year and categorize members into a given year's dataset based on the date on which they exit service. Both members that complete their term or depart service early all take the MES and have up to 180 days after the date of their exit to complete the survey. Although members may begin their AmeriCorps service



¹ The AmeriCorps MES will be replaced by an expanded, enterprise-wide survey for all AmeriCorps participants to take, including AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers. This revised participant experience survey will be administered as a pre-post survey rather than only being provided upon a member/volunteer's exit. Participants will take the revised survey at both the start and end of service.

before turning 18 years of age, responses used in this report are comprised of those who had started their term of service while 18 years of age or older.

In addition to striving to improve communities and the lives of individuals served through its programs, AmeriCorps values the development of its service members and volunteers into empowered and engaged citizens. To that end, AmeriCorps' Office of Research and Evaluation designed the AmeriCorps MES to capture members' attitudes about their service experiences upon exiting their programs. While "civic engagement" largely summarizes the AmeriCorps experience of individuals serving their communities, the AmeriCorps MES explores many other facets of national service. Key components of the AmeriCorps service experience are mapped to "pathways" meant to articulate the AmeriCorps member theory of change.² Questions featured in the MES broadly fall into four "pathways" and into an additional five "domains":

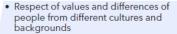
Graphic 1: Pathways and Domains in the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey

Pathways

- · Participation in civic activities
- Discussion of how political, social, local, or national issues affect the community
- Trust in people and institutions
- Voter registration and voting in last presidential election
- Competence for civic action
- · Community attachment
- Belief in one's ability to respond to challenges and adversity
- Belief in one's capacity to identify solutions to arising issues
- · Personal initiative and self-efficacy



- Leadership, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration skills
- Perceptions on how one's service impacted the community and personal growth
- AmeriCorps service as a worthwhile and defining personal and/or professional experience



- Enjoyment from interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds
- Confidence when interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds

Domains

Describing Member Experience



- Focus areas of an individual's service
- Connectedness to one's AmeriCorps service

Satisfaction with Experience



- Satisfaction with AmeriCorps service
- Recommendation of AmeriCorps service to family or friends





 Reason for joining AmeriCorps

Post-Service Plans



- Plans for using AmeriCorps education award
- Education, workforce, and service plans after AmeriCorps
- Plans for listing AmeriCorps experience on resume

Training



- Adequacy of training, resources, supervision, and supports
- Training on how to describe AmeriCorps experience

² "Appendix A: AmeriCorps Member Theory of Change". AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey Justification Part A.2 (2024). https://omb.report/omb/3045-0094.



Interpreting Findings in this Report

To note, the entire AmeriCorps MES features over 100 total questions. This report highlights responses to select questions from the survey across all pathways and domains in the years 2019, 2021, and 2023. Whereas other AmeriCorps MES reports disaggregate data by member demographics or include other sub-analyses, this report presents aggregated findings of all AmeriCorps members at the national level.³

Bar graphs depict the response trends for each AmeriCorps MES question, displaying the proportions of members each year that responded affirmatively to a question. In the event a question's response options follow a Likert Scale, responses to the two most affirmative response options are combined together.

For example, the available responses for Question 4 are: *Very often, Often, Sometimes, Rarely,* or *Never.* The graphs featuring responses to Question 4 thus display the percentage of members in each response group responding with the *Very often* or *Often* response options, therein providing the percentage of individuals who responded favorably to the question.

Each question's graph has their smallest and largest values labeled to demonstrate low and high points across the studied years in this report.



³ To view more AmeriCorps MES reports covering all questions featured in the survey, please access the AmeriCorps website: https://www.americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/highlights-americorps-member-exit-survey-dataset.

To view annual summary data of the AmeriCorps MES, please access the AmeriCorps Open Data page: https://data.americorps.gov/



Key Takeaways: Members Report Sustained Enthusiasm for National Service from 2019 to 2023

Survey data from 2019, 2021, and 2023 tell a story of stability in the AmeriCorps service experience. Many questions' responses show slight declines over time, but these changes are often relatively small and do not alter the key takeaways of the AmeriCorps MES showing that members consistently valued their service experiences, felt they have grown as individuals, and viewed their service as beneficial for the common good.

Motivations to Serve

Across all years studied, approximately nine out of ten of members reported joining AmeriCorps to help solve community needs and challenges, gain skills to use in school or work, gain direct experience in a specific career field, or have a chance to work with people who share their own ideals. Though less popular, the majority of members still reported joining AmeriCorps to meet people generally and to fulfill their duty as citizens. Members' least popular motivations for joining across all years were to do something either while enrolled in school or while taking a break from school and/or work.

