

SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE



# THE ALUMS CORNER:

## *The Scoop After Service*

### Celebrating 30 Years of Service

This year marks a momentous occasion as we proudly celebrate the [30th anniversary of AmeriCorps](#)! As service year alums, you are the reason we do what we do! We appreciate your dedication to service and your lasting impact on our communities. Throughout these 30 years, alums like you have served and tackled educational disparities, supported disaster relief efforts and empowered underserved populations. Your service has transformed challenges into opportunities and improved lives!

As we celebrate this anniversary, we invite you to join AmeriCorps' festivities and reconnect with the service year community. You can get involved and learn more about that [here](#).

In addition, we encourage you to stay engaged with the service year community by sharing your stories with us! You continue to be ambassadors of service wherever you go. The service year journey does not end with the completion of your service term; it evolves into a lifelong commitment to building a better world, and we want to know more about your service journey. Share your stories with us at [alums@serviceyear.org](mailto:alums@serviceyear.org) to celebrate this year's anniversary.

Again, thank you for your service, and here's to 30 years of service, impact, and countless more years of making a difference!

In service,

Juanita Henry,  
Manager, Communications

### Newsletter Highlights:

Celebrating 30 Years  
of AmeriCorps

Refer a Friend  
to a Service Year &  
Get \$150

Take Action to  
Protect AmeriCorps

#### Resources & Tips:

- AmeriCorps' 30th Anniversary
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

#### Career Resources & Job Opportunities:

- JFF Labs' Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program
- Peace Corps Career Fair
- America's Service Commissions Job Board



# Refer a Friend to AmeriCorps & Get \$150

You've made an impact through a service year – now you can bring the next generation into national service. Do you have friends, family, or others in your network who might be interested in doing a service year? Service Year Alliance is offering a \$150 gift card for successfully referring someone to do a service year through [ServiceYear.org](https://ServiceYear.org).

[Refer a Friend to a Service Year](#)

It's easy to participate:

1. [Log in and create your referral link.](#)
2. Share your link with friends.
3. Earn a reward for successful referrals.

Learn more and get started [here](#). Don't hesitate to reach out to the Service Year team with questions at [support@serviceyear.org](mailto:support@serviceyear.org).



## Take Action to Protect AmeriCorps – and your Education Award!



Congress is in the process of deciding AmeriCorps funding levels and there's a lot on the line for national service. If Congress doesn't ultimately provide more funding for AmeriCorps in FY24, there will be a significant cut in awarded service year positions and a reduction in services that AmeriCorps members provide.

We have not seen proposed funding for AmeriCorps this low in nearly three decades. The House's proposed spending bill would massively cut the number of people who serve as well as their ability to earn an education award. AmeriCorps alums like you have worked so hard to earn your education award – and right now these critical awards are at risk of elimination.

Our partners at Voices for National Service have put together [this action alert](#) – making it easy to contact your members of Congress. It only takes a minute to complete – take action now!

Thank you for taking a stand for service!

[Tell Your Members of Congress  
to Invest in AmeriCorps](#)

# Resources & Tips:

## Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is celebrating 30 years of national service. Throughout the last three decades, millions of Americans have dedicated their time and talents to making a difference in communities around the country. Service is not a moment, it is a movement that continues to address our nation's most pressing challenges.



### Celebrate this Moment.

- Billions of hours served.
- Millions of lives changed.
- Thousands of communities transformed.

### Join the Movement

September 2023-2024 | #AmeriCorps30

Join AmeriCorps in a year-long celebration September 2023 to September 2024 as they commemorate the success, impact, and milestone moments made possible through national service.

[Learn more.](#)

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness program

Did you know that service with AmeriCorps can earn eligibility towards the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF)? Join AmeriCorps on Wednesday, September 20th at 4 pm (ET) to learn more about how AmeriCorps members and alumni can take advantage of federal student loan relief efforts. During this event, US Department of Education officials will provide an overview of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, recent changes to PSLF and income-based student-loan repayment plan options, and special considerations for AmeriCorps members.

[Register here.](#)



[Register](#)



# Career Resources & Job Opportunities:

## *Apply for JFFLabs' Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program*

For over 40 years, Jobs for the Future (JFF) has led the field by designing, scaling, and influencing workforce and education systems. At JFFLabs, they've found that today's systems are ready for entrepreneurs with new solutions that make pathways to quality jobs more accessible to more people. [JFFLabs' entrepreneur-in-residence program](#) builds on JFF's long standing expertise by identifying and scaling solutions that help workers succeed in future quality jobs.

The JFFLabs entrepreneur-in-residence program incubates mission-aligned social entrepreneurs for a cohort experience that helps them refine their value proposition, build an effective sales strategy, and prepare for investment. Each entrepreneur is paired with multiple mentors to provide individualized expertise. Virtual and in-person gatherings encourage members to engage with external speakers and learn from each other.

JFFLabs has two new cohort opportunities available:

- [Climate Resilient Solutions](#) is for companies advancing access to and success in quality green jobs.
- [Youth Skills First](#) is for companies with technology solutions that support skills-based talent strategies anchored in youth apprenticeship.

They welcome applications and can't wait to meet entrepreneurs ready to maximize their impact with their team.





## *Peace Corps Career Fair in Seattle, Washington*

The Peace Corps will host their upcoming Peace Corps Career Fair and Fellows Fair in Seattle, Washington! This event will provide an opportunity for employers to connect with highly talented returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), AmeriCorps Alumni, and other U.S. Exchange Alumni throughout the United States - all of whom have a variety of unique backgrounds and skills.

The Peace Corps' Career Fair will be held this coming Monday, September 18, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the Fellows Fair will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both events will be located at Hotel Murano, 1320 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402.



