

September 2024

## Sustained Enthusiasm for National Service: Highlights from the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey (2019-2023)

Upon program exit, AmeriCorps members are asked to take a survey to capture insights about their service experience and attitudes. Over 400,000 AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC members have completed the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey (AmeriCorps MES) since April 2015. The AmeriCorps MES includes questions that align to [four pathways and five domains](#) of the AmeriCorps member experience:



Pathways	Domains
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridging Differences</li> <li>• Civic Engagement</li> <li>• 'Getting Things Done'</li> <li>• Life and Career Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing Member Experience</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Satisfaction with Experience</li> <li>• Motivation to Join</li> <li>• Post-Service Plans</li> </ul>

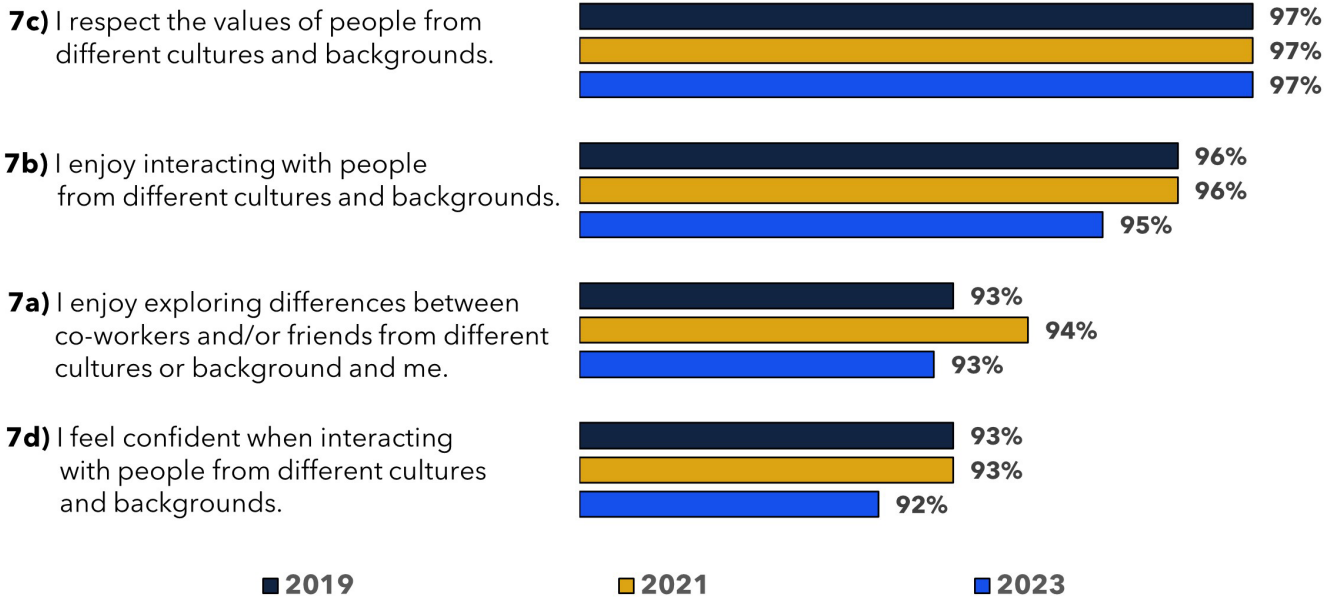
This brief features key insights from analyses of AmeriCorps MES data collected from exiting AmeriCorps members from 2019 (n = 49,178), 2021 (n = 46,233), and 2023 (n = 38,944). The findings tell a story of stability in the AmeriCorps experience, as the majority of AmeriCorps members across all studied years value their service experiences, feel that they have grown as individuals, and view their service as beneficial for the common good. This brief presents selected AmeriCorps MES survey questions and subitems for each of the AmeriCorps MES pathways and domains.

## Bridging Differences

The Bridging Differences pathway describes members' cultural competency: the ability to work with and within communities of people different from themselves, interacting with populations such as the unhoused, impoverished, incarcerated, or socially marginalized and serving alongside co-members from differing backgrounds (such as different cultural, socioeconomic, or ethnic backgrounds).

