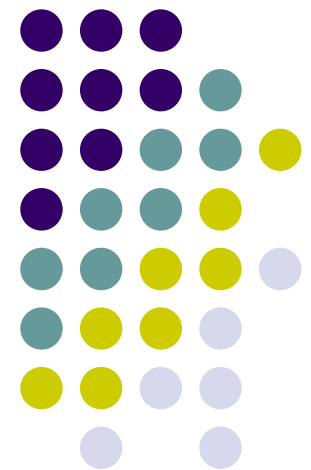


UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Pre-Service Orientation

Welcome, and thank you for
participating in AmeriCorps!

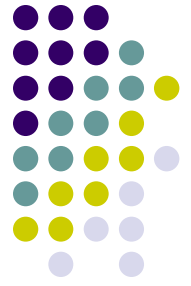


ORIENTATION PURPOSE



- The purpose of this online, pre-service orientation is tri-fold:
 - Provide General Information – this orientation will give you an overview of National Service, and specifically the role of the Education Award Only programs.
 - Determine Eligibility – this orientation will help you determine whether or not you are eligible to participate, and what types of service activities you can do.
 - Ensure Commitment – this orientation will help you learn more about our program, before you make a formal commitment. There are a limited number of scholarships available for students who commit to our program. Once we enroll you in our program, we cannot offer that same scholarship to anyone else. We want to help you make sure that this is a program to which you can commit, and one which you will complete successfully!

What Are the Benefits of UCAN Serve AmeriCorps?



- The service scholarship!
- The difference you can make in your community.
- The opportunity to grow professionally and personally.
- The network of thousands of students in the Intermountain West committed to improving their communities.
- The National Service movement you join through AmeriCorps.

Why Should You Join?



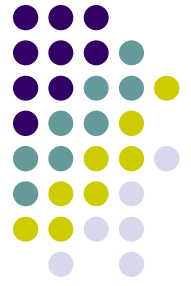
- SERVE your community and “give back” through service.
- LEARN about your community and yourself.
- EARN a scholarship ranging from \$1000 - \$2,362 to use for your education expenses, student loans, and continuing education.



How Does It All Work?

1. Complete the Pre-Service Orientation, which takes about 30 minutes.
2. Complete all enrollment documents included in the Member Handbook.
3. Serve your community.
4. Finish the program and earn a scholarship!

What is the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Program?



The UCAN Serve program is hosted by Colorado Campus Compact and is offered through 39 colleges and universities in the Four Corners/Four States region. 3,400 students participate in UCAN Serve each year, contributing more than 1.5 million service hours in 2002-2003.

UCAN Serve is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.



The Big Picture

- AmeriCorps is one of many streams of National Service.
- The next few slides describe the different organizations and programs within the National Service community.

Corporation for National and Community Service



- AmeriCorps is federally funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in Washington D.C.
- In addition to AmeriCorps, CNCS also manages Learn & Serve and Senior Corps funding.
- In 2005 75,000 AmeriCorps members will be serving communities throughout the U.S. and territories.



What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AmeriCorps members serve through more than 2,100 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. They tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters.

Eligibility for AmeriCorps



- 17 years old or older
- Earned a GED or high school diploma or are working toward one of the two and will have received it before using the service scholarship
- United States citizen or permanent resident

US citizen: Please bring a photocopy of either your current passport or birth certificate to the UCAN Serve Coordinator

Permanent resident: Please bring a photocopy of either your permanent resident card or current passport with INS approval of resident status.

Getting More Specific – The Education Award Only Programs



- AmeriCorps service is focused on meeting identified community needs, from K-12 student achievement to local environmental impact.
- AmeriCorps members connect colleges and universities with local communities as service liaisons, sharing resources, skills, knowledge, and time.
- AmeriCorps supports students engaged in Careers in the Common Good (such as teaching, social work, healthcare professions, psychology) and student leadership/service programs.

How Do You Get the Scholarship?



It's easy as 1-2-3!

1. Decide upon a Term of Service (the number of hours you want to serve). Please note that each Term of Service corresponds to a different scholarship.
2. Complete the hours to which you have committed.
3. Receive your Education Award (service scholarship)! We offer awards of \$1000, \$1250, or \$2362. These awards can be used toward the cost of attendance at a college or university, or to pay qualified student loans.

