

AmeriCorps Seniors 101

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- Welcome everyone! Thank you for joining us this (morning/afternoon/evening) I am (name) and I am (name). We are on the recruitment team here at AmeriCorps and we are excited to share more about our AmeriCorps Seniors programs with you today.

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- What is AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps is the federal agency for volunteerism and community service in the United States. We provide opportunities for American adults of all ages and backgrounds to give their time and talent to get things done for their communities. No matter what you're passionate about, where you're from, or why you choose to serve, AmeriCorps is your opportunity to bring out the best of America, as well as learn new skills, meet new people, and gain valuable professional experience.

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- Designed to put decisions in the hands of local communities, AmeriCorps provides people power and funding to organizations that determine what they need to address the challenges on the ground. AmeriCorps offers three programs specifically focused on older adults who wish to serve. In our AmeriCorps Seniors programs, you join our people power and will immerse yourself in projects that respond to needs in your community. You will serve alongside organizations and likeminded adults to improve the lives of others and create change that lasts.

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- AmeriCorps Seniors offers multiple paths to service. Let's take a look at our programs for older adults and paths to help you find your fit.

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- What is AmeriCorps Seniors? AmeriCorps Seniors specifically focuses on the experiences and passions of individuals 55 and older the opportunity who want to give back.
- Our programs give older adults the opportunity to get involved and make a positive difference in their community. These volunteers can make a lasting impact on programs and individuals through their service.
- No matter the program you choose to serve with, you will meet new people and create connections with those in your community. Through your service, you'll advance causes you care about. There are thousands of opportunities for you to choose from.

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- In the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program, volunteers have the opportunity to work in an educational or other child-centered setting. Please note, this is not a traditional foster experience where you host a child in your home – all volunteer service happens at the service site, which could be a school or community center. You'll mentor, teach, or act as role

models to young people in the local area. You may serve children who are homeless and youth at local community centers, assist and support students with schoolwork through one-on-one tutoring at local schools or afterschool programs, or provide mentoring to teens. The Foster Grandparent program offers project-specific training to all volunteers and modest stipends to income-eligible volunteers to help offset the cost of volunteering.

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- Volunteers with AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP do a wide range of tasks such as recruiting and managing other volunteers, mentoring and tutoring children, supporting workforce development and training, helping with food security, providing disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance, supporting veterans and military families, and addressing a host of other critical community needs. You can lend your skills and experience to the projects you're most passionate about. Volunteers in the RSVP program do not receive any financial compensation, but may be reimbursed for meals, mileage, and other cost related to their service.

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- The AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program engages persons 55 years and older, in volunteer service to help older adults in their communities to live independently longer. Volunteers assist with daily living tasks such as driving to doctor appointments, supporting with errands and chores, and generally lending their company and friendship. The Senior Companion program offers project-specific training to all volunteers and modest stipends to income-eligible volunteers to help offset the cost of volunteering.

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- There are multiple benefits of AmeriCorps Seniors. These are the benefits most AmeriCorps Seniors members will receive during service.

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- First and foremost, our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are driven by their motivation to make a difference. – Whether you're helping students with homework, working with a nonprofit to help families, or helping older adults stay independent, the impact you make will be felt by your organization, the community, and the individuals you're serving. Altruism is the main reason people serve with AmeriCorps Seniors, but there are several tangible benefits as well.
- Service can help you improve your own health and wellbeing. Volunteers have experienced decreased anxiety, depression, and loneliness. 84% of volunteers report stable or improving health after one year of service. *
- Service with AmeriCorps Seniors provides you with the chance to forge new friendships and build relationships with individuals of all ages throughout your community.
- There also may be financial benefits for certain volunteers. Income-eligible individuals volunteering with the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs may receive a modest hourly stipend.

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- Are you ready to begin your service journey?

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- First, use our [AmeriCorps Seniors Pathfinder tool](#) to easily search for current AmeriCorps Seniors opportunities near you. You can filter by state and county, then peruse the volunteer needs at local organizations.
- The second step is to connect directly with organizations. Reach out using the contact info from the pathfinder tool to connect with opportunities you're interested in.
- Our pathfinder tool is the only way to find and connect with AmeriCorps Seniors opportunities. You **will not** need to fill out an online application using the my AmeriCorps portal.
- Let's pass it over to Amy for a demonstration of pathfinder!

PATHFINDER WALKTHROUGH

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- AmeriCorps offers opportunities for individuals of all ages. There are multiple paths to service within AmeriCorps. In addition to our AmeriCorps Seniors program, there are other opportunities to bring your national service experience.
- First, we have AmeriCorps NCCC and FEMA Corps, which give young adult members the opportunity to strengthen communities and develop leadership skills through direct (hands-on), team-based service. Individuals can serve as a team member if they are 18-26 years old.
- Our AmeriCorps State & National network offers a majority of our service opportunities. It is what we like to call the matchmaker of national service. Interested applicants can select from thousands of organizations that see service as a solution to local, regional, and national challenges. This program has no age restrictions, any American adult can serve.
- The AmeriCorps VISTA program gives members the opportunity to live and work alongside community leaders to expand the impact of nonprofit and community-based organizations. Open to adults 18 years or older VISTA also can be a step for those looking to re-enter the workforce or pivot to a new career. Members and volunteers serve in a professional setting focused on anti-poverty solutions.

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- At this time, we would love to answer any questions you may have about AmeriCorps Seniors, our programs, or finding your fit.
- Q&A

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- Thank you all so much for joining us today, and for your interest in being a part of the solution through service. We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about AmeriCorps Seniors and beginning your journey of national service.

- Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook @americorps Seniors to learn more about our Seniors programs and follow us @AmeriCorps on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to learn about all our AmeriCorps programs.