### AmeriCorps MES Question 7: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

#### Strongly agree or Agree

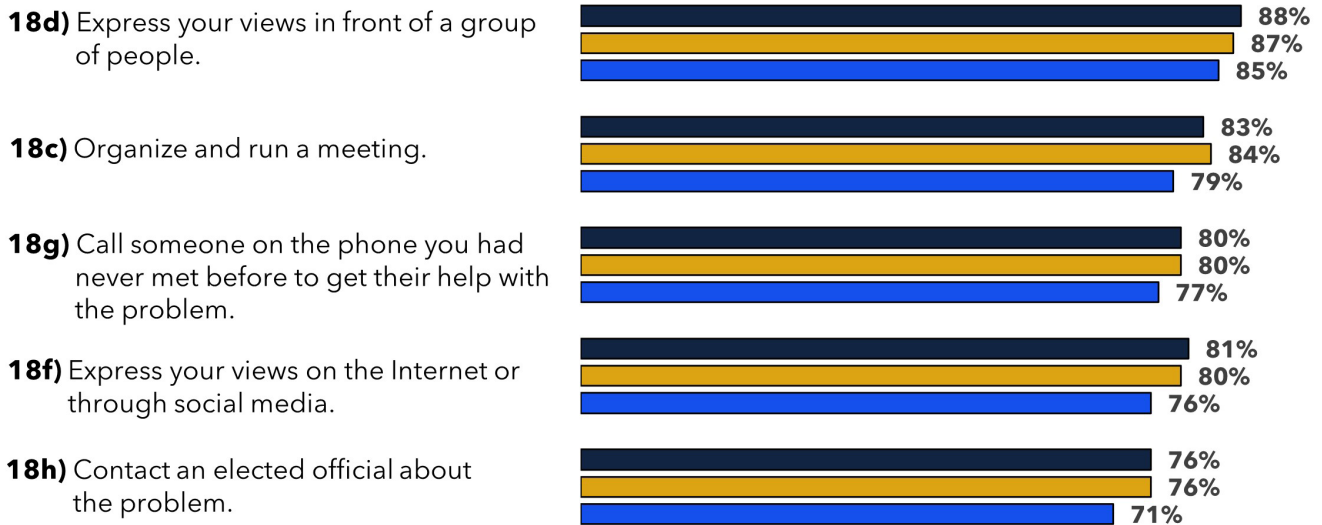


## Civic Engagement

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. It includes participation within and beyond electoral politics at all geographic levels. Volunteerism is a prominent example of civic engagement, but also includes activities like attending public meetings, belonging to organizations, and neighbors doing favors for each other.

### AmeriCorps MES Question 18: If you found out about a problem in your community that you wanted to do something about, how well do you think you would be able to do each of the following:

