



# AmeriCorps NCCC Presentation for Students

## Speaking Notes

### Slide 1

AmeriCorps NCCC (pronounced “N’ triple ‘C’”) stands for National Civilian Community Corps and is a team-based, residential service program for 18-24 year olds. Today we will talk about the basic requirements, program options, benefits, and application process. Let’s get started!

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### Slide 2

Here are some basic elements of the NCCC programs.

*18-24 years old* - First, there is an age requirement to serve with NCCC. You must be 18-24 years old to serve. If you are interested in a supervisory role, the Team Leader position does not have an upper age limit. You must also be 18 years old to serve as a Team Leader.

*10-12 months* - You must be available to leave your hometown and serve full-time for 10-12 months. We call this period a service term. We have two program options for you to choose from, Traditional Corps, which is 10 months, and FEMA Corps, which is 12 months. We’ll talk more about the differences between these two programs in a moment.

*Team-based* - The team-based component is very important. You will be living, working, and traveling with a team of your peers for the entirety of your service term. Teams are typically composed of 8-12 members with one Team Leader assigned to each, but teams could also be larger or smaller depending on when you start.

*4 campuses* - A campus is a regional hub where Corps Members receive training and which they return to in between each of their 3-6 projects. Our regions are: Pacific (campus located in Sacramento, CA); Southwest (campus located in Aurora, CO); North Central (campus located in Vinton, IA); and Southern (campus located in Vicksburg, MS). While you will call this area “home base” during your service term, you will spend the majority of your time out in the field completing projects. Corps Members typically spend approximately 1-2 months total at their campus, over the course of their 10-12 month service term.

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### Slide 3

Essentially, there are 4 service opportunities with NCCC—two programs and two positions within each program, as the graphic on this slide shows.

*Traditional Corps* is our original, rugged experience where members serve for 10 months completing hands-on projects. They could be building affordable housing one month, then repairing hiking trails in a national park the next. Additional project examples include tutoring students, doing tax preparation for low-income families, managing a community garden, and refurbishing a community center for veterans—the possibilities are endless! Flexibility and an interest in trying new things are great qualities to have for individuals interested in Traditional Corps.

*FEMA Corps* is a professional, administrative experience in which members serve for 12 months throughout the country and work specifically in the field of emergency management. Project examples include developing disaster response plans, using mapping software to assess needs and risks, collecting and analyzing data, and coordinating the distribution of supplies. This is a great opportunity for folks who would like to gain office

experience, or who have an interest in working in disaster preparedness and response.

The two positions include *Corps Members*, who are 18-24 year olds serving on a team of their peers, and *Team Leaders*, who are ages 18 and up and are looking for a challenging supervisory experience. Team Leaders model, teach, guide, and mentor their team members while coordinating with project sponsors in the field. Please note, Traditional Corps Team Leaders undergo one additional month of training, so their service term is 11 months total.

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#### **Slide 4**

There are many benefits to serving in AmeriCorps NCCC.

*Build your resume* - You will receive training and experience in a variety of different areas, giving you the opportunity to build soft and hard skills throughout your service. The experience of serving with AmeriCorps looks very strong on your resume. In fact, there are over 600 employers nationwide—including local, state, and federal government agencies; non-profit organizations; and for-profit companies—who have committed to hiring alumni of national service programs such as NCCC. This means you will receive a competitive advantage when applying to future jobs.

*Travel the country* - NCCC provides the opportunity to visit new places you may not otherwise see. Members serve in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and U.S. island territories.

*Make a difference* - If you have the urge to help others, and to see the impact you make, NCCC is a great place for you. The experience requires you to put the communities you serve ahead of your own personal comforts, but if you do, it can be incredibly rewarding.

*Earn an Education Award* - Upon successful completion of service, you will receive an Education Award of over \$6,000. This money can be used for current student loans, future tuition, or other educational expenses. If you have student loans when you enter NCCC, they may be eligible for forbearance during service. Check with your lender to see if you qualify. Additionally, some schools will match the Education Award or provide additional scholarship opportunities to alumni of AmeriCorps programs. You can explore these opportunities at [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov).

*Living allowance* - While you are serving with NCCC, you will receive a modest stipend of approximately \$300 per month, after taxes, for your personal needs. Team Leaders receive a slightly higher living stipend, as they have additional responsibilities.

*Most expenses covered* - NCCC will cover your basic needs while you are serving. This includes communal housing; family style meals with your team; initial travel to your campus and continued transportation to and from projects; and medical benefits. NCCC works to ensure your basic needs are met so you can focus on the important work of strengthening communities.

While service with NCCC is definitely a challenge, there are many benefits that come with it, including the ones depicted on this slide and others such as lasting relationships, excellent experience, exposure to many different career options, and a sense of direction for your future career or educational endeavors.

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#### **Slide 5**

Here is a quick overview of the NCCC application process. The application itself as well as the follow up steps for eligibility are rigorous, so your patience and responsiveness are much appreciated.

1.) Search Opportunities: The AmeriCorps application portal can be found at [My.AmeriCorps.gov](http://My.AmeriCorps.gov). There you can search for opportunities. We recommend you check “NCCC” in the advanced search section, review each

open listing carefully, and bookmark the one that fits you best in your browser. You will need to return to the listing later.

2.) Apply: Next, you will need to complete your profile. This requires basic information including an active email address, your permanent mailing address, social security number (to be used for legal clearance purpose only after you have been selected to serve), and other contact info. Then, create an application by telling us more about yourself. The most heavily weighted sections are the Motivational Statement and the Professional References, so please be sure to put some thought into these areas in particular! Finally, you will be ready to submit your application. Go back to the listing you bookmarked earlier, click the “Apply Now” button, and select the application you just created to complete the submission process.

3.) Application Assessment: Once your application is complete, you will receive next steps from NCCC. If you are applying to a Corps Member position, you will need to complete an eligibility questionnaire. The eligibility questionnaire is a short series of questions used to ensure you understand the program specifics, and it can be completed via phone, email, or snail mail. From there, the team at NCCC Headquarters will assess your application to determine if you would be a good fit for NCCC. If you are applying to a Team Leader position, you will answer a few additional questions on the application, but you will not complete an eligibility questionnaire. Instead, your application will be assessed by regional staff and you will receive next steps directly from a campus.

4. Invitation to Serve: Once your application has been assessed, you will either receive your invitation to serve and campus assignment, or you will be placed on the waitlist. If invited to serve, you will need to complete medical and legal clearances to ensure you are eligible to serve. Being waitlisted means you will be called to serve depending on space, and you are encouraged to complete the clearance process while you wait.

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## Slide 6

Connect with NCCC on social media, by phone, or email. Staff are standing by to answer all questions about the program or application specifics. We look forward to connecting with you soon!