Training

Approximately eight out of ten members across all years felt the training provided by their program/sponsor/project site helped prepare them for a successful AmeriCorps experience, whereas seven out of ten members felt the same about the training provided by AmeriCorps the agency.

Life and Career Skills

Throughout the course of a member's service term, they complete a variety of workplace tasks similar to what they may do in careers after AmeriCorps. The majority of members across all years reported frequently listening to others' suggestions and concerns, meeting deadlines, working on teams, working independently, gathering and analyzing information, and helping others learn new skills.

Describing Member Experience

When looking back on their service experiences, approximately nine out of ten members across all years felt they contributed to the community, gained a greater understanding of where they served, and felt they were exposed to new ideas and ways of seeing the world.

Bridging Differences / Cultural Competency

Nine out of ten members across all years agreed they respect the values of, enjoy interacting with, enjoy exploring the differences between, and feel confident when interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds. Responses to this



section of the AmeriCorps MES represent some of the most favorable responses across the entirety of the survey.

"Getting Things Done"

Approximately nine out of ten members across all years reported feeling they can solve problems by investing the necessary effort, handle unforeseen situations due to their resourcefulness, remain calm when experiencing difficulties because of their coping abilities, and stick to their goals.

Civic Engagement

Members demonstrated high levels of civic agency and largely planned to remain civically engaged after their service terms end by volunteering for issues they care about, participating in community organizations, and staying informed about news and public issues. Approximately 8 out of 10 members reported feeling confident in their ability to express their views in-person and online, organize and run meetings, and call people on the phone to solicit their help. AmeriCorps members voted at levels either equal to or greater than the national voter turnout rate, generally trusted their neighbors, and kept up to date on local and national issues.

Satisfaction with Experience

More than eight out of ten members across all years felt satisfied with their AmeriCorps experience, would recommend it to their friends and family, and felt that participating in AmeriCorps furthered their personal, professional, and educational goals and endeavors.

Post-AmeriCorps Plans

The educational attainment of members upon beginning their service terms has remained fairly constant since the start of the MES. Across all years, the largest proportion of members joining AmeriCorps have a college degree, though this proportion decreased from 2021 to 2023 while the proportion of members without a college degree (high school diploma only or some college without a degree) increased during this time. Resultingly, a larger proportion of members in 2023 planned to use their Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to attend college than in 2019 or 2021.

Going to college or graduate school after leaving AmeriCorps remained two of the most popular post-service plans reported by members, as was planning to get a job in either the nonprofit or public sectors after service. Members were likelier to seek public/nonprofit work than they were to seek private sector employment.

Across all years, almost two out of every ten members planned to reenroll in their same AmeriCorps program and about one out of every ten planned to enroll in a different AmeriCorps program.

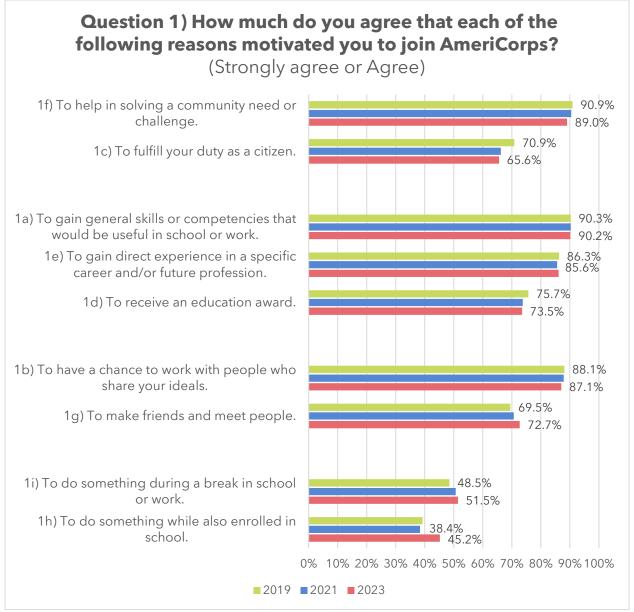


Findings by Pathways and Domains

Motivations to Serve

The first question of the AmeriCorps MES asks exiting members if they agree with a variety of reasons for why they may have joined AmeriCorps. Members tend to join AmeriCorps for more than one reason, however certain motivations for joining are more prevalent than others.

