THE AMERICORPS ADVANTAGE

Jamie Crispin | jcrispin@ksde.org
PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS

- AmeriCorps Advantage
- Career Exploration
- Get LinkedIn
- Build your Network
- Think Transferable Skills
- 21st Century Skills
- Results Frame of Mind
- Sell Yourself
- Resources
AMERICORPS ADVANTAGE

- 42% employed within 6 months found a job through an AmeriCorps connection.

- 80% of alumni say AmeriCorps benefitted their career path.

- 82% of AmeriCorps host organizations surveyed hired at least one AmeriCorps member since 2012.

A PROMISING FUTURE

- 66% are employed within 6 months after completing their AmeriCorps commitment.
- 42% found employment due to an AmeriCorps connection.

A LASTING IMPACT

- 90% of alumni feel they improved their ability to solve problems.
- 94% of alumni feel they broadened their understanding of society and different communities.
- 91% of alumni feel they made a contribution to the community.
- 92% of alumni feel they made a difference in the life of at least one person.

Alumni agree—AmeriCorps made a difference in advancing their career.
AMERICORPS TOP 5 SKILLS

- Initiative
- Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication
- Adaptability
- Collaboration
- Accountability

Initiative
Alums are immediate contributors who lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, motivation, and inspiration.

“The qualities that we were seeing in the graduates of [AmeriCorps] ... were the very qualities that we were looking for in potential new employees ... [They] are more focused and more efficient ... They understand that it takes hard work – probably better than anybody.”

— Fortune 500 Corporation Senior Vice President

Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication
Alums served with and excel in partnering and communicating with diverse racial, religious, ethnic, cultural, and geographic groups.

Adaptability
AmeriCorps members undergo rigorous training programs. They have a proven ability to learn new concepts and skills quickly.

“Alums have an ability to navigate a lot of day to day challenges. They know how to get things done and how to drive to impact.”

— Technology Start-up Executive

Collaboration
AmeriCorps fosters an individual's ability to work individually and as a team, instilling a strong work ethic and responsibility to and appreciation of one’s colleagues.

“Alums have a client and community focus and strong communication skills. They are team-oriented relationship builders.”

— Financial Services Company Hiring Manager

Accountability
Alums understand the responsibility that comes with being accountable for their own actions, the actions of team members, and their individual and collective results.

— Kansas Volunteer Commission
CAREER EXPLORATION

Do you know your..
- Passions/motivations
- Strengths
- Ideal job/career/industry

If not, then..
- Do self-assessments
- Conduct research
- Talk with others
GET LINKEDIN

- Use a professional picture
- Make your profile eye-catching
- Personalize your URL
- Craft your headline
- Include contact info
- Create a powerful profile
- Write quantifiables
- Build a visual job summary with photos, videos or PDF files.
- List your skills
- Keep account up-to-date
BUILD YOUR NETWORK

- LinkedIn
- AmeriCorps Alums Network
- Your Program Director/Site
- Other AmeriCorps members
- Who else?
THINK TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- View list of marketable skills
- Relate AmeriCorps to professional setting
- Review job descriptions for key words
- Match transferable skills into resume/interviews
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

- Identify projects or tasks you complete as an AmeriCorps member.
- Communicate the skills you developed.
- Explain how these skills can be applied to other types of work or added to your resume.
### RESULTS FRAME OF MIND

- Track results
- Use quantifiables
- Keep a job journal
- Update your resume
- Find a mentor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAR</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td>Identify the SITUATION or problem you solved or encountered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T</strong></td>
<td>What was the specific TASK or targets? (who, what, when, where, what’s required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>Detail your specific ACTION. What did you do? How did you do it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R</strong></td>
<td>Explain the RESULTS. Quantify. (savings, accomplishments, recognition, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SELL YOURSELF

Know what you have!
- Build your professional profile!

Know what you want!
- What is your target?

Use what you have to get what you want!
- Sell yourself!
Mentoring Connection, INC. Topeka, KS

AmeriCorps Kansas Member

Committed one year of full-time national service with a nonprofit focused on providing intensive academic and career development support to at-risk students dropping out of high school.

BEFORE: *Organized home builds for low-income families.*
AFTER: Increased by 25% the number of weekday volunteers for build sites resulting in 3 homes completed ahead of schedule in one year.

BEFORE: *Wrote 3 grants with agency staff.*
AFTER: Successfully secured $25K to rehabilitate decaying community playground through co-writing 3 fully funded grant proposals.
EMPLOYERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE

- Connects alums from AmeriCorps with employers from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

- Over 500 companies

- [https://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service](https://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service)
LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS RESOURCES

AMERICORPS ALUMS
www.americorpsalums.org

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)
http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/alumni

KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
http://kanserve.org/AmeriCorps-Kansas/Member-Benefits-Resources

NOELLE GROSS
http://www.ngcareerstrategy.com

SERVICE YEAR ALLIANCE
https://serviceyear.org/alums/
YOUR HOMEWORK

- Describe your Americorps role, organization, and the mission.

- Be able to communicate your passions, strengths, and results.

- Identify your career goals and connect them to your AmeriCorps experience.
LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS

- AmeriCorps Advantage
- Career Exploration
- LinkedIn
- Build your Network
- Think Transferable Skills
- 21st Century Skills
- Results Frame of Mind
- Sell Yourself
- Resources
GOOD LUCK!

Jamie Crispin | jcrispin@ksde.org