



# Frequently Asked Questions AmeriCorps NCCC's Summer of Service

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

- **What are the dates of the Summer of Service program?**
  - March 31: Application Deadline
  - Feb 1 – April 26: Member Selection Notification
    - Invites should start in February and go out bi-weekly until the end of April
  - June 1: Team Leaders Arrive
  - June 1 – June 10: Team Leader Training in Aurora, Colorado
  - June 13: Corps Members Arrive
  - June 13 – June 24: Corps Training Institute in Aurora, Colorado
  - June 27 – August 12: Service Project (could be anywhere nationwide)
  - August 15 – August 16: Closure and Graduation in Aurora, Colorado
  - August 16: Corps Members Depart
  - August 17: Team Leaders Depart
- **What are the general eligibility requirements for Summer of Service?**
  - To serve as a Corps Member, you must be between 18-26 years old. To serve as a Team Leader, you must be 18 or older (no upper age limit). You may apply to Summer of Service at age 17 if you will turn 18 before arriving on campus.

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident of the U.S.
- Must pass an initial drug screening test upon arrival to the program. A positive test on a drug screen for any substance (including marijuana) at any time during service could result in dismissal from the program.
- Team Leaders must have a valid driver's license, as they will be expected to drive the team vehicle.
- Must be available for the duration of the Summer of Service commitment, willing to participate in full-time service consisting of extensive travel.

• **Is Summer of Service set up like the other NCCC programs?**

- For the most part, yes.
- Summer of Service is a simplified version of NCCC's other programs, on a shortened timeframe. Summer of Service participants will pursue the same NCCC mission of "strengthening communities and developing leaders through service." As with all other NCCC programs, Members will participate in pre-service training, albeit a shorter version, and serve on teams. NCCC teams will have project sponsors, site supervisors, and address a community-identified priority.
- Members will be subject to the policies of the [NCCC Member Handbook](#), including the Code of Conduct and content outlined in "AmeriCorps NCCC Policies". There will be circumstances when a policy provision in the Handbook is specifically designed for our 1700-hour service programs and cannot be applied to Summer of Service. Members will be made aware of such situations during the Corps Training Institute.
- Despite the overall similarities, there are differences (see below). Other differences may arise as the program is further developed.

• **Are the benefits to Members the same as other NCCC programs?**

- For the most part yes, but there will be significant differences.
- The benefits made available in NCCC's other programs and highlighted on our [webpage](#) are largely the same as those provided to Summer of Service participants.

- Food, lodging, a modest living allowance, uniforms, and program-related travel expenses (including from your home of record to the training site, from there to your project, and home again after graduation) are all covered by NCCC. All you need to provide is a positive attitude, teamwork, flexibility, and enthusiasm to serve!
  - Differences from our full-term benefit packages for the Summer of Service program, include but are not limited to the following.
    - The post-service financial award will be different from the standard Segal Education Award (see below).
    - Given the short nature of the program, participants will not be able to pursue undergraduate college credits while serving.
    - Participants in Summer of Service are not able to place their loans into forbearance through the AmeriCorps Portal. However, members are encouraged to reach out directly to their loan provider as participation in a national service program such as NCCC, may allow you to have your loans placed on hold or into deferment status.
    - Personal leave dates will be different from what is provided in a full, 1700-hour program (see below).
  - As the program is further developed, NCCC reserves the right to curtail or change any program benefit intended for the 10-12 month service term for those members serving a Summer of Service term. Members will be made aware of changes during the Corps Member Training Institute.
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- **What are the major differences between Summer of Service and the NCCC Traditional Corps and/or FEMA Corps programs?**
    - The major differences are program length, program focus, the “Serve with a Friend” option, the Independent Service Project (ISP) requirement, the post-service financial benefit, the ability to pursue college credit, the loan forbearance process, and leave days.