Graph 1: Motivations to Serve



Approximately 90% of all members across all years agreed they joined AmeriCorps to help solve community needs/challenges, gain skills and direct experience for school and/or future professions, and to work with people that share their ideals. More generally than working with people sharing their ideals, around 70% of members across all years reported joining AmeriCorps to make friends and meet people (Graph 1).

Almost three quarters of members across all years agreed they joined AmeriCorps to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for tuition and/or student loans, although members were least likely to agree they joined AmeriCorps to do something while either enrolled in school or while taking a break during school or work. Both motivations had gained popularity over time, however. Joining AmeriCorps to fulfill one's duty as a citizen remained a popular motivation across 2019 and 2023, although this figure decreased over time potentially indicating shifting perceptions of civic duty versus the need to give back to a community amongst incoming AmeriCorps members (Graph 1). ⁴

Training

Members receive a variety of training from both the AmeriCorps agency and their program, sponsor, and/or project site when they begin their service terms. Each year. over 80% of members reported feeling that the on-the-job training, supervision, and professional support they received from their program/project sponsors helped prepare them for successful service experiences (Graph 2). Though smaller proportions of members agreed the training they received from AmeriCorps helped prepare them, still over 71% of members each year agreed AmeriCorps' trainings were beneficial. These figures do not change much year to year, but trend upward over time (Graph 2).

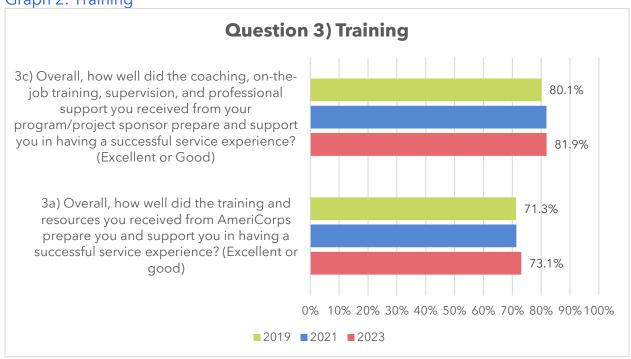
Serving in AmeriCorps as one's civic "duty" resonates with older members than younger members, though all generations report joining AmeriCorps to solve community needs and make friends/meet people at roughly the same rates.



⁴ Although not explored in this report, generational differences may help explain how members selected which motivations led them to join AmeriCorps.

Younger members typically have either just finished school (high school and/or college) or are in the midst of their education, therefore they are much more likely to report joining AmeriCorps to do something while enrolled in school, or while taking break during school or work than older members who are further removed from their schooling. Additionally, younger (and theoretically less experienced) members are likelier than older members to say they joined AmeriCorps to gain skills to use in school or at work, to receive an education award, or to gain direct experience in a field.

Graph 2: Training



Life and Career Skills

The Life and Career Skills pathway explores the workplace and interpersonal skills AmeriCorps members use and develop during their service terms by asking how frequently members performed specific tasks while serving in AmeriCorps. By completing a wide variety of activities and being exposed to new career fields, members can explore the types of work in which they are interested while gaining relevant experience to improve their post-service employment prospects.⁵

Questions 4 through 6 in the AmeriCorps MES ask how frequently members performed specific tasks during their service terms to demonstrate the variety of tasks members complete while serving. The proportion of members reporting they did certain activities does not change much year to year, with the exception of some variation seen in 2021 potentially due to COVID-19 affecting in-person service.

Across all years, approximately 90% of members reported frequently listening to others' suggestions and concerns and frequently meeting deadlines, approximately 85% of all members frequently worked on teams for a common purpose, and approximately 80% of all members felt they often worked independently. Of note, the largest proportion of members reporting working independently and smallest

⁵ AmeriCorps. "Post-Service Plans and Life and Career Skill Development of AmeriCorps Members - Member Exit Survey Series: 2017-2022". (2024). https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/MES_Life_and_Career_Analysis_4.12.24.508.pdf

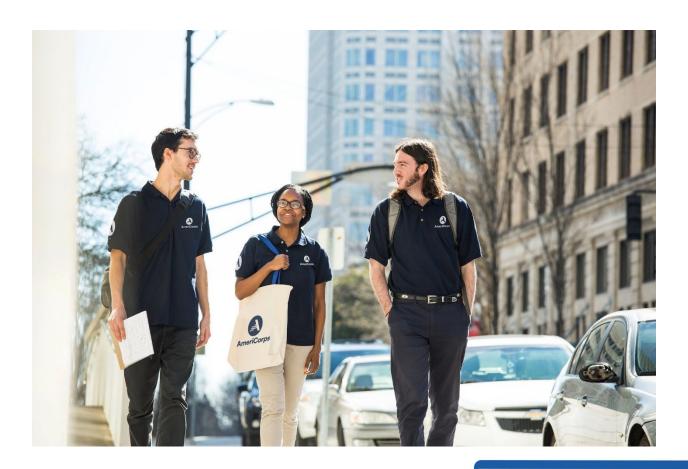


proportion of members reporting working on teams occurred in 2021, potentially due to the effects of COVID-19 on limiting in-person service (Graph 3).

