



Frequently Asked Questions: For Civic Corps members

Q: What is the stipend for Civic Corps members?

A: NYC Civic Corps members receive a monthly living stipend of \$1,270 monthly, pre-tax. In addition, Corps members receive health benefits, and an end-of-service education award of \$5,350, dependent on the achievement of a minimum of 1700 hours of service.

Q: Am I eligible to apply?

A: To be eligible to join the NYC Civic Corps, you must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident with a Bachelor's degree (by August 31, 2012). You must also be willing to commit to full-time service (average of 41 hours per week, minimum) for ten months, beginning in October.

Q: Will NYC Service provide housing for the duration of my term of service?

A: No. Housing is not provided. It is the responsibility of each corps member to secure their own housing. After confirming your invitation to NYC Civic Corps, members will have opportunity to access other members of the program.

Q: Where will I serve?

A: Corps members are placed in a wide array of non-profit organizations and City agencies throughout the five boroughs of New York City. When placing Corps members with host organizations, a number of factors are taken into account, including interest in service, experience, interest areas, and geographic preference.

Q: What will my schedule be?

A: Corps members are expected to average 41 hours per week (not including lunch). At times Civic Corps members are asked to work nontraditional hours, depending on the needs of their host organization. With a total of 15 days off accommodated in the service term schedule (organizational holidays and discretionary days combined), members are expected to manage their accrual of hours toward the 1700 hour service minimum.

Q: Will I be able to choose the organization where I serve?

A: No. Corps members do not choose their host organizations. Placements will be determined by NYC Service staff based on the interest in service, experience, interest areas, and geographic preference of each candidate and the needs of the host site.

Q: Will I be able to take graduate school classes while in the Civic Corps?

A: Yes. Civic Corps members are permitted to take classes as long as it does not interfere with their full-time commitment to the Civic Corps and the workload at their host site. Based on the past experience of Civic Corps members, it is suggested that corps members not take more than two classes, as it may negatively impact Civic Corps service performance and academic achievement.

Q: What will I be doing once I am placed at my host organization?

A: Although host organizations vary, most Civic Corps members will begin by assessing the needs of their organization and the potential to create volunteer programs. Corps members will then build the organization's volunteer management systems by creating job descriptions, developing databases, designing volunteer recruitment material, and executing promotion strategies. Corps members will perform a combination of direct community service, capacity building and administrative tasks. The most successful corps members are creative, flexible self-starters with a strong interest in volunteer service.

Q: What are my employment prospects after Civic Corps?

A: Many corps members elect to stay within the New York City nonprofit sector after the end of their service year. Host organizations find that NYC Civic Corps members make valuable employees given their experience in project management and volunteer coordination. Each year, a significant number of recent Civic Corps alums receive job offers from nonprofits, educational organizations, government agencies, and more.

Q: Do I need to have nonprofit or public sector experience before joining the Civic Corps?

A: No. All you need is a willingness to serve New York City by building and advancing volunteerism. While some Civic Corps members have worked in nonprofits before their term of service, others have worked in the private sector or are recent college graduates.

Q: Do I need to have volunteer experience?

A: While we value past volunteer experience when reviewing candidate applications, this is not a requirement.

Q: Will I be an AmeriCorps member or a NYC Civic Corps member?

A: Both. NYC Civic Corps members are also members of AmeriCorps. The NYC Civic Corps is an AmeriCorps-affiliated program administered by NYC Service | Office of the Mayor. All Civic Corps activities and host site placements are coordinated by NYC Service.

Q: How long does the Civic Corps last?

A: The Civic Corps term of service term is from October 1, 2012 to August 9, 2013.

Q: How many Corps members will be accepted?

A: This is pending funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service. However, for the 2011-2012 service term, there were 105 Civic Corps members.

Q: How many organizations will serve as host sites for Corps members?

A: This is pending funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service. However, for the 2011-2012 service term, there were 30 host site partners.

Q: Will I be working with other Civic Corps members?

A: Yes. Civic Corps members are placed in small teams. Teams typically range from two up to eight Corps members.

Q: Can I have another job while working in the NYC Civic Corps?

A: Yes. Civic Corps members are allowed to have outside employment. However, any outside employment or commitment(s) cannot interfere with the ability to meet expectations established by NYC Civic Corps and the assigned host site.

Q: What is the average age of Civic Corps members?

A: The average age of a Civic Corps member is 26. Last year, corps member's ages ranged from 22 to 60.

Do I have to have a certain college major?

No. Civic Corps members have represented a diversity of academic backgrounds. The only educational requirement is that Civic Corps member's must have achieved a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree by August 31, 2012.

Will I be trained?

Corps members will receive a one-week orientation from NYC Service at the start of the service term; the assigned site will provide training during the second week of the service term. During each month, NYC Service will schedule an all-day training seminar to provide skill building as it relates to volunteer recruitment and management, personal and professional development, and resource-building and networking.

I won't have a Bachelor's degree by the deadline. Is there rolling admission?

No. All Civic Corps members must apply during the open application in the summer. After the application closes, there is no schedule to consider additional candidates.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

Contact the NYC Civic Corps staff at corps@cityhall.nyc.gov or (212) 788-3209.