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THE ALUMS CORNER:

The Scoop After Service

Introduction

Welcome to the very first edition of Service Year Alliance's new alums newsletter, The Alums Corner: The Scoop After Service! Every quarter we will be collecting and sharing helpful resources and important information to support the service year alums community, including AmeriCorps Alums, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, YouthBuild alums, and all other service year alums!

In this issue, we will preview Service Year Alliance's brand new recruitment referral initiative, you'll meet one of the leaders on our alums committee of our Leadership Council, we'll share our new recruitment video, and we'll update you on all things policy & advocacy! Keep your eye out for exciting opportunities and events hosted by our partners in the service year field.

In Service,

Juanita Henry
Communications Manager
Service Year Alliance

This Issue:

#YOUCanDoAServiceYear
Video

PAGE 02

Refer a Friend to do a
Service Year

PAGE 03

Policy & Advocacy for
National Service

PAGE 04

Career Resources & Job
Opportunities

PAGE 05

Meet Willie Brooks

PAGE 06

Chapter Spotlight:
San Antonio, Texas

PAGE 07

Service Year Alum
Spotlight

PAGE 08

Podcasts & News

PAGES 09-10

Watch: #YOUCanServe Video

After a year of polling, market research, and message testing, Service Year Alliance is excited to debut our new recruitment video: #YOUCanServe.

[Watch and share it with your network:](#)



This new campaign raises awareness about the benefits of a service year and the various ways you can get paid to make a difference in your community. Join us in telling the next generation: #YOUCanServe by sharing this new video with your network!

We are very grateful to ArtistYear and PowerCorpsPHL for featuring their corps members in our new campaign. Interested in learning more about our newest recruitment campaign? [Check out some background & create your own content to share here.](#)

Tell your
network:
#YOUCanServe

SHARE OUR NEW
#YOUCANSEVE
VIDEO ON
SOCIAL MEDIA



Know
anyone
interested
in a service
year?

SHARE A
REFERRAL LINK
AND
ENCOURAGE
THEM TO APPLY!



Refer a Friend to do a Service Year!

Have you ever told a friend, family member, or neighbor about a service year or encouraged them to serve? Now you can refer folks in your network directly to a service year with your own unique referral link!

We're excited to announce new functionality on ServiceYear.org that will help service year alums support recruitment efforts by creating referral links to share with friends and people in their network. This new feature includes the ability to share a link for open opportunities with the program where you served, as well as the ability to encourage friends to explore best fit opportunities on their own.

To get started, you can head to the [new referrals section in your alum dashboard on ServiceYear.org](#). You can also [check out this article](#), which includes more details, as well as some tips and examples for sharing your link.



Refer a Service Year to a Friend

Know anyone who might be interested in a service year? Share a referral link and encourage them to apply.

Refer Your Friends

Policy & Advocacy for National Service

Take Action

Every year, Congress must fund AmeriCorps to provide resources for service year opportunities across the country. We are at the very beginning of that annual appropriations process right now, with President Biden's budget request proposing to increase annual appropriations to AmeriCorps by 13 percent over last year's enacted budget. While this appears to be a great starting point, we want to make sure that AmeriCorps prioritizes both raising corps members' living allowance while also maintaining the same number of AmeriCorps positions. We'd love your support in making sure that we secure robust funding for AmeriCorps this upcoming year. Please [reach out to your Members of Congress](#), and ask them to support the National Service Caucus priority of an additional \$300M over FY23 for AmeriCorps. A quick phone call or email helps your lawmakers know to make national service a priority!

States Leading on Service Years

States around the country are recognizing the transformative power of national service in changing young people's lives and career paths. In Maryland, Governor Moore has proposed a first-in-the-nation service year program which would uniquely target young people at the moment they are completing high school. Governor Moore's legislation authorizing the "Service Year Option" is currently working its way through the Maryland General Assembly. He also [created](#) a cabinet-level Department of Service and Civic Innovation to help run the program. You can learn more [here](#) and read Service Year Alliance's testimony on the bill [here](#).



A Civilian Climate Corps Update



Have you heard about efforts over the last few years to create a Civilian Climate Corps, an effort to modernize the Civilian Conservation Corps and put young people to work tackling urgent climate challenges in communities nationwide? Service Year Alliance helped found a national, nonpartisan coalition of over 100 cross-sector organizations – the [Partnership for the Civilian Climate Corps](#) – to make create and expand climate national service opportunities. You can learn more about the Partnership [here](#) and follow our advocacy efforts on Twitter [here](#).

