



# SERVICE YEAR AS A <sup>PAID</sup> GAP YEAR

For one year, gain independence and confidence as you develop real-world skills through hands-on service

**A service year provides the opportunity to learn new things about the world and develop skills that help pave the way to higher education and a career.**

✓ Leadership Skills	✓ Confidence
Learn to lead and influence as you work with team members from diverse backgrounds.	Step out of your comfort zone and build an “I can do anything” attitude that stays with you in school and future jobs.
✓ Independence	✓ Direction
Build independence by doing a service year near home or far away, adjusting to living on your own, learning to manage a budget, and more.	Learn to navigate challenges both large and small during your service year, helping you make better choices in school, work, and life.

Paid service year opportunities—many of which offer education awards to help pay for college—are available across America with AmeriCorps programs like City Year, Habitat for Humanity, and AmeriCorps NCCC as well as hundreds of other certified service year programs that can be found at [ServiceYear.org](https://ServiceYear.org).

“Despite a service year being incredibly challenging, it will be an experience that will change your life – the way you see things and the way people see you.”

- Jordan Schoeneberger  
AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps



**A Better You.**  
A Greater Us.

[serviceyear.org/highschool](https://serviceyear.org/highschool)



# JORDAN SCHOENEGER

AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps\*

2014–2015

## Where were you before you did your service year?

I was attending a high school in Delaware that focused on math and science and playing a lot of volleyball and softball. I decided to defer my college acceptance for a year to do AmeriCorps FEMA Corps.

## What are you doing now?

I'm attending Virginia Tech and majoring in Applied Economic Management.

## Why did you choose to do a service year?

My sister did a service year working in many states, including helping in Baton Rouge with the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. I wanted to do something similar before starting college because I knew it was an experience that she really valued. Even though I felt well-rounded going into my service year with AmeriCorps FEMA Corps, I had never really been exposed to the world or to people from diverse backgrounds. I knew I needed to get more perspective to fully benefit from my college experience.

## How do you think your service year has helped you?

I had always excelled in sports, and it was a huge part of my identity growing up. But, I did not have any idea what I wanted study in college or how I wanted to spend my career. I loved that I did my service year after high school as it helped cement my decision about what to study in college plus no one my age had the same kind of experience that I gained. It was key in helping me land an internship at school.

## Did you learn anything about yourself, or come to understand the world better in any way?

My service year gave me new perspectives on how things work and how people are affected by different challenges. I learned that I loved working and being in situations that demanded a quick response. It was the most challenging experience ever, but because of it, I became more confident and feel that I can honestly do just about anything.

\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps); FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

Learn more about doing a paid gap year at:  
[serviceyear.org/highschool](http://serviceyear.org/highschool)