*I definitely could do this or I probably could do this*



■ 2019

■ 2021

■ 2023

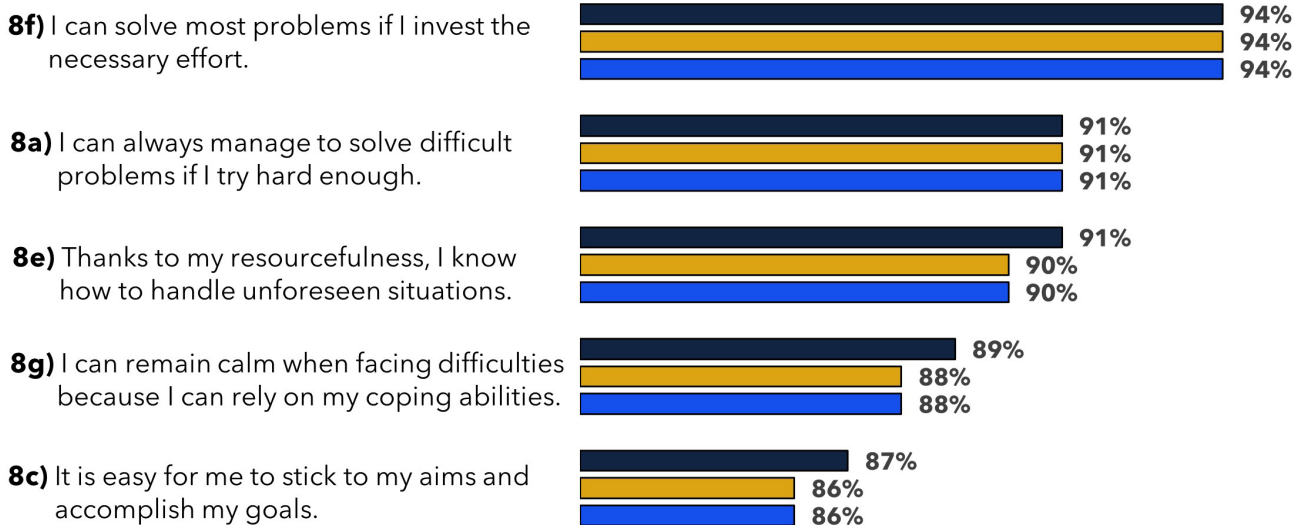


## 'Getting Things Done'

The 'Getting Things Done' pathway describes members' ability to self-start, go beyond what is required, and persevere in the face of challenges. This pathway reflects concepts of personal initiative, grit, and confidence in one's actions, encompassing many requisite traits needed to be successful in creating community change.

### AmeriCorps MES Question 8: How much do you agree or disagree that each of the following statements describes you?

#### Strongly agree or Agree



■ 2019

■ 2021

■ 2023

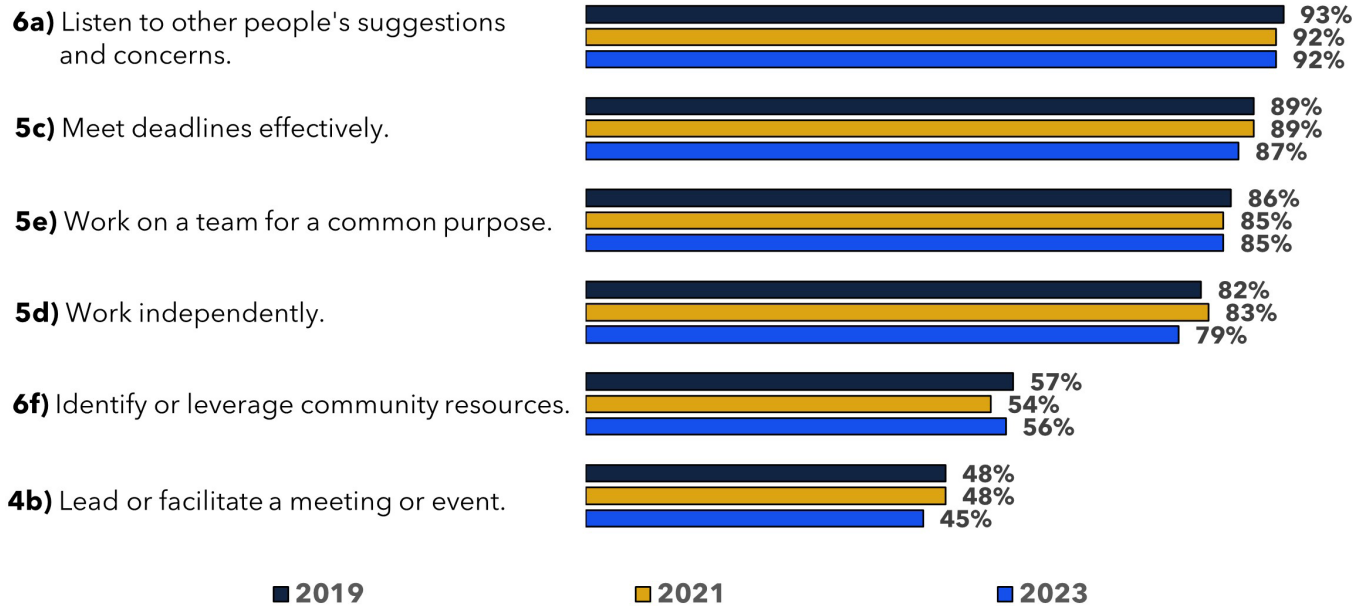


## Life and Career Skills

The Life and Career Skills pathway describes the workplace and interpersonal skills AmeriCorps members learn, use, and improve upon during their service terms. AmeriCorps members complete a variety of “real-world” activities throughout the course of service.