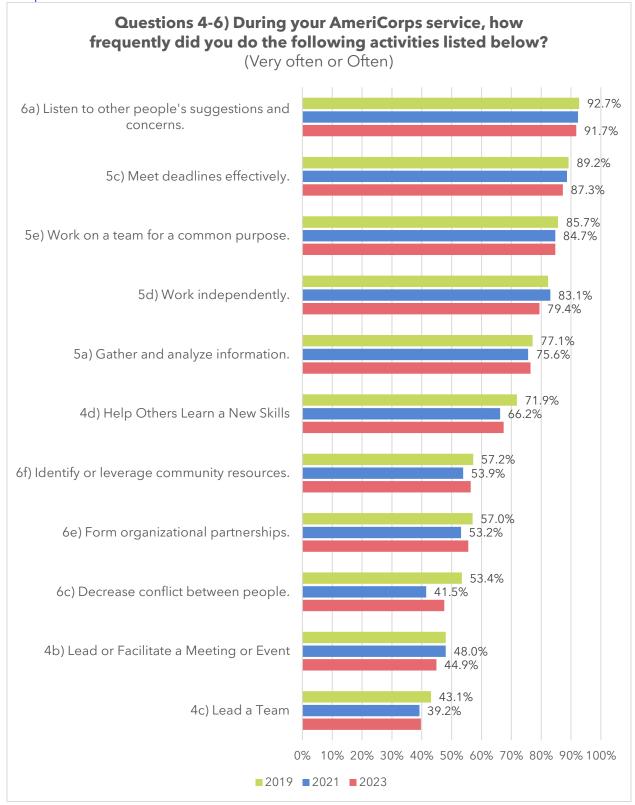
Over 75% of members across all years frequently gathered and analyzed information, and over 65% of all members frequently helped others learn new skills. Though smaller proportions of members across all years felt they identified and leveraged community resources and formed organizational partnerships, still over half of members across all years reported frequently doing so (Graph 3).

In 2019, 53.4% of members reported often decreasing conflict between people while serving, but this figure dropped to 41.5% just two years later in 2021, ultimately slightly rebounding in 2023. This again may be an effect of COVID-19 on the ability to meet in-person, therein affecting the need to mediate conflict between people if members were not physically serving around others (Graph 3).

Less than half of all members each year reported frequently leading or facilitating meetings and events, and even smaller proportions of members reported frequently leading teams during this time. An increased proportion of members reporting they led meetings and events may also be contributable to the effects of COVID-19 on forcing individuals to work remotely and use teleconferencing software rather than gathering in-person (Graph 3).



Graph 3: Life and Career Skills

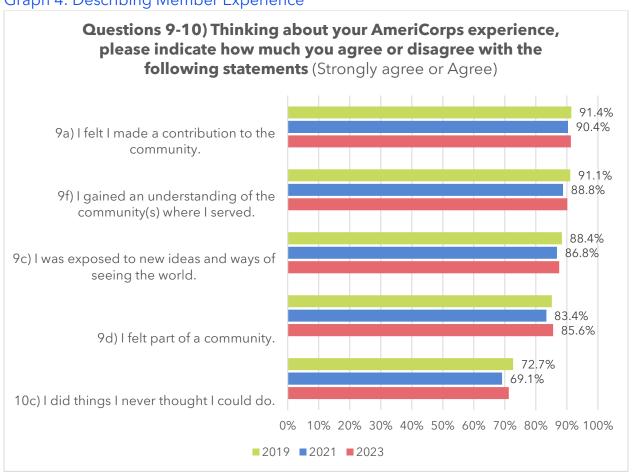


Describing Member Experience

Members are asked to reflect on the whole of their service experience regarding how they perceive their time spent in AmeriCorps. Members can accomplish a great deal during the length of their service term and furthermore gain a deeper understanding of what it meant for them to have participated in national service in terms of their own personal/professional development and fulfillment.6

Approximately nine out of ten AmeriCorps members across all years felt like they contributed to the community in which they served and gained a greater understanding of said community. Across all years, just under 90% of members across all years felt they were exposed to new ideas and ways of seeing the world and over 80% of members felt that they belonged to a community while serving. Around 70% of all members felt like they did things during their service terms that they never thought they could do (Graph 4).





