

How Do I describe AmeriCorps?



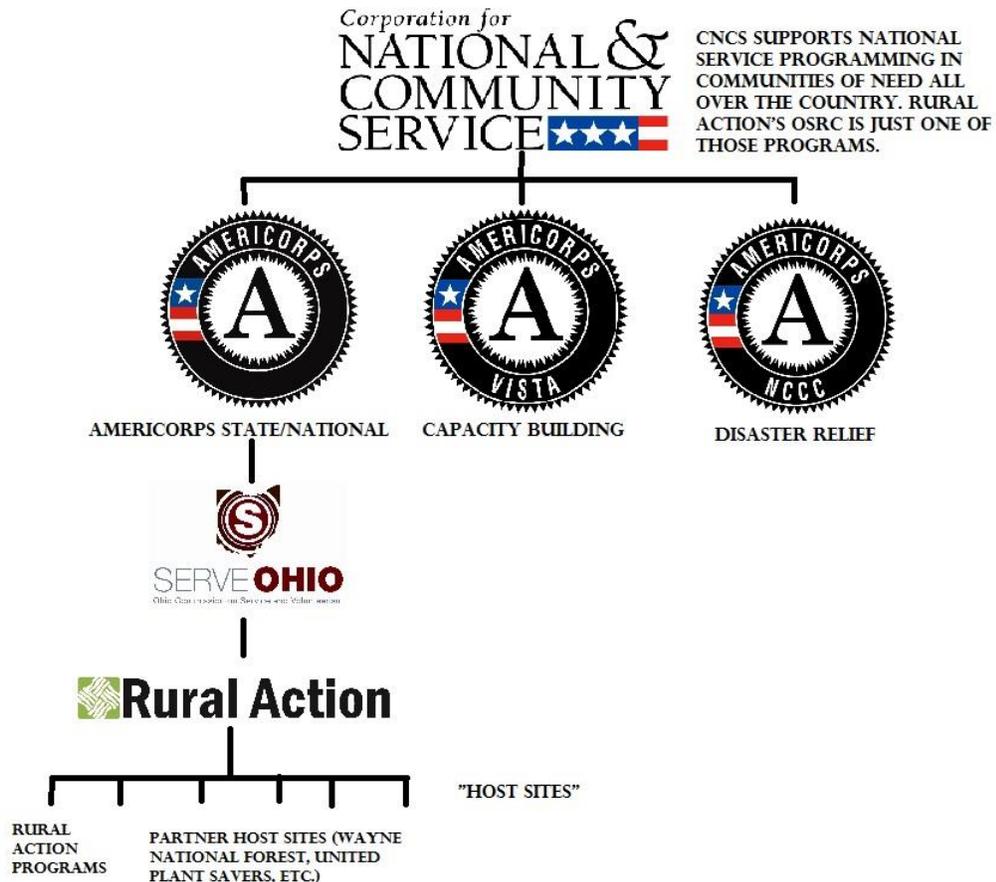
AmeriCorps is a national service program where individuals voluntarily spend up to a year serving with an organization to help meet community needs. National focus areas are education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, military and military families, disaster relief and opportunities

AmeriCorps programs do more than move communities forward; they serve their members by creating jobs and providing pathways to opportunity for young people entering the workforce. AmeriCorps places thousands of young adults into

intensive service positions with community groups, nonprofit organizations, and other entities where they learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship.

These groups recruit, train, and place AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members earn a living allowance, an education award, and other benefits.

Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps is an AmeriCorps State and National program sponsored by Rural Action Inc. serving in Appalachian Ohio. Its focus is Environmental Stewardship through programs working in environmental restoration, environmental education, zero waste, geo-tourism, and access to trails and trail maintenance. Each member is assigned to serve at a Host Site in a community to meet a community need. Here's a quick graph to explain how AmeriCorps works:



Members may implement existing programs, recruit and engage volunteers and community members to get involved, or even develop new programs to deal with an unmet need. Member tasks include monitoring streams and implementing treatment systems to improve water quality, providing outdoor learning experiences for youth and adults, working in schools and the community to provide better recycling options, providing public access and maintenance to hiking trails, and developing tourism opportunities to boost economic growth in the region. Members serve a 12 month term of service and receive a modest living allowance during their service, as well as an education award after service to pursue further education. During service they gain new skills and knowledge to assist them in pursuing their career paths in the future. AmeriCorps members are more than volunteers. They are caring individuals giving a year of their time, skills, and talents to their community and country through national service with AmeriCorps.



Rural Action also hosts an AmeriCorps VISTA program. AmeriCorps VISTA members serve for a full year, fulltime at a host site in a community of need, building that site's capacity to do more, capture more sustainable funding, and reach more people.

Rural Action VISTA benefits include:

- An annual living allowance of \$14,279
 - The living allowance will not count as income on the post-secondary education FAFSA or on SNAP applications in certain circumstances
- A Segal Education Award of \$6,195
- An optional cash award of \$1,800 in lieu of the Segal Education Award
- 1 full year of non-competitive status for Federal jobs after term completion
- Healthcare
- Mileage reimbursement for service-related travel
- Experience and training in nonprofit management, sustainable sectors, environmental restoration, community development, community organizing, and Appalachian culture
- Networking and teambuilding with regional leaders and passionate National Service members
- Grant writing experience

Whether you are interested in serving as an AmeriCorps State National Member with Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps, or as an AmeriCorps VISTA, engaging in a year of National Service is a meaningful way to Get Things Done for your community (and our world), and an exciting way to Get Things Done for yourself.

Contact shannon@ruralaction.org for more information about AmeriCorps opportunities in Appalachian Ohio.