### AmeriCorps MES Question 4-6: During your AmeriCorps service, how frequently did you do the following activities listed below?

#### Very often or Often

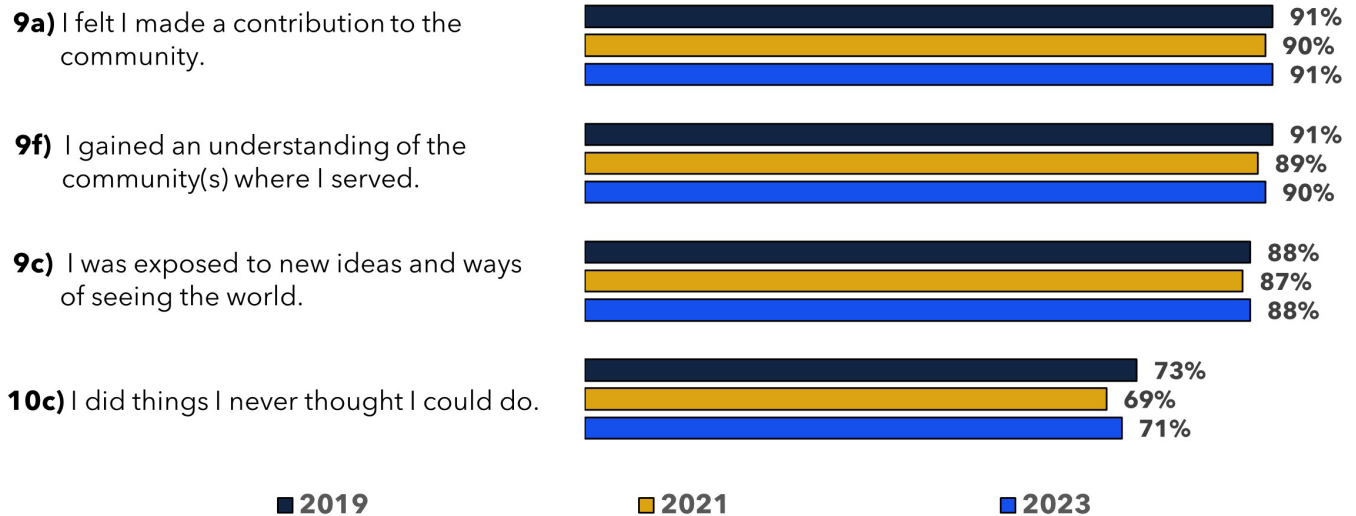


## Describing Member Experience

Over the course of their service terms, AmeriCorps members often partake in many transformative experiences and complete impactful projects over a substantial period of time. Members reflect on these experiences and service projects in terms of personal fulfillment and professional development.

**AmeriCorps MES Question 9-10: Thinking about your AmeriCorps experience, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