⁶ AmeriCorps. "Post-Service Plans and Life and Career Skill Development of AmeriCorps Members -Member Exit Survey Series: 2017-2022".

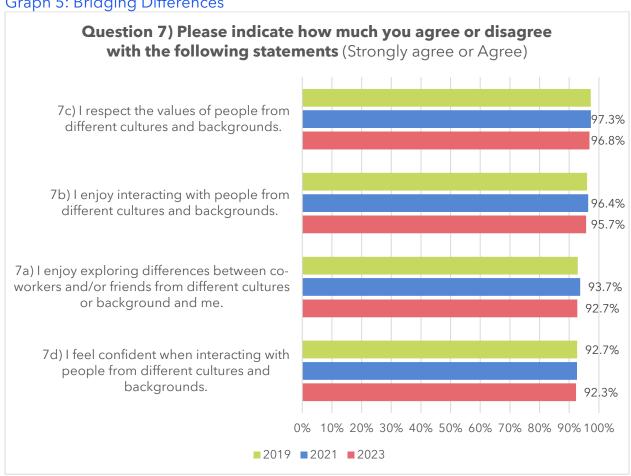


Bridging Differences / Cultural Competency

AmeriCorps members demonstrate cultural competency through their abilities to work with and within communities of people different from themselves. Practicing cultural competency is one way in which AmeriCorps members bridge differences and unite individuals in communities across the country through their service.⁷

Across all years, consistently large proportions of members felt they respect the values of, enjoy interacting with and enjoy exploring the differences between cultures and backgrounds. Members also feel confident when interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds. Over 90% of all members across all years felt they respect and enjoy the cultural differences of people in their communities (Graph 5).





https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/MES%20Bridging%20Differences FINAL%20DRAFT V2 03 29 2023 508%20Final.pdf



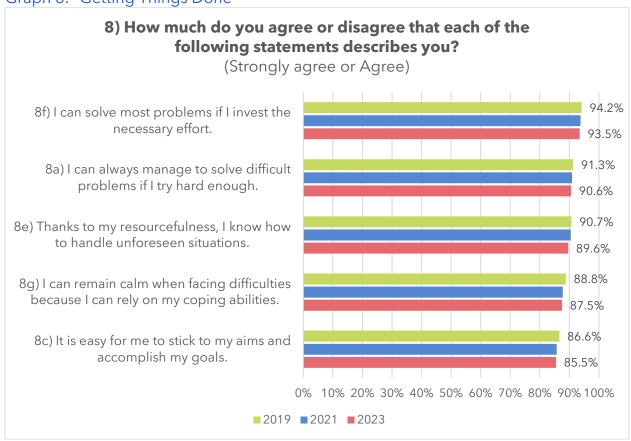
⁷ AmeriCorps. "Bridging Differences through AmeriCorps Service: AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey Analysis 2016-2020". (2022).

"Getting Things Done"

The "Getting Things Done" pathway refers to the personal initiative and self-efficacy members display while serving in AmeriCorps. Many aspects of AmeriCorps service can be physically and mentally demanding, therein providing opportunities for members to demonstrate their grit, problem-solving skills, and confidence in their ability to "get things done".⁸

Despite figures trending downward from 2019 through 2023, members still overwhelmingly agree they possess the positive traits explored in the "Getting Things Done" pathway. A large majority of members across all years feel they can: solve problems by trying hard enough (over 93% of members), solve problems by investing the necessary effort (over 90% of members), handle unforeseen situations due to their resourcefulness (over 89% of members), remain calm when facing difficulties because of their coping abilities (over 87% of members), and stick to their aims and accomplish their goals (over 85% of members) (Graph 6).