- Program Length: The entirety of the Summer of Service program is less than 3 months, instead of 10 to 12 months. Summer of Service will run from 6/1/22 to 8/17/22. Team Leaders will start on 6/1 and depart on 8/17. Corps Members will start on 6/13 and depart on 8/16.
- Program Focus: Summer of Service projects will focus on work specifically related to environmental stewardship and/or climate change mitigation.
- Serve with a Friend: For Summer of Service applicants, NCCC will offer the opportunity to identify a friend you wish to serve alongside. More detailed information on this opportunity is included in the Serve with a Friend FAQs below.
- Independent Service Projects (ISPs): NCCC's ISP component will be optional for Summer of Service participants. Completed ISPs can be counted towards the minimum service hour commitment for Summer of Service participants.
- Post Service Financial Benefit: Summer of Service graduates will not receive a Segal Education Award for completing a term of Summer of Service with NCCC. Instead, participants who successfully complete their Summer of Service commitment will receive an end of service cash stipend. The stipend can be used for whatever purpose the recipient determines, including but not limited to education. The amount of the cash stipend will be determined in the coming weeks and shared publicly at that time. For Summer of Service participants who have already received two Education Awards, you will still be eligible to receive the cash stipend.
- Undergraduate College Credits: Given the short nature of the Summer of Service commitment, participants will not be able to pursue an undergraduate college credit while serving.
- Loan Forbearance: Participants in Summer of Service are not able to place their loans into forbearance through the AmeriCorps Portal. However, members are encouraged to reach out directly to their loan provider as participation in a national service program such as NCCC, may allow you to have your loans placed on hold or into deferment status.

- Personal Leave Days: In our 1700-hour programs, participants receive 3 personal leave days and 2 days for Life After AmeriCorps planning. For Summer of Service, participants will not receive this amount of leave. Our plan for leave days will be determined in May of 2022. We aim to reach a decision which fully incorporates the status of COVID-19 in our country into the thought process, and positions Summer of Service participants with the greatest likelihood of successfully completing their service hour commitment.
  - Other differences may arise as the program is further developed and will be communicated during the Corps Member Training Institute.
- **What is the minimum number of successfully completed service hours required to graduate?**
    - 300 hours and successful completion of all program activities will be required for graduation.
    - As stated above, NCCC's Independent Service Project (ISP) component will be optional for Summer of Service participants. Completed ISPs can be counted towards the minimum service hour commitment for Summer of Service participants.
- **What will training be like?**
    - On arrival day, NCCC staff will meet incoming members at the airport and help them get settled on campus. During in-processing, members will receive their room assignment, a campus tour, and their uniform. The Southwest Region campus in Aurora, Colorado, where Summer of Service will be hosted in 2022, has bunk rooms of various sizes, community restrooms like what you'd find in college dorms, community kitchens, and laundry facilities. Training sessions, conducted by NCCC staff, will prepare members to serve safely, effectively, and collaboratively with their teammates.

- **Do we get to choose our project, and how will we get there?**
  - Projects are solicited, developed, and selected by NCCC staff, and will be assigned to teams in a way that most effectively meets the needs of the sponsoring organizations. After training is complete, all teams will deploy to their projects in 15-passenger vans. Teams are typically 8-12 members but can vary in size. The length of your team's road trip will vary depending upon the location of your assigned project. If your drive will take more than one day, modest hotel accommodations will be planned and provided by NCCC. Come ready with playlists, travel games, and get-to-know-you questions for your teammates!
  
- **Where will we live when we get to our project?**
  - Upon arrival at your project site, your team will move into the lodging provided by the organization hosting your team. Accommodations can vary significantly, from a shared house or cabin, to a church basement, to camping! Your team will work together to shop for groceries using your team's food budget and will share cooking and cleaning duties. Any necessary tools or supplies will be provided by NCCC or your project sponsor. Come to NCCC ready for adventure, and an amazing experience will be waiting for you!
  