### Strongly agree or Agree

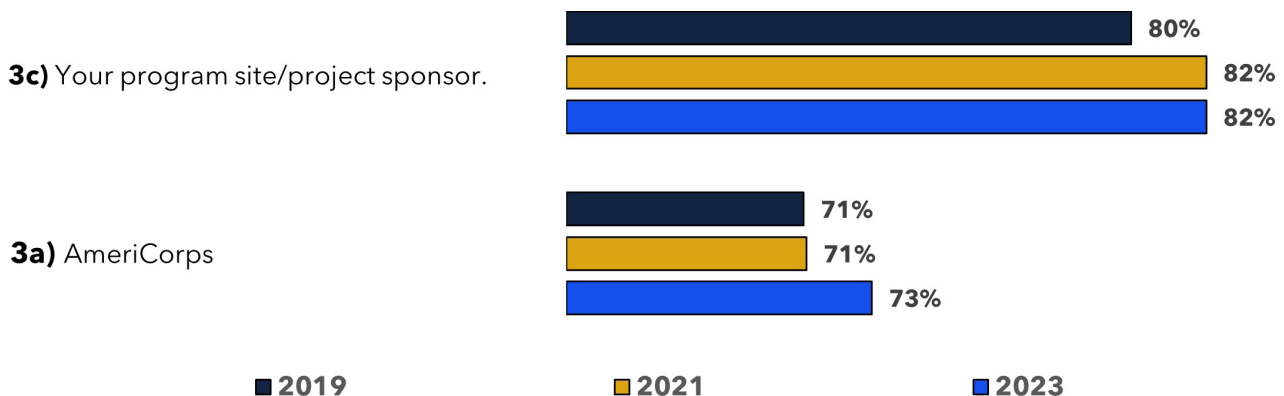


## Training

Members receive various trainings from both the AmeriCorps agency and their program/sponsor/project site to prepare them for success while serving.

**AmeriCorps MES Question 3: Overall, how well did the training and resources you received from \_\_\_\_\_ prepare and support you in having a successful service experience?**

### Excellent or Good

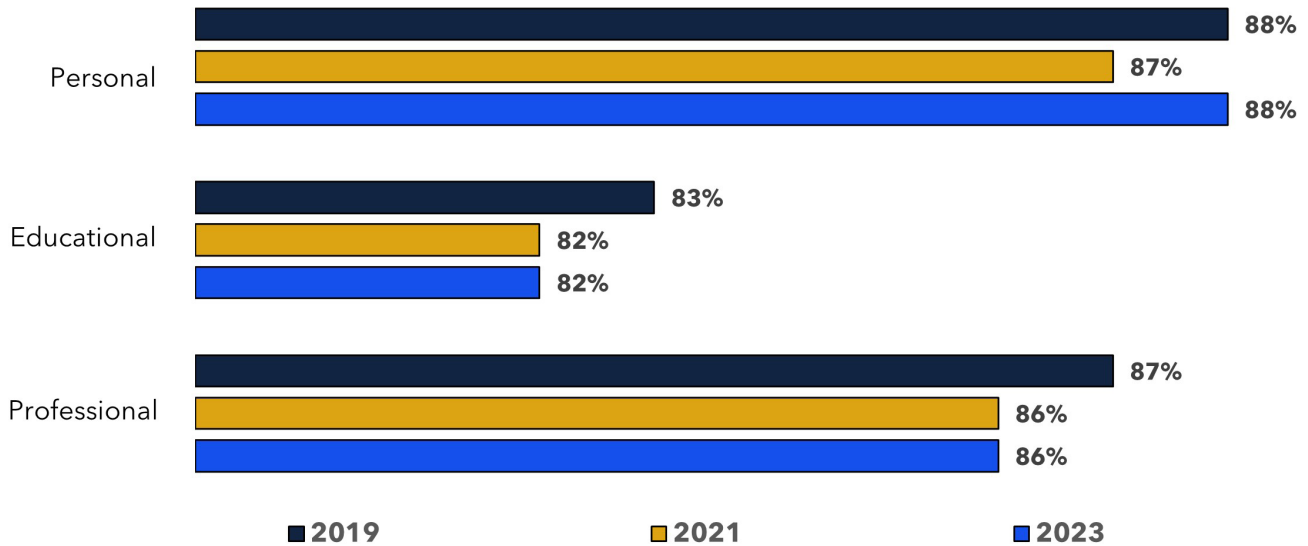


## Satisfaction with Experience

By participating in AmeriCorps, many members are able to further their personal, professional, and educational goals and endeavors.

### AmeriCorps MES Question 20: How much do you agree or disagree that participating in AmeriCorps was a worthwhile experience in furthering your \_\_\_\_\_ goals and endeavors?