⁸ "Empowering Change in National Service: Exploring Personal Growth, Initiative, and Self-Confidence in AmeriCorps Members" AmeriCorps, 2024.

https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/MES Getting%20Things%20Done 02 28 2024 v 2 FINAL 3.4.24 508.pdf



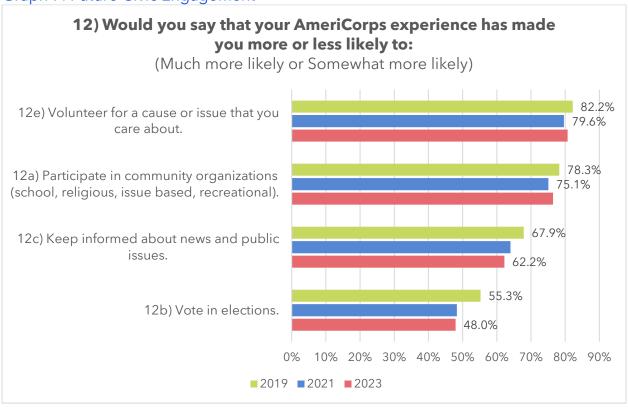
Civic Engagement

While participating in a national service program is itself a form a <u>civic engagement</u>, AmeriCorps members also make a difference in their communities and promote the common good after their service terms end through activities like volunteering, attending public meetings, and informally helping neighbors.⁹

The AmeriCorps MES asks respondents to consider the extent to which participating in national service might influence their future civic engagement. Overall, the majority of members across all years reported that their service experiences have increased their likelihood of engaging in specific civic activities moving forward.

Approximately eight out of ten members across all years reported that their AmeriCorps experience made them more likely to volunteer for a cause or issue they care about, and approximately three-quarters feel they are more likely to participate in community organizations. The proportions of members feeling like their AmeriCorps service made them likelier to stay informed about news and public issues or to vote both declined by over five percentage points from 2019 to 2023 (Graph 7).





⁹ AmeriCorps. "AmeriCorps Fosters Civic Engagement: AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey Analysis 2017 - 2021". (2023).

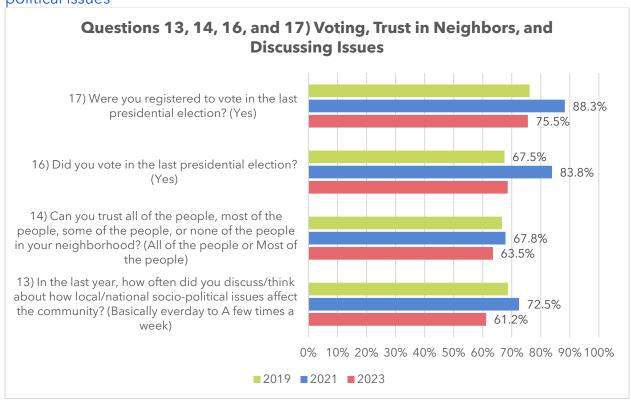
https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/MES%202017 2021 Civic%20Engagement 06 15 Final 50 8.pdf



Though Graph 7 shows how approximately only half of all members felt that their AmeriCorps service made them more likely to vote, AmeriCorps members already report voting in presidential elections at rates either equal to or higher than the general public (Graph 8). Since many members already vote, perhaps AmeriCorps did not make them any *more* likely to vote.

The AmeriCorps MES asks members if they voted in the last presidential election. The age of members when exiting AmeriCorps in non-presidential election years can help explain why this figure varies year to year. If a member exits their service in a year without a presidential election, they have to refer back to the most recent presidential election to answer this question. In this event, members have to think of presidential elections that occurred 1 to 3 years ago when they may not have been old enough to vote. For example, members aged 18 to 20 serving in 2019 or 2023 would not yet have been old enough to vote in the 2016 or 2020 elections respectively (since they would have been between 15 and 17 years old at the time of these elections). In 2021, members aged 18 through 20 would refer to the 2020 election when answering this question, and therefore most would have been old enough to vote (Graph 8).

Graph 8: Voting in Presidential Elections, Trust in Neighbors, and Discussing Sociopolitical issues

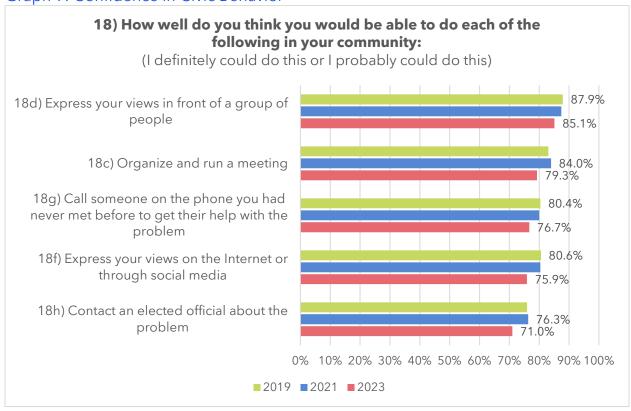


The effects of COVID-19 may have also affected the civic behaviors of members regarding how much they trust their neighbors and how often they discuss socio-

political issues. Approximately two-thirds of all AmeriCorps members across all years felt they could trust all or at least most of the people in their neighborhood, with 2021 showing the highest proportion of members feeling they could trust people in their neighborhoods. 2021 also saw the largest proportion of members reporting they discussed and thought about local, national, social, and political issues every day to a few times a week. In 2021, still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals across the country engaged with a myriad of social issues in ways they never had before, potentially contributing to the spike in this question's responses. Notably, this figure dropped over 10 percentage points by 2023, perhaps indicating society's movement away from frequently discussing issues with the intensity it was in years 2020 and 2021 (Graph 8).

