



WHY SERVE WITH US?

BENEFITS OF THE HABITAT AMERICORPS NATIONAL PROGRAM

While serving as an AmeriCorps National member, the opportunity offers you several benefits. This handout helps to explain and answer that question “Why Serve With Us?” AmeriCorps National members engage directly with Habitat volunteers, partner families, and community members to build and repair homes. They make a needed impact in one of five areas – construction, deconstruction, family services, volunteer services, or community outreach.

AmeriCorps National members gain the following:

- Leadership skills.
- Work and life skills that translate directly into job experience.
- The satisfaction of making a difference in your community and country.
- The personal satisfaction of accepting challenges and seeing results.
- Teamwork, communication, and other essential skills.

Their program benefits include the following:

- Living allowance up to \$12,100 for a full 46.5 weeks of service.
- \$5,550 Education Award. The Segal Education Award is good for seven years from the end of service and can be used to repay qualified student loans or for future education at eligible schools. National members age 55 and older at the time of service may be eligible to transfer the award to certain family members. More information at www.nationalserviceresources.gov/edaward.
- Possible forbearance of student loans. Note that interest continues to accrue. However accrued interest on qualified loans is eligible for payment by the National Service Trust.
- Health plan benefits. Members are eligible to enroll in a limited health plan. Currently our plan does not meet the minimum requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) just issued guidance offering members a special enrollment period at the start of their service term and end of their service term, as well as a hardship exemption from the individual shared responsibility payment (that is, the tax penalty) for 2014. Guidance for 2015 is still pending.
- Personal and sick days. Approximately 10 days total.
- Worker’s compensation.
- Childcare benefits if you qualify. Details about the childcare benefits can be found www.americorpschildcare.com.
- Member Assistance Program.

More information can be found online <http://bit.ly/1gW4n3H>.

I have never had a calling that I was proud of enough to tell people what I did until I served for AmeriCorps at Habitat for Humanity. I am truly blessed to have had this life changing experience. - Shawn Whitney, Spokane Habitat AmeriCorps



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