Terms of Service through UCAN Serve



- 300 hours in one calendar year = \$1,000
- 450 hours in one calendar year = \$1,250
- 900 hours in up to 2 calendar years = \$2,363

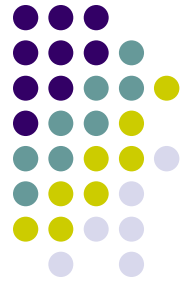
These service hours may be a combination of personal volunteer time with a nonprofit agency and academic service through your campus. Create a “service package” that fits your goals and needs.



Terms of Service

- Individuals can participate in 2 terms of service through AmeriCorps in their lifetime. All part-time terms are considered full terms.
- The education award is issued to members 2-4 weeks after successful completion of service hours, evaluation, and exiting.
- Members who exit without completing their term receive no education award and use one of their 2 possible terms of service.

Service - What Can you Do?



- You can do service that fits into one of five AmeriCorps goals: education, public health & safety, human needs, and the environment.
- You can serve at any qualifying not-for-profit organization, including public schools, government agencies, charitable non-profits, faith-based centers, and arts and culture institutions.
- You can also spend some of your service on Member Development.



Member Development

Member Development is an important part of AmeriCorps service. It gives you the opportunity to pursue personal and professional goals that are education and service oriented.

Member development hours can account for up to 20% of your total service term and include:

- Classtime related to your direct service
- Professional conferences or workshops
- Faculty meetings or agency staff meetings

The maximum number of member development hours you can accrue with each term of service is:

300-hour term = 60 member development hours

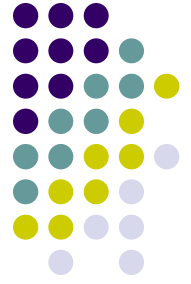
450-hour term = 90 member development hours

900-hour term = 180 member development hours



Prohibited Activities

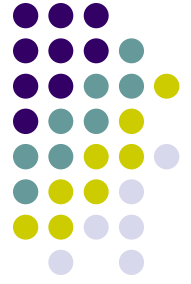
It is really important that you know up front what some of the activities are that you can't do as an AmeriCorps member. CNCS has defined some activities that are not allowed to be included in AmeriCorps projects and activities. Individuals may engage in these activities in their personal time, but may not include these activities as part of their term of service. Prohibited activities include:



Prohibited Activities

Political Activities

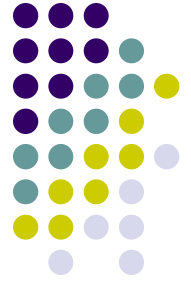
- Efforts to influence legislation; lobbying
- Engaging in partisan political activities
- Advocacy for or against political parties, platforms, or candidates
- Voter registration drives
- Participating in boycotts, strikes, or protests



Prohibited Activities

Religious Activities

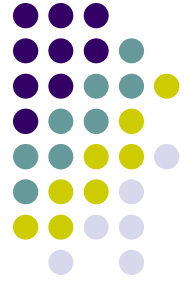
- Engaging in religious instruction or proselytizing
- Conducting worship services
- Constructing or maintaining facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship



Prohibited Activities

Union Activities

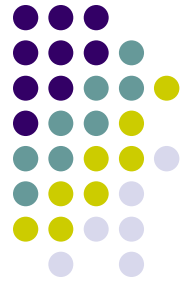
- Assisting, promoting or deterring union organizing
- Interfering with contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements



Prohibited Activities

For-profit Businesses

- Providing a direct benefit for a for-profit entity, a labor union, a partisan political organization, or an organization engaged in religious instruction
- Qualifying not-for-profits include public schools, government agencies, charitable nonprofits, faith-based centers, and arts and culture institutions



Prohibited Activities

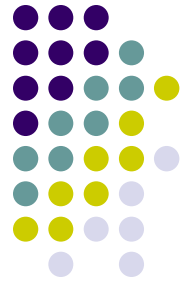
Safety Factors

- Participating in activities that pose a significant safety risk to clients. Challenge by choice and ropes courses are appropriate service activities.