Looking to their futures after their AmeriCorps terms, members reflect on how confident they feel to perform civic actions listed in question 18. Like other questions gauging civic engagement, the proportions of members feeling confident in their civic behaviors trended slightly downward over time. However, these downward trends do not affect the overall takeaway that majority of members across all years still reported feeling able to express their views in front of people or online, organize and run meetings, call someone on the phone they do not know to get their help, and contact elected officials. In other words, AmeriCorps members feel confident overall in their ability to be civically engaged (Graph 9).

Graph 9: Confidence in Civic Behavior

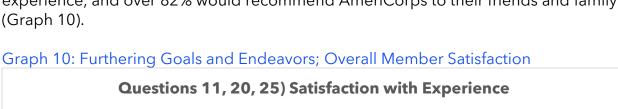


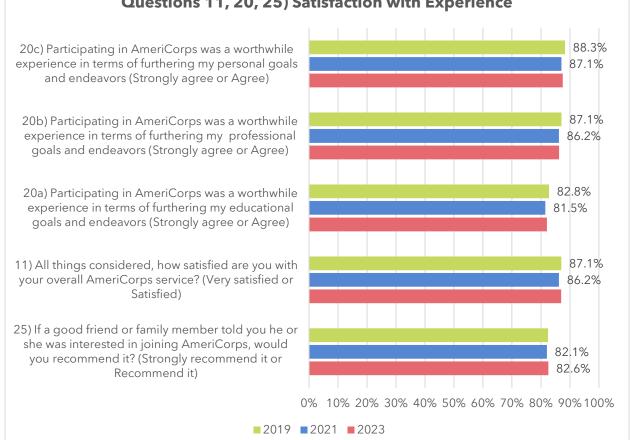
Satisfaction with Experience

Several survey questions inquire about members' satisfaction levels pertaining to their overall service experiences. The AmeriCorps MES asks if members' participation in AmeriCorps furthered their personal, professional, and educational goals, and furthermore if they would recommend AmeriCorps to their friends and family.¹⁰

The majority of members look back on their service terms fondly after leaving AmeriCorps and view their service as time well spent. Over 80% of members across all years felt that serving in AmeriCorps helped them advance their personal, professional, and educational goals and endeavors with relatively minor changes year to year (Graph 10).

Over 86% of members across all years feel satisfied with their AmeriCorps experience, and over 82% would recommend AmeriCorps to their friends and family (Graph 10).





¹⁰ AmeriCorps. "Post-Service Plans and Life and Career Skill Development of AmeriCorps Members - Member Exit Survey Series: 2017-2022".





Post-AmeriCorps Plans

The AmeriCorps MES asks members both what they plan to do with their Segal AmeriCorps Education Award and what they plan to do in the next six months after they exit AmeriCorps service.¹¹

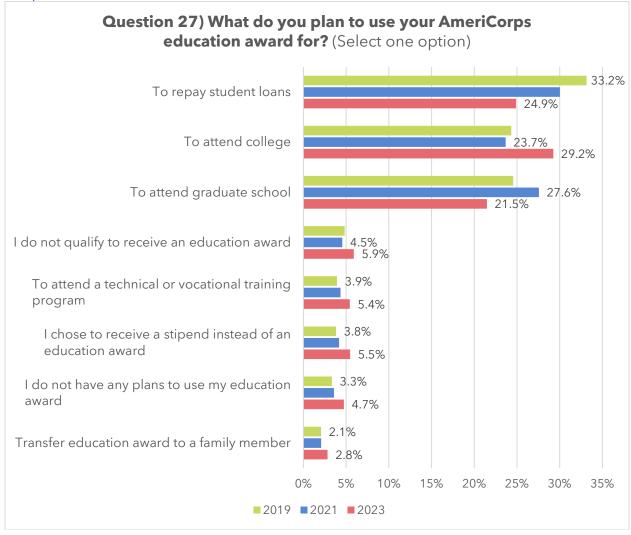
Members' educational attainment did not change much between 2019 and 2021, but the proportion of members without college degrees increased in 2023 (see Appendix). Resultingly, larger proportions of members say they want to go to college and use their education award to help pay for it in 2023 than in 2019 and 2021. In 2019 and 2021 it was likelier for members to have already graduated college than members in 2023 and were therefore likelier to use their education award on existing student loans than paying forthcoming tuition as they entered higher education (Graph 11).

