

# AmeriCorps NCCC

## Member Handbook

January 2011



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AmeriCorps NCCC  
Corporation for National and Community Service  
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## FOREWORD

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Welcome to AmeriCorps NCCC ! Since 1993, nearly 25,000 Americans have given back to their neighbors and their nation as AmeriCorps NCCC members. They have served in all 50 states, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico; in urban communities and rural areas; with large, national nonprofit groups and small community and faith-based organizations. Throughout, NCCC members have helped to meet needs in the areas of natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. In answering President Obama's call to service, you have become part of that tradition, and we thank you for your commitment to service.

You also now have a significant responsibility. As an AmeriCorps NCCC member, you are a representative of a national program of nearly 1,400 members annually. Because you have made a commitment to serve, you are a role model for people of all ages in your community. As that role model, you will show others the importance of serving; demonstrate what it means to be an active citizen; provide opportunities for others to serve; and uphold and pass on the ethic of service—whether through recruiting and supervising volunteers from the community, organizing a service project for local residents, telling others about your experience with AmeriCorps NCCC, or encouraging your friends to join AmeriCorps NCCC. In addition to specific information about AmeriCorps NCCC, this handbook provides an overview of AmeriCorps, as well as important information about your rights and responsibilities, your education award, and ways you can make service a lifetime commitment. If you have questions about issues that are unclear or not covered in the handbook, please ask your region director. For more information, visit the AmeriCorps website at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

Best wishes for a successful, results-driven, and rewarding year serving your neighbors and your nation as an AmeriCorps NCCC member.

**Mikel Herrington**  
Director  
AmeriCorps NCCC



## OVERVIEW OF AMERICORPS

### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Working with national and community nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies, the Corporation engages more than 1.6 million Americans each year in meeting critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, disaster services, and other areas.

Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than half a million Americans age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community needs. Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to support efforts to engage more than a million students each year in service learning and community service linked to educational goals. The Social Innovation Fund, Volunteer Generation Fund, and Nonprofit Capacity Building Program are all designed to increase the capacity and scale of impact for grantee organizations.

Together with the Serve.gov, the Corporation for National and Community Service is working to foster a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America and to help all Americans answer the President's call to service.

### AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps engages thousands of Americans each year in intensive service to meet community

needs in education, the environment, disaster services, and other areas. There are three branches of AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps State/National, in which members serve with national nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, and Teach for America, as well as with hundreds of smaller community organizations, both secular and faith-based; AmeriCorps NCCC, a team-based residential program for adults between the ages of 18-24; and AmeriCorps VISTA, a program focused on fighting poverty. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn a modest stipend, an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 calls for the expansion of AmeriCorps to 250,000 members annually by 2017.

### AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. It combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership development and team building. Because members are trained in first aid and disaster services and can be assigned to new duties on short notice, they are particularly well-suited to meeting the nation's disaster services needs.

AmeriCorps NCCC members work in teams of approximately 10 members on projects related to: natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Priority is given to projects in disaster services, which account for about

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50% of NCCC projects. Members have responded to every major disaster since 1994, including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Members also preserve parks and streams, develop and maintain trails, build homes, and work on youth development activities. Projects typically last from six to eight weeks. Approximately 70 percent of projects require teams to live and serve in communities away from the NCCC campus. Project sponsors include national, community and faith-based non-profit organizations; municipal and state governments; federal agencies; parks; and schools. National partners include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and the U.S. Forest Service.

AmeriCorps NCCC members are based on one of five regional campuses, which are located in Vicksburg, MS; Denver, CO; Perry Point, MD; Sacramento, CA; and Vinton, IA.

AmeriCorps NCCC is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, and lawful permanent residents ages 18 to 24. Members serve full time for 10 months. Upon successful completion of their service, they receive an education award equal in value to the Federal Pell Grant to help pay for college or graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members receive lodging, meals, uniforms, health benefits,

loan forbearance, and a modest living allowance. All members receive training in CPR/First Aid, leadership, team building, disaster services, and citizenship; a small group of members also receive wildland fire fighting training.

## Continue to Serve

The AmeriCorps NCCC experience is only part of a lifetime of service. Graduates may commit to another term as an AmeriCorps member, pursue service opportunities with local organizations, or even plan and execute their own service projects in their communities. Regardless of the path they choose, AmeriCorps NCCC graduates have a unique opportunity to transform their communities and shape the future of America.

## Keep in Touch!

Don't forget to update your contact information in the My AmeriCorps Portal. In addition, please sign up for AmeriCorps Alums. By becoming a member of AmeriCorps Alums you will have access to the NCCC group pages. On these pages you will be able to access contact information for fellow AmeriCorps members, have the ability to post messages, and chat with other alums about other great benefits of being a part of the AmeriCorps Alums community. Join at [americorpsalums.org](http://americorpsalums.org).

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