- **What type of service projects might Summer of Service members do within this environmental and climate change focus?**
  - Examples of Summer of Service projects would be those which:
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects that focus on:
      - *Renewable energy actions*
      - *Energy efficiency actions*
      - *Agriculture and food systems actions*
      - *Education/training on greenhouse gas emissions actions*

- Adapt to changing climate by through projects that focus on:
  - *Natural disaster preparedness and resilience actions*
  - *Natural disaster mitigation actions*
  - *Natural disaster response and recovery actions*
- Conserve lands and waters through projects that focus on:
  - *Conservation actions*
  - *Access to outdoor recreation actions*
  - *Natural and cultural resource preservation actions*

- **What if I've never done anything like this before?**

- Just like on traditional NCCC projects, Summer of Service project sponsors will be ready to train your team how to do what they need you to do, and why those tasks are important to their organization and community. No prior training necessary! Be prepared to try new things, learn from your sponsors and teammates, and wrap up your summer with new skills and experiences under your belt.

- **Will I get any days off?**

- Your project schedule will be determined by the sponsoring organization. Many projects will operate on a typical full-time, Monday-Friday schedule, but there are often exceptions and you won't know your specific schedule until you are assigned to your project. Serving in a hot climate? Your project may start early in the day and end early or build in a break during the heat of the day, to maximize your team's safety and wellbeing. Serving with an organization that needs support on the weekend? You may work a Tuesday-Saturday schedule. Deployed to an immediate disaster response project? You could be asked to serve longer days with fewer days off while helping to meet urgent needs in that situation.
- Members are permitted to take sick days if they aren't feeling well and can be granted emergency leave on an as-needed basis. As previously stated, our plan for determining whether personal leave days will be made available will be reached in May of 2022.

- We aim to reach a decision which fully incorporates the status of COVID-19 in our country into the thought process, and positions Summer of Service participants with the greatest likelihood of successfully completing their service hour commitment.
- **For those who have served previously in NCCC, are we eligible to participate in Summer of Service?**
  - In most cases, yes!
  - Summer of Service is a program under NCCC's portfolio. As such, eligibility requirements for participation are addressed with the typical restrictions in place for serving in consecutive AmeriCorps NCCC terms, regardless of whether those terms are Traditional Corps, FEMA Corps, or Summer of Service. If you have served in both Class 26 and Class 27 in any NCCC program, you would not be eligible to serve in Summer of Service, which is considered part of Class 28. Otherwise, NCCC alums and those previously enrolled in an NCCC program who did not complete their service term are eligible to apply.
  - For Summer of Service participants who have already received two Education Awards, you will still be eligible to receive the cash stipend offered for Summer of Service participants.
- **For currently serving NCCC members (including Team Leaders), how can we participate in Summer of Service?**
  - NCCC's Summer 2021 class, operated through the Southern Region campus in Vicksburg, MS, is scheduled to graduate on 5/10/22. As such, those interested in participating in Summer of Service will graduate, exit, and re-enroll as Summer of Service participants.
  - NCCC's Fall 2021 classes are set to graduate on 8/11/22 (Southwest Region) and 6/30/22 (Pacific Region).

- Current Southwest members looking to participate in Summer of Service will extend their current service by one week to meet the Summer of Service graduation date of 8/16/22.
- Current Pacific members will have the option of extending their service or to graduate early, exit and re-enroll as Summer of Service participants. Pacific fall class members who wish to exit and re-enroll would need to have their 1700 hours complete by the Summer of Service start dates for Team Leader Training (6/1/22) or CTI (6/13/22).

- **What about health and safety precautions for COVID?**

- The Summer of Service program will adhere to all NCCC's current [COVID-19 health and safety guidance](#).

- **Who can I contact if I would like more information about Summer of Service?**

- Before and during the application process, please contact: [ANCCC@cns.gov](mailto:ANCCC@cns.gov).
- Once you have accepted the invitation to join the Summer of Service program, please contact: [ncccsouthwest@cns.gov](mailto:ncccsouthwest@cns.gov).