Career & Job Opportunities

AmeriCorps Resources

Are you an AmeriCorps alum looking for employment or looking to apply for higher education? The “Employers of National Service” & “Schools of National Service” networks include organizations that prioritize alums as well as educational institutions that offer scholarships, application fee waivers, and other benefits for AmeriCorps alums. Check out the networks and [learn more here](#).

[Schools of National Service](#)

[Employers of National Service](#)

America's Service Commission's Service Job Board

America's Service Commissions regularly shares job openings for staff positions within the field of national service. [Check out the open jobs here!](#)

AmeriCorps Alums Job Board:

Take desirable skills and diverse experiences to a new role after serving with AmeriCorps. Check out this [quick link](#) where you can discover job opportunities. You can even upload your resume and let employers find you!

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

Q&A With Tessa White: The Job Doctor



Are you struggling to navigate the job market? Are you unsure of what steps to take to land your dream job?

Join this free webinar, where our Leadership Council Alums Committee member, Jamier Jones, and Job Doctor, Tessa White, participate in a Q&A forum and share practical tips on job search strategies in a post-COVID world.

Topics that will be covered in this webinar include:

- Establishing yourself during each phase of your career
- Building and expanding your professional network
- Negotiating salary and benefits
- Communicating effectively with colleagues and leaders in your field

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from one of the top job search experts in the industry.

[Register now to reserve your spot!](#)
Contact Jamier with any questions:
Jamierj@sas.UPenn.edu.

Meet Willie Brooks, Our Newest Member of the Leadership Council Alums Committee

Service Year Alliance has been actively recruiting diverse alums to join our [Leadership Council](#) to spearhead our newly-created alums committee. These members bring their perspectives, voices, and experiences as service year alums to Service Year Alliance's work. We're excited to introduce you to one of our newest Alums Committee members, Willie Brooks! Willie Brooks graduated from DePauw University in 2013, majoring in Classical Civilization and minoring in Political Science. Following his undergraduate education, he served two terms in the AmeriCorps NCCC program FEMA Corps, first as a Corps Member then as a Team Leader, and one term as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Indianapolis.



After participating in those national service programs, he used his Segal Education Awards to attend graduate school at IUPUI, where he completed a Masters in Criminal Justice and Public Safety. His professional background is in Emergency Management/Public Safety and AmeriCorps program management. Prior to his current role with Serve Indiana as the Employer Based Volunteer Program Manager, he worked for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, in the Radiation Program, where he was the Radiological and Nuclear Detection Program Coordinator. He's looking forward to getting to work with the rest of the committee and getting things done for the incredible community of national service alumni!

"Apart from meeting lifelong friends and helping communities around the country, my service year helped me discover my career passion, Emergency Management. Up until my participation in national service, I had no idea what I wanted to do from a career perspective. The skills I learned, along with the professional connections and education awards really proved invaluable for me!"

- Willie Brooks, AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA alum

National Week of Conversation



The Listen First Project's 6th annual [National Week of Conversation](#) is just around the corner! From April 17-23 Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs are invited to find their place in community with people willing to talk across their differences to solve important problems. Hundreds of organizations have already stepped up to provide resources and host events that speak to how conversations can move us forward in K-12 and Higher Education, in our local communities, and even in our politics. These resources and events provide Americans from every corner of the country with the opportunity to discover common interests, solve problems, and raise their voices together.

Join the National Week of Conversation to take a courageous step on this hopeful mission to defeat toxic polarization and heal America by transforming division and contempt into connection and understanding. [Learn more and join the conversation here.](#)

AmeriCorps NCCC Alumni Association

In March 2022, AmeriCorps NCCC sought applications in support of its launch of an independent, self-sufficient Alumni Advisory Committee. In April, 15 NCCC Alumni were assembled for this purpose. The committee has since been working to stand up the AmeriCorps NCCC Alumni Association (ANAA), which aims to create a sustainable NCCC alumni network and engage NCCC alumni after their terms of service.

Currently operating with the support of a contractor through AmeriCorps NCCC, the group is involved in a strategic planning process and can be reached at ncccaac@gmail.com. A.B. Stewart can also be contacted for additional information at abstewart100@gmail.com.