Space is limited, and registration is first come, first served, so please register before September 17 for this free event. A list of event day guidelines, participating organizations, and other resources are available on the registration page. There will also be networking opportunities.

[Register here to attend.](#)

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## *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!](#)



# Leadership Opportunities

## *Presidential Management Fellowship Program*

Bearing the Presidential moniker, the Presidential Management Fellowship Program is the Federal Government's flagship leadership development program for advanced degree holders across all academic disciplines. It was established 45 years ago by Executive Order and has gone through changes over the years, but the essential mission remains the same: to recruit and develop a cadre of future government leaders drawn from all segments of society. Eligible individuals apply to be selected as Finalists. Finalists then have 12 months to secure an appointment as a Fellow, which is a two-year, full-time, paid fellowship at a Federal agency. The PMF Program creates a lasting bond among Fellows and Alumni. It also instills a spirit of public service, which, for Fellows who complete the program successfully, can ultimately encourage and lead to a career in government.

Applications are open now, [apply here](#).

[Apply here](#)

## *The White House Fellows Program:*



Founded in 1964 by Lyndon B. Johnson, the White House Fellows program is one of America's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service. White House Fellowships offer exceptional young people first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government.

Selected individuals typically spend a year working as a full-time, paid Fellow to senior White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an Education Program consisting of roundtable discussions with leaders from the private and public sectors. In some years, Fellows may also have the opportunity to study U.S. policy in action domestically, and potentially internationally. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis.

The purpose of the White House Fellows program is to provide gifted and highly motivated young Americans with first-hand experience in the process of governing the Nation and a sense of personal involvement and responsibility in the leadership of society.

[Learn more about this opportunity.](#)

[Learn More & Apply](#)

# Volunteer 9/11 Day



On September 11, a National Day of Service and Remembrance, AmeriCorps members joined thousands of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to honor the lives and service of those we lost on September 11th.

Together, volunteers packed more than 6.5 million meals in 18 cities across America.

AmeriCorps CEO Michael Smith [joined](#) volunteers in Washington, D.C., where they packaged 350,000 meals.

Learn more about how people served across the country, on [9/11 Day's Twitter](#).



9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance ensures we – and future generations -- never forget the service and sacrifice we witnessed 22 years ago. In honor of 9/11, along with thousands of volunteers across the country, we packaged more than 6.5 million meals.

@AmeriCorps · Sep 12

#Shareworthy: In honor of @911Day of Service and Remembrance volunteers came together across the country to pack more than 6.5 million meals to address hunger in their communities. Read more about our #911Day efforts: [Bit.ly/911Day23](https://bit.ly/911Day23)



2:07 PM · Sep 12, 2023 · 650 Views

## Spread the Word: New Politics Leadership Academy



Our friends at [New Politics Leadership Academy](#) have opened applications for [Answering the Call](#). Service year alums are invited to apply! You'll consider if you feel called to political service by reflecting on your core values and who you are as a leader. Their alumni gain access to panels, networking events, and one-on-one coaching to support their continued growth. Programming is designed for AmeriCorps alumni, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, veterans, and other service professionals. It's perfect for national service alumni who want to stay civically engaged and are interested in entering the political arena in the future, but don't know where to begin. There is no cost to attend.

[Learn More & Apply](#)



*"The best thing that has come out of my AmeriCorps service year was confidence in my ability to lead, inspire, and motivate others. Getting things done is not just a tagline for me: it is a way of life, my year as an AmeriCorps member ignited this spirit in me."*



## Meet Nicki Fiocco

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 new Alums Committee members, Nicki Fiocco.

Meet Nicki Fiocco, with a stellar career spanning over a decade in the realm of national and community service. Nicki jumped into service as an AmeriCorps member with Volunteer Maryland, a statewide service year program that she went on to direct. Nicki also served as the director of two state service commissions - Maryland and South Carolina - and is now the Director of Programs and Communication with Transform Mid-Atlantic, an organization that provides leadership to colleges and universities in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Delaware by advocating, supporting, and encouraging institutional participation in academic and co-curricular-based public service and civic engagement programs.

Reflecting on her journey, Nicki reminisces, "The best thing that has come out of my AmeriCorps service year was confidence in my ability to lead, inspire, and motivate others. Getting things done is not just a tagline for me: it is a way of life, my year as an AmeriCorps member ignited this spirit in me."

Be sure to check out Nicki's podcast, AmeriCorps Connections, where you can listen to alums like you share their experiences during and after service.

[Listen to the podcast here.](#)

# Spotlight: Jamie Fragale, AmeriCorps Alum with Academy Hope

## What is your name, and where are you from?

My name is Jamie Fragale, and I'm from Washington, DC.

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

I served for one term at Academy of Hope in Washington, DC.

## What is your favorite memory from AmeriCorps?

I had the opportunity to serve as an adult education instructor. During one science class, I showed learners how to build a weather station. Many learners expressed their interest in replicating the exercise with their children!

## How has serving with AmeriCorps benefitted you?

Serving with AmeriCorps has benefitted me tremendously. My service year eventually turned into a full time professional opportunity with the Academy of Hope! I left after my term was over and returned a few years later in a new capacity as an Advocacy Manager and then later became the Director of Advocacy & Communications. Recently, I started a new position with the Maryland Department of Labor as a Manager of Strategic Communications of Family and Medical Leave Insurance. I'm continuing to serve my community in a way that is deeply meaningful and impactful on so many levels.

## What advice would you give to current AmeriCorps members and alums?

Try not to worry too much about your "career." Focus on the good you can do right in front of you. The rest will work itself out.



*"Try not to worry too much about your 'career.' Focus on the good you can do right in front of you. The rest will work itself out."*