Fundraising

- Grant writing or fundraising for operational expenses at the nonprofit agency
- Members are allowed to fundraise for specific service projects and solicit in-kind donations.

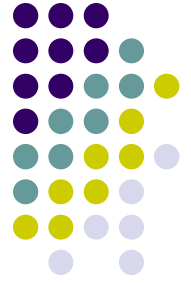
The Service Scholarship



The service scholarship, or education award:

- Is a voucher issued by the National Trust in Washington, D.C.
- Is received by the member 2-4 weeks after being exited
- Can be applied to a financial institution or to an institution of higher education (Title IV school).
- Is considered taxable income by the IRS in the year it is used, not the year it is earned.
- Can be taken away from a member if a member receives a felony drug conviction after successfully completing their service term.

The Service Scholarship

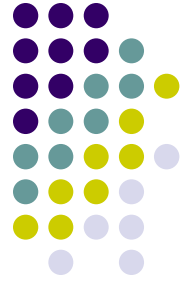


The service scholarship can be used in 3 ways:

- Past→ Members can repay qualified student loans such as the Stafford, Perkins, Federal Direct/Indirect
- Present→ Members can apply the voucher to their current education expenses through the financial aid office on their campus
- Future→ Members can use the voucher for up to 7 years toward graduate programs, individual classes, specialty and trade schools, and study abroad

Check with the financial aid office on your campus to see how the education award may be used for tuition or other educational expenses.

AmeriCorps Pledge



I will get things done for America-to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

Next Steps

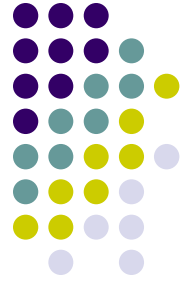


- Complete the short review and pre-service reflection questions at the end of the tutorial.
- Print out the reflections and review answers and bring them to your UCAN Serve Coordinator.
- Contact your UCAN Serve Coordinator to participate in an in-person orientation.
- Fill out the AmeriCorps enrollment forms through your Coordinator and provide proof of citizenship or permanent residency.



Review Questions

- What are the five AmeriCorps service focus areas?
 - Education, environment, homeland security, human needs, public safety.
 - Politics, environment, public safety, human needs, education
 - Religion, education, environment, public safety, human needs
- How can you use the AmeriCorps Education Award?
 - I can use it to pay for the cost of attendance or towards outstanding student loans.
 - I can give it to a family member for them to use.
 - I can wait and use it in 10 years.
 - All of the above
- What is member development?
 - It gives you the opportunity to pursue personal and professional goals that are education and service oriented.
 - It is time spent reflecting upon your service
 - It is time spent in training, workshops, classes or conferences related to your service
 - All of the above
- What percentage of your service can be spent on member development?
 - 20%
 - 40%
 - 80%



Review Questions

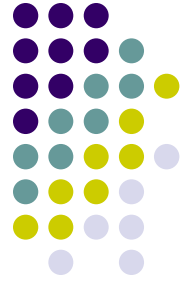
- Which of these are prohibited activities?
 - Religious activity, political activity, fundraising for capital or operating costs
 - Serving with a for-profit organization, Lobbying, or union organizing
 - Serving in a church's food bank, Tutoring students at a parochial school
 - All of the above
 - A and B
 - A and C
- Which criterion does NOT impact your eligibility for participation in the program?
 - You must be enrolled at a Campus Compact member institution.
 - You must be either United States citizen or a permanent resident
 - You must be at least 17 years old
 - You must have a GED or high school diploma or be working toward one of the two and receive it by the end of the service term.
 - You must have participated in community service before
- Once you choose a term of service, can you change it?
 - YES
 - NO

Pre-Service Reflection Questions



- What motivates you to pursue this term of service in AmeriCorps?
- How does your participation in AmeriCorps relate to your professional/personal goals?
- In what ways do your professional/personal goals support lifelong involvement in your community?

Thank You!



Thank you for participating in the
AmeriCorps Education Awards Program.
If you have any questions please contact the
UCAN Serve Coordinator on your campus.