



Dear Prospective AmeriCorps Member,



Program Staff and AmeriCorps Members on an introductory backpacking trip in Juneau

Thank you for considering a position as a Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps member. This is an opportunity to impact youth in your community, create safe, positive activities, and encourage healthy choices.

We would like to introduce you to our program staff team, Liza and Maddy, who work out of RurAL CAP's central office in Anchorage. We are both former AmeriCorps Members and love supporting people and creating opportunities for impact and change. If you want to call and talk to us about the program, please do! Maddy can be reached at 907-865-7358 and Liza at 907-865-7396.

How Does the Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps Program Work?

The Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps Program is part of RurAL CAP (the RurAL Alaska Community Action Program) located in Anchorage. RurAL CAP forms partnerships with rural schools, tribal governments, and/or non-profits (called partner organizations). These organizations apply to participate in the program and recruit a local person to be an AmeriCorps member (that's you!).

AmeriCorps members attend a training in Anchorage to learn skills for working with youth, including Project Venture, an experiential learning curriculum with an indigenous lens. At training, you meet the other AmeriCorps members in the program who will be serving youth across Alaska, as well as RurAL CAP staff, all of whom will be a support network throughout your year.

When you return to your community, you will work with your local site supervisor to put on regular activities for youth aged 10-18. These include cultural activities such as beading, sewing, and subsistence, teaching substance mis-use prevention, and helping youth explore nature through multi-day outdoor trips. You will stay in contact with RurAL CAP and other AmeriCorps members through weekly teleconferences, one-on-one check-ins with the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, and on-going training. You will track and report on your activities with the youth on a regular basis and participate in National Days of Service. The goal of this program is to help young people make safe, healthy choices, have fun, and build skills to meet the challenges of life.

Studies have shown that having one consistent adult mentor outside of the home can significantly improve a young person's life. You can be that positive influence in the lives of youth in your community.

Program Fast Facts

Benefits: Monthly Stipend of \$1,650 for First Year Members, Health Insurance, Education Award of \$6,345 upon successful completion of your service year, Child Care (2020-2021) paid to a provider of your choice, Professional Training

Commitment: Full-time service (40 hrs/week) for the length of a service term, August 16, 2020- July 15, 2021 completing a minimum of 1700 hours of service

What is AmeriCorps? What does it mean to be a “Member”?

AmeriCorps is a national community service program, providing opportunities for intensive service to meet community needs. People who participate are called “AmeriCorps Members” and they work on a wide range of projects and issues across the nation, from building trails to teaching in schools to responding to disaster. In the Resilient Alaska Youth Program, we focus on youth and youth development. Members commit to a length of time at a non-profit called the Service Term. Throughout this term, members receive stipends and other benefits to support them during service. *AmeriCorps is not a job - rather it is an opportunity to serve and give back to the community, while learning new skills for personal and professional development.* More information about AmeriCorps can be found here:

<https://www.americorps.gov>

What is the Application/Selection Process?

In order to participate in the program, you must apply and complete an interview over the phone. The steps/timeline are outlined below:

1. Complete a Member Application:

Step 1: Get contact info for the participating organization in your community. This will likely be either the school, tribal government, or another local non-profit.

Step 2: Complete the member application on our website. **Due June 15th for priority consideration** (meaning your application will be given priority for open positions.)

Applications will continue to be accepted through July 1st, but there is no guarantee positions will be available.

Step 3: Let your organization know you completed an application

- ☐ **Application review** - RurAL CAP staff will review and score partner organization and member applications in June/July.
- ☐ **Telephone interview** – Interviews conducted in June/July will include both AmeriCorps member applicants and their site supervisors. Please come to the interview with ideas of activities you would like to do with youth! It is a good idea to meet with your site supervisor to brainstorm. *The **interview questions** will be sent out before the actual interview to help you prepare.*
- ☐ Successful applicants will be notified in July, and new members will begin their year of service in **August 2021.**

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.
RAY AmeriCorps Member
Position Description

POSITION: Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps Member
DEPARTMENT: Community Development Division: AmeriCorps
SUMMARY: Commit to 11 months of community service as an AmeriCorps Member enhancing culture, education, and wellness opportunities for youth

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Model the AmeriCorps ethic of community and responsibility by showing a commitment to improving the lives of others, and an interest in learning new skills.
2. Serve on a full-time basis (40 hours/week). Serve in coordination with a Senior AmeriCorps Member (if placed in your community).
3. Perform duties in cooperation with Host Organization staff to build youth resiliency through planned safe and healthy activities for 10-18 year old youth.
 - a. Solicit input from community members regarding local concerns
 - b. Create safe & healthy opportunities for youth
 - c. Create and implement lesson plans in school, out of school, and in afterschool sessions
 - d. Develop cultural activities that are alcohol, drug and tobacco free.
 - e. Consult with community members about the importance of health & wellness
 - f. Recruit local volunteers to help with activities and events
 - g. Collaborate with community groups and stakeholders to improve youth services in your community.
4. Maintain open communication with site supervisor, as well as community councils, and other local and regional organizations.
5. Participate in 2 RurAL CAP training events; participate in weekly Teleconferences with peers and Program Coordinator.
6. Provide information and submit reports as required by the program.
 1. Semi-monthly timesheets
 2. Monthly reports
 3. Youth activity and attendance information
 4. Youth Surveys (3)
 5. Other reports as required

7. Become familiar with the AmeriCorps Program Handbook and Project Venture guide. Host the RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Program Coordinator for a site visit.

CONDITIONS:

1. Must be in good general health and free from communicable illness and disease and serious physical and mental health problems including, but not limited to, abuse of other people, and excessive use of alcohol and/or other drugs.
2. Must be able to travel to and from rural Alaska in airplanes and travel by other forms of ground and water transportation.

QUALIFICATIONS:

REQUIRED:

1. Commitment to community service and an ability to learn and apply new skills.
2. Minimum age of 18 years.
3. Willingness to work as a team member.
4. Excellent communication both verbal and written.
5. Knowledgeable and sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity.
6. Self-motivated and able to perform duties without direct supervision.

PREFERRED:

1. High School diploma or GED.
2. Experience working with health & wellness issues.
3. Experience in facilitating training and organizing community events.
4. Excellent relationships & contacts with community leaders and council members.
5. Knowledge of regional resources and services related to health and wellness.

WORK SITE: Host organization in community

SUPERVISOR: The RurAL CAP supervisor is the RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Program Coordinator in conjunction with a local on-site supervisor who is designated by Host Organization.

TERM: 11 month term of AmeriCorps service

AMERICORPS BENEFITS:

AmeriCorps members are not employees. As participants of a national service program, RurAL CAP AmeriCorps members receive a *taxable* monthly living allowance of \$1,650 paid in a semi-monthly stipend of \$825. AmeriCorps members may be eligible for health insurance and child care benefits. Members who complete a full 11 months of service will also receive a **\$6,345.00** education award.