

## Spotlight On: “Life and Career Skills”

### What is the

#### Member Exit Survey (MES)?

At the end of service, AmeriCorps members are invited to take a survey to capture insights about their experience and attitudes.

Over 350,000 AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC members have completed the AmeriCorps MES since April 2015.

### What do we mean by “Life and Career Skills?”

The AmeriCorps MES includes questions that align to four pathways of the AmeriCorps member experience: Bridging Differences, Civic Engagement, Life and Career Skills, and Getting Things Done. The Life and Career Skills pathway describes the skills AmeriCorps members learn, use, and improve upon during their service terms. This pathway also encompasses the growth of members’ personal, educational, and career goals and members’ plans in the six months following their AmeriCorps service.

Eight survey questions provide information about the Life and Career Skills pathway of the AmeriCorps member experience. This fact sheet provides an overview of the findings on this pathway; for more details, read the [full report](#).

## How does AmeriCorps service enhance life and career skills?

From 2017-2022, the majority of departing members reported that they:



### Developed useful work skills

For example, AmeriCorps members:

- Met **deadlines** effectively (89%)
- Worked **on a team** (85%)
- Gathered and **analyzed information** (77%)



### Made a lasting impact

For example, AmeriCorps members:

- Contributed to the **community** (91%)
- **Made a difference** in the life of at least one person (92%)



### Had a meaningful service experience

For example, AmeriCorps members:

Viewed AmeriCorps as a worthwhile experience that furthered their **personal** (88%), **professional** (87%), and **educational** (83%) endeavors



### Gained a broader life perspective

For example, AmeriCorps members:

- Gained exposure to **new ideas** and ways of seeing the world (88%)
- Figured out their **professional next steps** (70%)

## Patterns Differed by AmeriCorps Member Post-Service Plans

AmeriCorps members planning to attend graduate school or participate in another service experience (such as another AmeriCorps term or the Peace Corps) after their service terms responded most favorably to most life and career skills questions. Members planning to attend post-secondary school or seek public employment responded almost as favorably as those with plans for graduate school or another service experience. AmeriCorps members planning to seek private employment or who were unsure of their post-service plans responded least favorably to most survey questions.

### 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 [AmeriCorps.gov](#).**