

## 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 18-26-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:

- **18-26 years old:** First, there is an age requirement to serve with NCCC. You must be 18-26 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.
  - **Length of service:** You must be available to leave your hometown and serve full-time for 10-12 months for our Traditional Corps, FEMA Corps, and Forest Corps programs. If you're looking for a shorter commitment, our Summer of Service program might be the right option for you as your service term would 2-3 months full-time. 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 most 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 10-11-month service term.
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### Slide 3

Within NCCC, there are currently four different programs options



- **Traditional Corps** teams work with project partners in the field such as nonprofits; local, state or federal government agencies; NGOs; faith-based organizations; tribal groups; and more. Types of projects include, working in national parks, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, responding to disasters and more. The possibilities are endless, so flexibility and open-mindedness are key!
    - *Traditional Corps classes have fall, winter, and summer start dates.*
  - **FEMA Corps** teams work directly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on disaster-related projects. The work is more administrative and could include helping connect disaster survivors with their benefits, managing warehouses of supplies, preparing disaster response plans, and more. FEMA Corps is also a possible pathway to employment in the field of emergency management and with FEMA itself, as FEMA hires many of FEMA Corps alumni.
    - *FEMA Corps classes have fall and winter start dates.*
  - **Summer of Service** is a simplified version of NCCC's other programs on a shortened time frame. Members will serve on one project during their 2-3-month service term and could focus on environmental stewardship and/or climate change mitigation, affordable housing, or serving where the need is the greatest. Members will be able to indicate a preference for the project type they're most interested in, but we cannot guarantee you'll be placed on that project type.
    - *Summer of Service classes only have summer start dates.*
  - **Forest Corps** is NCCC's newest service option and is great for those interested in protecting our public lands and looking to pursue a career with the U.S. Forest Service or other environmental conservation careers. This service is field based and rigorous; you must be prepared to handle hiking long distances while carrying a heavy pack, uneven terrain, carrying tools, and more. Projects could include wildfire risk mitigation, reforestation, conservation, and resource management.
    - *Forest Corps classes only have summer start dates.*
  - The difference between the two positions is that Corps Members are members of the team and must be within the 18-26-year-old age range, while Team Leaders have the ultimate supervisory experience and are responsible for coaching, mentoring, modeling, teaching members during service term. Team Leaders also manage the team budget and submit data and paperwork for the team.
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#### Slide 4

- **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 700 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:** 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.
  - **Education Award:** Upon successful completion of service, you will receive an Education Award of over \$7,000. 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 [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov).
  - **Living allowance:** While you are serving with NCCC, you will receive a modest stipend of approximately \$360 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

Learn more about the impact of service with AmeriCorps NCCC, from Ari, a currently serving member.

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## Slide 6



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 [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov) 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 7

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!