



Employers of National Service

Dispelling National Service Myths

Even though AmeriCorps and Peace Corps have been around for decades, there are still misconceptions about national service alumni. Here we dispel some of the more common myths.

Myth: *National service members are all young.*

Fact: In 2014, approximately two-thirds of the 75,000 AmeriCorps members were under 25 years old with more than 10% over age 35, and 7% of Peace Corps Volunteers are over 50 years old. And these are just the numbers for current members! More than 900,000 people have served in AmeriCorps since 1994 and nearly 220,000 in Peace Corps since 1961, meaning alumni represent a huge pool of talent spanning all age ranges.

Myth: *National service alumni are only qualified for entry level positions.*

Fact: While many national service members serve during or immediately after college, many other members choose to serve after they have already gained significant work experience. Furthermore, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps members go through intensive pre-service training and continue to receive in-service training that often far exceeds what they might have gained in a more typical employment setting. This means that AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni are well-positioned for all types of jobs, from entry level up to senior leadership.

Myth: *National service alumni have only soft skill sets.*

Fact: National service alumni do gain valuable soft skills during service such as teamwork, leadership, and cultural competency. Depending on their specific service experiences, members also gain valuable hard skills including project management, organizing disaster relief operations, construction, data analysis, first aid, teaching, and organizational capacity-building.

Myth: *People only do national service because they can't get a real job.*

Fact: AmeriCorps positions are highly-coveted and often very competitive; in 2013 many times more applications than available positions. In 2014, Peace Corps received its highest number of applications since 1992 with approximately 5 applications for each slot. National Service participants choose to serve because they want to make a difference in communities across the country, while developing valuable career skills at the same time.

Questions? Email employers@cns.gov or contact any of the Employers of National Service Partners:



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