

Speaking Outline: A Quick Introduction to AmeriCorps NCCC

HOST SCRIPT:

Slide 1: Title Slide

- The purpose of the webinar is to provide a brief introduction to the AmeriCorps NCCC program to help young adults determine if this national service program might be a good fit.
- AmeriCorps is the federal agency for volunteerism and national service in the United States. We bring individuals of all backgrounds and abilities together to tackle our most pressing challenges in our communities.
- AmeriCorps offers national service positions, which are different from jobs or internships but similar in that they provide tremendous opportunities for personal growth and development for career success.
- AmeriCorps provides opportunities for you to be a changemaker in your home community or communities across the country. Plus, our positions come with a variety of benefits, which we'll talk about.

Slide 2: NCCC Mission

- AmeriCorps NCCC stands for the National Civilian Community Corps. You may hear it referred to as 'N' triple 'C' but is a program that has been around for over 30 years.
- The key points to the mission are *strengthening communities* and *developing leaders*, through *team-based national and community service*.

Slide 3: Member Video

- Let's take a minute to hear from AmeriCorps NCCC members and learn more about their national service journeys.
- One comment you may have caught was lasting connections and working on a team is a key component of the AmeriCorps NCCC program...

Slide 4: Team-Based

- All NCCC programs are a team-based experience. This is one of unique aspects to the program and makes it such a dynamic one to serve in. You'll be assigned to a team of

8-10 members with one team leader.

- You and your team will work, live, travel, shop for groceries, cook meals, and have down time together.
- You can expect to build your teamwork skills, collaboration skills, and make meaningful friendships for life.

Slide 5: NCCC Program Options

- Let's look at the three core programs in AmeriCorps NCCC that are full-time for 10-11 months (and note that for all these programs, you'll travel and serve on 3-6 projects in your service year):
 - **Traditional Corps**, is wide-ranging for the hands-on service projects you might do from building a house to running a youth summer program to assisting with tax preparation.
 - You might work alongside nonprofits, federal agencies, local and state government agencies, tribal organizations, or faith-based organizations.
 - Traditional Corps is offered three times per year - in summer, winter, and fall
 - The **FEMA Corps** program works alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency and supports communities before, during, and after disasters (often in an administrative capacity).
 - FEMA Corps is also a possible pathway to employment in the field of emergency management and with FEMA itself, as FEMA hires many of FEMA Corps alumni.
 - FEMA Corps is offered two times per year - in summer and winter
 - **Forest Corps**, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is a field based and rigorous program where members work on projects like wildlife risk mitigation and resource management.
 - This service option is great for those interested in protecting our public lands and looking to pursue a career with the U.S. Forest Service or other environmental conservation careers.
 - Currently, Forest Corps is only offered with a start date in summer.

Slide 6: Service Roles

- No matter which program you serve in, these are the two position options to choose from:
 - The Team Leader position is for those individuals with leadership potential that are ages 18 and older. There is no upper age limit and prior service experience is not required.
 - The Corp Members position is for young adults that are ages 18 to 26. You'll serve on a team of your peers and gain valuable life and work experiences.
- In addition to the age requirements, please note that you must be a U.S. Citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident to apply.
- It's also worth sharing that there aren't any education requirements or specific skill requirements to apply to AmeriCorps NCCC programs.

Slide 7: Our Campuses

- There are four campuses or "regional hubs" throughout the U.S. You'll notice that the colors on this map coordinate with each region.
- These are facilities where members live during training and in between projects; most of the time is spent out in the field, working, and living at project sites.
- Unfortunately, applicants do not have the ability to select a preference for a campus and often certain campuses only host a certain program. For example, the Southern Region campus is the only one that hosts FEMA Corps with start dates in winter and summer.

Slide 8: Benefits During Service

- What are the benefits of serving with AmeriCorps NCCC?
- Most basic expenses covered: communal housing with your team, meals stipend (you'll cook and eat with your team), medical benefits as well as Teladoc service and Member Assistance Program.
- Travel: all your travel and transportation costs are covered by the program, so you'll get to visit new places you may not have seen before.
- Living allowance: note that this is a modest stipend and that members do not live in excess but is intended to cover basic personal expenses.

- Build your resume: service with AmeriCorps looks great on your resume and you'll receive extensive training in multiple fields, and gain both hard and soft skills, depending on the types of projects you work on.
- Student loan forbearance: As an AmeriCorps member you may be eligible for forbearance on your qualified student loans during your term of service. Forbearance is granted by the Financial Institution, not by AmeriCorps.

Slide 9: Benefits After Service

- Education Award: this amount changes from year to year but is **\$7,395 for FY 2024**. It can be used for future tuition expenses or to repay existing student loans (including qualifying federal loans).
- Another benefit after service is the Schools of National Service that provide additional financial benefits for AmeriCorps alumni like scholarships or waiving application fees.
- There are over 700 Employers of National Service, which are employers in the public and private sectors that have committed to hiring alumni of National Service programs like ours. It can also be a fast-track application process into federal employment.

Slide 10: Get Started - Four Steps to Apply

- When you're ready to apply, there are four steps to applying for your service opportunity:
 - Step One: Research opportunities at My.AmeriCorps.gov. Find the NCCC program that fits you.
 - Step Two: Create a profile Input some basic info and verify your email. Just a note, we do collect social security numbers at this stage to verify citizenship or residency status. This information is not used for anything in the meantime until we initiate the background check process once you're invited to serve.
 - Step Three: Complete an application. Input your information into 8 sections, which includes items like education, professional experience, and skills. You also need to submit names of two (2) references. At least one should be a professional reference.
 - Step Four: Submit your application. You can apply to one or more opportunities at once but know that you must apply to each listing you're your application.

Slide 11: Questions

- You can stay connected with NCCC on social media; the team is also able to answer questions on the phone or via email, and the website has lots of great information about all opportunities.