Out of all years, members were likeliest to use their education award to pay for graduate school in 2021. Perhaps due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger proportion of college-educated members may have elected to go to graduate school rather than try and enter the workforce (Graph 11).

¹¹ For more information on the Segal AmeriCorps Education award, please view the AmeriCorps website: https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-americorps-education-award.



The proportion of members planning to transfer their education award to a family member, electing to receive a stipend over the education award, planning to attend vocational school, not qualifying for the award, or not having plans to use the education award also increased from 2019 to 2023, albeit slightly (Graph 11).



Graph 11: Education Award Plans of Members

Members may select as many options as they feel capture what they plan to do in the six months following their AmeriCorps service. Aligned with results of the previous question, a larger share of members in 2023 reported planning to go to college than in 2021 or 2019. In 2019, approximately the same proportion of members planned to go to graduate school as the proportion of members looking to get a job in the nonprofit sector. Both options became less popular by 2023 in place of members looking to go to college or reenroll in another AmeriCorps program. Seeking private employment remains a fairly unpopular post-service plan across all years, though not nearly as unpopular as options not shown on the graph such as starting a nonprofit or small business, enrolling in the Peace Corps, or joining the military (Graph 12).

Question 28) What are you planning to do in the next six months after your AmeriCorps service? Please select the options that best describe your desired plans. Go to college 24.0% 29.6% Go to graduate school 23.8% 24.7% Get a job in the nonprofit or social service sector 21.0% Get a job in the public/government sector Get a job in the private sector Enroll in the same AmeriCorps program 16.0% 18.7% Enroll in another AmeriCorps program 0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% **■**2019 **■**2021 **■**2023

Graph 12: Post-Service Plans of Members

Conclusion: AmeriCorps Members Depart National Service Having Grown as Individuals

With few exceptions, AmeriCorps members consistently reported high levels of enthusiasm for their service experiences in the 2019, 2021, and 2023 AmeriCorps MES. Members described participating in national service as a valuable experience that promotes the common good *and* their own personal growth. The majority of AmeriCorps members:

- Joined AmeriCorps programs to solve community challenges and gain skills for work and/or school.
- Felt their training by AmeriCorps and their specific programs/project sites prepared them for successful service terms.
- Completed a variety of tasks during their service terms that they felt developed their life and career skills.
- Gained a greater understanding of where they served and felt like they contributed to the community.



- Respected, valued, and explored the differences between themselves and people of different cultures and backgrounds.
- Reported being able to solve problems, handle unforeseen situations, and remain calm when facing difficulties because of their grit, coping abilities, resourcefulness, and personal initiative.
- Planned to stay civically engaged after their service terms ended and reported feeling confident in their ability to perform various civic behaviors.
- Felt satisfied with their AmeriCorps experience and would recommend it to their friends and family.

One of the most notable differences in responses to the AmeriCorps MES over time is the increased proportion of members planning to attend college after service with the use of their education award. Given that most years' responses remain fairly positive, this suggests that the AmeriCorps experience is beneficial for *all* incoming members, regardless of their educational attainment.

As told by the AmeriCorps MES, national service definitively provides opportunities for self-development as well as to improve the common good of communities across the country, year in and year out. AmeriCorps members remain enthusiastic about what their national service experiences provided them and will continue to "Get Things Done for America".



Appendix: Educational Attainment of AmeriCorps MES Respondents

Table 1: Educational Attainment of AmeriCorps MES Respondents			
Highest Level of Educational Attainment	2019	2021	2023
Less than High School	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%
Technical School, Apprenticeship, Vocational School	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%
High School Diploma/GED	15.7%	15.2%	21.6%
Associates Degree (AA)	5.1%	5.0%	7.2%
Some College	18.1%	16.8%	19.8%
College Graduate	49.6%	50.9%	39.7%
Graduate Degree (e.g. MA, PhD, MD, JD)	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%
Unknown	3.2%	4.0%	2.9%
Total N of AmeriCorps MES Respondents	49,178	46,233	38,944

