Employers of National Service

What is National Service?

About National Service

We recognize that people can serve their country in a multitude of ways, including military and civilian service. We value and honor each and every way an individual is called to serve. Employers of National Service is an initiative to connect employers with alumni of civilian service programs. For the purposes of this initiative, national service refers to those programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Peace Corps, and their affiliates.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. Members gain valuable professional, educational, and life benefits, and the experience has a lasting impact on the members and the communities they serve. AmeriCorps consists of three main programs:

- **AmeriCorps State and National** - State and National members, ages 17 and older, serve in either teams or individually through national and community-based private and public organizations. Members serve part-time or full-time to help solve community problems through direct and indirect service, in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs such as health and housing.
- **AmeriCorps NCCC** - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members range from ages 18 to 24 and serve in a 10-month team-based residential program to complete a variety of projects in the areas of education, disaster services, the environment, and other unmet needs.
- **AmeriCorps VISTA** - AmeriCorps VISTA members, ages 18 and older, perform capacity-building activities, over the course of a year, through private non-profit organizations and public agencies. AmeriCorps VISTA members address issues related to poverty by developing and mobilizing resources that create long-term sustainable benefits at the community level in areas such as public health, education, the environment, public safety, and employment.

For more information, please visit NationalService.gov.

What is Peace Corps?

As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps Volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic

development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences—and a global outlook—back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. The Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals:

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women,
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

For more information, please visit PeaceCorps.gov.

What Qualities Do National Service Members Gain?

National service alumni have the skills and competencies to meet any company's needs and to help strengthen the economy. In addition, an overwhelming number of national service alumni view their service as transformative. Sixty percent of returned Peace Corps Volunteers reported their service influenced their choice of career. Two out of three AmeriCorps alumni (64%) strongly agree they gained valuable workplace skills through their service.[1] Competencies gained include:

- **Strong leadership qualities.** AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, and inspiration in some of the most trying circumstances.
- **Integrity and Initiative**. AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni have chosen to put service above self and are immediate contributors who rise to meet challenges and think quickly on their feet.
- **Ability to learn new skills and concepts.** AmeriCorps members and Peace Corps Volunteers undergo rigorous training programs to become experts in a wide-range of skills. They have a proven ability to learn new concepts quickly.
- **Flexibility to work strongly in teams or work independently.** National service fosters the ability to work as part of a team and instills a sense of a responsibility to one's colleagues.
- **Diversity and interpersonal skills**. National service alumni are from diverse backgrounds and have learned to work side-by-side with others from racial, religious, ethnic, and geographic different from their own. They deliver in critical situations demanding stamina and flexibility.
- **Ability to work efficiently and diligently in fast-paced and resource-constrained environments.** AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni know how to accomplish tasks correctly and on time, with limited resources and under immense pressure.
- **Accountability for results.** AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni understand the responsibility that comes with being accountable for their own actions and the actions of their team members.

[1] Note: Information drawn from A Call to Peace: Perspectives of Volunteers on the Peace Corps at 50, the AmeriCorps Alums' Spring 2014 survey, the Abt Associates longitudinal study "Still Serving: Measuring the Eight-Year Impact of AmeriCorps on Alumni" (pages 17-18) and informed by the Voices for National Service "National Service: Providing Pathways to Employment Report" (page 6).