#### Strongly agree or Agree

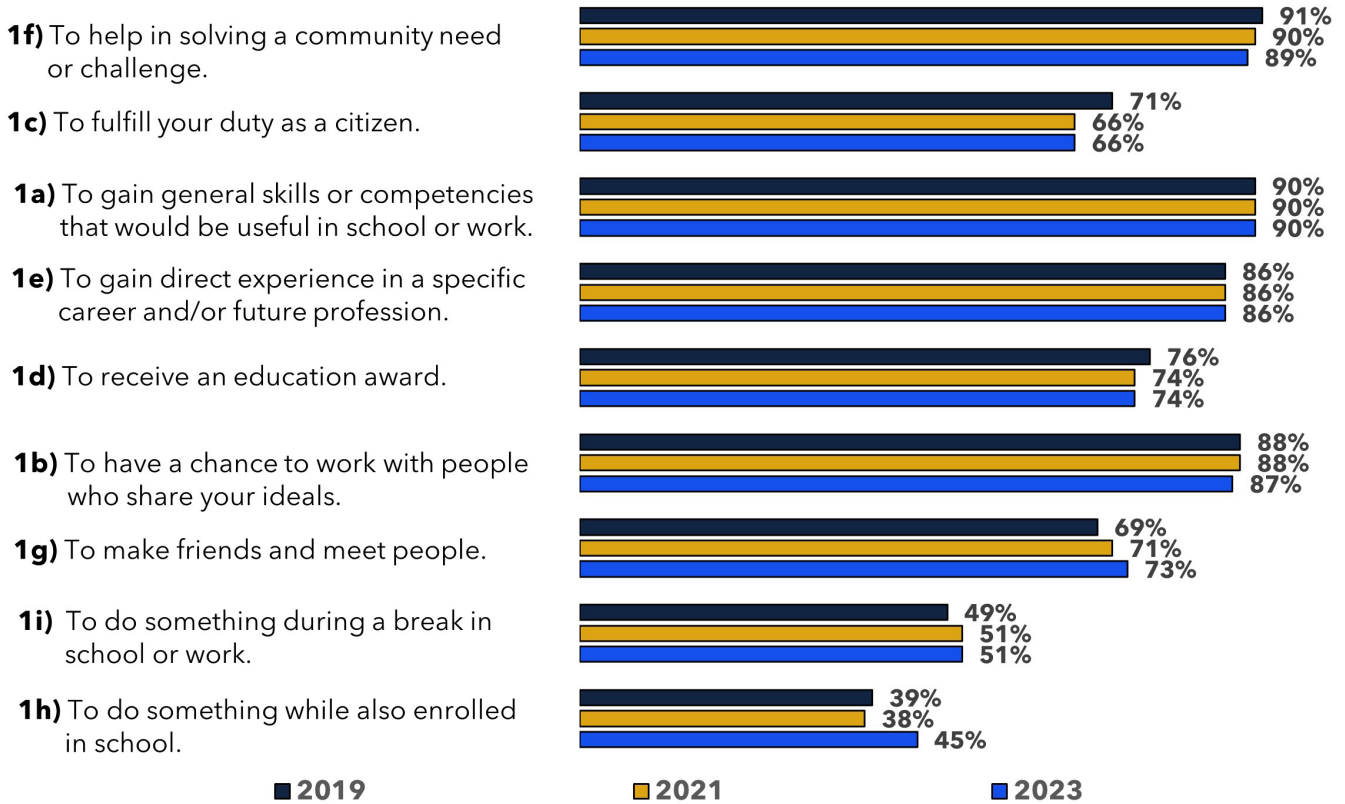


## Motivation to Join

AmeriCorps members decide to join national service for a variety of different reasons.

### AmeriCorps MES Question 1: People join AmeriCorps for a variety of reasons. How much do you agree that each of the following reasons motivated you to join?

