

Notre Dame AmeriCorps

New Orleans



Program Information

Notre Dame AmeriCorps believes that education is the fundamental tool in the struggle of the poor for human dignity, self-esteem, and self-determination. We seek to build community among our members, as well as the people we serve, by reaching across culture and class. We are committed to helping people help themselves. Our goal is to promote and encourage education, community empowerment, leadership development and multicultural harmony.

INTRODUCTION

Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program, founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1992, has been placing volunteers at sites nationwide to work alongside all people, especially the economically disadvantaged. The volunteers accomplish this mission by promoting literacy and education. AmeriCorps is a federally-funded service program, commonly referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, that brings together citizens of diverse backgrounds to serve communities in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment. In 1995, NDMV sought a partnership with AmeriCorps to allow for an increase in the number of members, offering greater community service in financially-limited sites. This partnership formed Notre Dame Mission Volunteers-AmeriCorps.



Notre Dame AmeriCorps (NDA) members serve in 23 different cities as program assistants in education, environmental, and disaster relief programs. In New Orleans, 13 NDA members serve at a total of 10 different K-12 schools and educational programs. AmeriCorps members are serving at sites with high risk populations that range from public and charter primary schools, high schools, after-school enrichment programs, and community organizing through lowernine.org.

One of the greatest strengths of the Notre Dame AmeriCorps program is the diversity of our members. We are a multicultural, ecumenical group of people from various ethnicities and diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, bound together by the common ideals of service, educational empowerment, community building, and a desire to translate spiritual values into action.

AmeriCorps members are dedicated and passionate individuals who are committed to serving their communities as best they can. They are able to provide the supplemental instruction that helps improve the scores of those students who are at the highest risk of falling behind. NDA members can provide the attention to students who might not have initially had the opportunity, while at the same time, building their resume and earning money for school.

The impact that AmeriCorps members create through their service expand beyond that year and beyond that individual.

BENEFITS OF SERVING AS A MEMBER WITH NOTRE DAME AMERICORPS

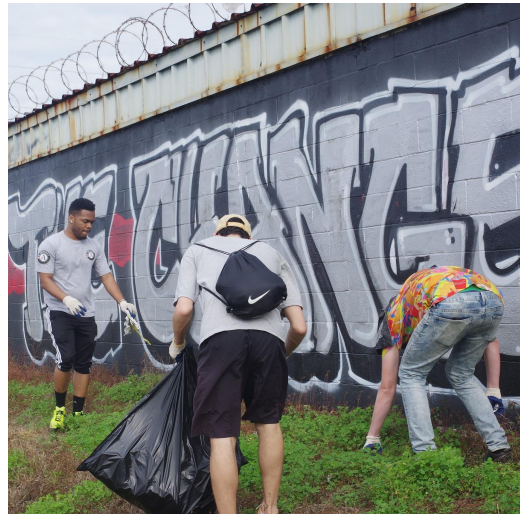
Notre Dame AmeriCorps members commit to 11 months of service starting September 1st and ending July 31st. During that period, they are required to complete 1700 hours of public service. The majority of that will be spent at their Primary Site, and the remainder of those hours will come from AmeriCorps Team Meetings, community service projects, and independent studies.

During the year of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible for:

- A living stipend of \$15,100 to cover living expenses
- Forbearance of eligible student loans
- Health Insurance
- Childcare

Upon successful completion of the service year, AmeriCorps members receive:

- A Segal Education Award of \$6,495 that can be applied to eligible student loans or future student costs.
- Interest Accrual payment for all eligible student loans
- Membership in the AmeriCorps Alums Network
- Access to AmeriCorps Alum Job Boards and Recruiting Events
- Free tax returns and other discounts from national partners



AmeriCorps creates leaders who can bridge divides and solve problems.

- 82% of members have described AmeriCorps as a personally defining experience
- 9 out of 10 AmeriCorps alumni reported that their experience improved their ability to solve problems.
- 80% of alumni feel confident they can create a plan to address a community issue and get others to care about it.
- 93% of alumni said that after service, they felt comfortable interacting with others different than themselves, as compared to 72% before their year of service.
- 7 out of 10 alumni say that AmeriCorps helped them achieve their educational goals, thanks to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award received after service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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