# SERVE WITH A FRIEND QUESTIONS

- **How many friends can I identify as those I would like to serve with?**
  - While you can encourage as many of your friends to join you in this amazing service opportunity as possible, just one friend can be identified as part of our Serve with a Friend program.
- **Will NCCC guarantee I can be on the same team with my friend?**
  - Requests to serve with a friend will be given full and due consideration when constructing teams. To the extent possible within NCCC program requirements, NCCC will place friends on the same team. However, we cannot guarantee friends will be assigned to the same team, nor can we guarantee friends assigned to the same team will remain as teammates for the duration of their Summer of Service commitment.
- **What are examples of “program requirements” which might cause NCCC not to place me on the same team with my friend or keep us together on the same team?**
  - For safety reasons, NCCC requires each team have a certain number of trained and certified drivers. If you and your friend are both drivers and the Summer of Service program is experiencing a shortage of drivers, it is possible you could be asked to move to another team to ensure sufficient drivers.
  - NCCC teams are sometimes called on to respond to natural disasters. Disaster response teams can be constructed by taking 1-2 members from existing teams. There could be a scenario in which you or your friend are called on to join a disaster response effort and the other is not.

- AmeriCorps NCCC provides reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with federal law. Not every NCCC service projects may be suitable to our commitment to supporting a member's approved accommodation and successful service experience.
- **Do we apply to NCCC together, as a pair of friends, or do each of us apply independently?**
  - Both you and your friend must complete the application process independently and be invited to serve based on your own qualifications. Eligibility requirements for Environmental Focus Summer of Service 2022 opportunities are the same as the requirements for AmeriCorps NCCC opportunities and can be found at [americorps.gov/nccc](https://americorps.gov/nccc).
- **How will I let NCCC know about the friend(s) I want to serve with?**
  - As you apply to join the 2022 Summer of Service, you can email [ANCCC@cns.gov](mailto:ANCCC@cns.gov) to identify the friend you wish to serve with.
- **Should my friend email [ANCCC@cns.gov](mailto:ANCCC@cns.gov) as well, or is one of us doing so enough?**
  - To ensure consent, each of you must request the other for NCCC staff to attempt to honor the request. If you name your friend but your friend does not name you, or vice versa, we will not attempt to place you and your friend on the same team.
- **Will my friend and I be roommates while on campus?**
  - The 2022 Summer of Service program will be run out of the Southwest Region in Aurora, Colorado. The SW Region campus uses barrack style dorm facilities, with 10-20 members living in each room together. Dorm rooms are same sex facilities. When possible, the Region will work to place you in the same room with your friend.

- **Will my friend and I be roommates while on our project?**
  - Lodging for NCCC teams is provided by the sponsoring organization NCCC serves. As NCCC does not control the lodging a sponsor identifies, beyond providing requirements for team safety precautions, including COVID safety, we cannot make this commitment.
- **Will my friend and I work alongside each other on our project?**
  - Not necessarily. While NCCC teams work on a single project together, that project can sometimes involve multiple work locations. For example, if your team is working on a climate change mitigation project, such as weatherization of homes, it is possible you could be working on one home while your friend is working on a different one.
- **Will NCCC offer the opportunity to serve with a friend to members in the Traditional Corps and/or FEMA Corps programs, or is this opportunity limited to Summer of Service?**
  - Currently, we do not offer Serve with a Friend beyond Summer of Service. We are using the 2022 Summer of Service to test this approach and see if it allows more Americans an opportunity to serve their nation through NCCC. If we see the results are positive, we are committed to learning from the experience and how it might impact service in the Traditional Corps and FEMA Corps programs in the future.
- **Who can I contact if I would like more information about Serve with a Friend?**
  - Before and during the application process, please contact: [ANCCC@cns.gov](mailto:ANCCC@cns.gov).
  - Once you have accepted the invitation to join the Summer of Service program, please contact: [ncccsouthwest@cns.gov](mailto:ncccsouthwest@cns.gov).