#### Strongly agree or Agree



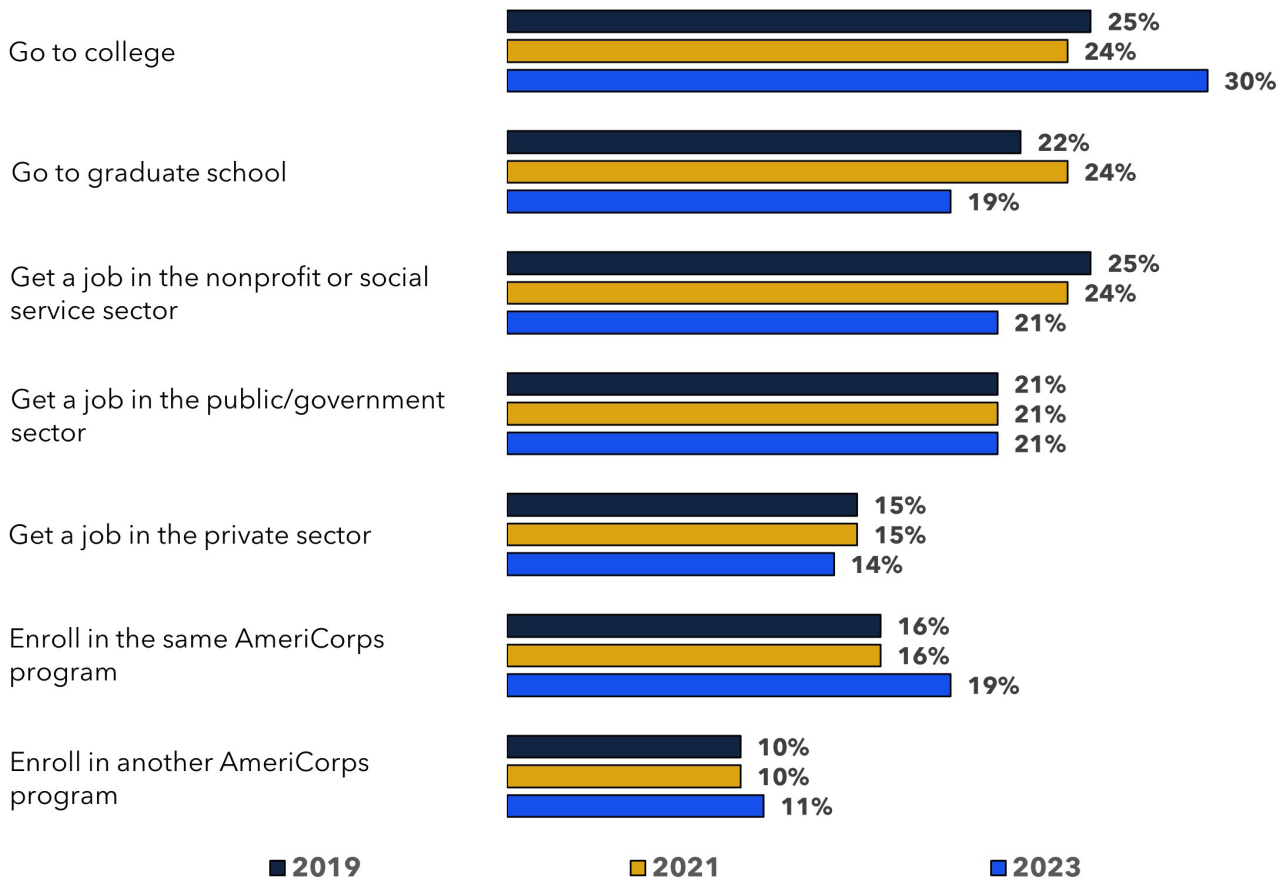


## Post-Service Plans

After serving in AmeriCorps, members are prepared for a variety of post-service plans such as entering the workforce or going to college and/or graduate school. The [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) helps members achieve their educational goals.

### AmeriCorps MES 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.



#### About the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey

The pathways and domains covered in the AmeriCorps MES align to the [AmeriCorps Member Theory of Change](#). More information on the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey is located on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#).

#### About the Office of Research and Evaluation

The [AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation](#) assists AmeriCorps and its partners in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data and insights about AmeriCorps programs and civic life in America.

#### About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers.

Learn more at <https://americorps.gov/>.