Chapter Spotlight: AmeriCorps Alums: San Antonio, Texas



AmeriCorps alums Sarah Kuntz, Dana Wrann, and Cristina Flores met earlier this spring to brainstorm how they could mobilize national service alumni living in San Antonio. They worked together to reach as many alumni in the area, gauge interest in a local chapter, and learn from alumni what they'd like to see in future alumni programming. They started by building community at a San Antonio local favorite, The Friendly Spot this past month.

If you want to learn how to start your own alumni chapter, [check out this resource here.](#)

"While it was a dreary day, we still had 15-20 people filtering in and out for free appetizers donated by The Friendly Spot, networking, and community. We connected with other alums who served in 1997 all the way to 2021! Alums talked about their service in VISTA, state and national, and NCCC! It was great hearing about people's service across the country (Alaska to SA!) and learning more about how they're continuing to get things done in San Antonio. They're eager to do it again!"

-Cristina Flores, AmeriCorps Alums & Director of Partnerships & Growth, New Politics



"YOU SHOULD NEVER STOP LEARNING FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES."

-Robert Scarvers,
AmeriCorps VISTA alum

Service Year Alum Spotlight: Robert Scarvers

What is your name, and where are you from?

Robert Scarvers, Philadelphia, PA

Where have you served, and how many terms have you served?

2 terms in Camden, NJ with AmeriCorps VISTA

What is your favorite memory from AmeriCorps?

It's difficult to pick just one. I loved my orientation cohort. I also loved interacting with the youth in my mentoring program; so many unique stories and personalities to work with!

How has serving with AmeriCorps benefitted you?

My last two employers told me personally that my time as a VISTA made me very easy to hire because they knew I had a lot of skills and could get things done.

What advice would you give to current AmeriCorps members and Alum?

Know your limits, always work on your communication skills (so others can respect your limitations and know your strengths), and try to take something positive from your experiences, both the good and the bad. You should never stop learning from your experiences. Last thing, document your experience and the things you've done (the future you writing a resume will be happy)!

In Case You Missed It!



Best Practices for Engaging AmeriCorps Alums

Next 100's Robert Godfried hosted a Twitter space conversation last month to highlight the voices of AmeriCorps alums and state commission staff and share best practices for engaging AmeriCorps alums.

You can listen to the full [conversation here](#).

Recommended Listening:

The AmeriCorps Advantage Podcast

The AmeriCorps Advantage run by our Philadelphia Impact Community, specifically the PHL AmeriCorps Alumni Chapter recently hosted a special podcast episode with guest Sonali Nijhawan, Director of AmeriCorps State & National. Sonali is the first AmeriCorps alum to serve in her role. With the 30th anniversary of State & National coming up next year, they discussed Sonali's path as a first-gen trailblazer with a volunteer mindset.

[Listen to the podcast episode here.](#)

NEW: AmeriCorps Alumni Network Podcast

Our Leadership Council Alums Committee member, Nicki Fiocco, recently launched a [new podcast series](#) featuring service year alums. Enjoy learning about the winding path of self-discovery, service, and sacrifice with each AmeriCorps story.

In her latest episode, Nicki highlights an AmeriCorps Alum who served in environmental programs, to celebrate earth month in April.

[Watch the new episode here](#) and/or [listen to the podcast on your preferred platform here](#).

If you'd like to be featured in the next episode, feel free to connect with Nicki Fiocco at nicki@acalumninetwork.org.

News & Highlights

- [Moore picks ex-AmeriCorps leader for new Md. agency focused on service](#) | The Washington Post
- [National Service Caucus celebrates AmeriCorps Week, announces expanded bipartisan leadership](#) | Sen. Chris Coons
- [Existing service year programs may provide model for Moore proposal](#) | Capital News Service Maryland
- [Larson, Reed Renew Push for Action to Increase Service Opportunities Act & Help Reduce Student Debt](#) | Rep. John B. Larson
- [Gov. Moore testifies for a bill that offers service work jobs to high school grads](#) | WJLA

Share Stories, Updates & More

Want to share your story? Have updates or resources to share with alums in our next newsletter, reach out to Juanita Henry at jhenry@serviceyear.org.

Forwarded this email? Register as a service year alum at ServiceYear.org/alums to subscribe and get access to additional resources & supports.

[Register on ServiceYear.org](https://ServiceYear.org)