



Planning an AmeriCorps Week Project Ideas & Resources

Whether you are an AmeriCorps program, member, alum, or friend, there are countless ways to support AmeriCorps Week's goals of bringing more Americans into service and raising awareness about how AmeriCorps is "getting things done" for your community and for America.

Speak to a Community Group

AmeriCorps members, alumni, and programs have great stories to tell. Arrange a public speaking opportunity (or two or three) at a local school or college, or before a local community organization. Talk about your AmeriCorps experience and the difference AmeriCorps has made in your life. Get people excited about the power of serving their community!

'AmeriCorps for a Day'

Ask a local official, potential funder, celebrity, or reporter to become an AmeriCorps member for a day – or even a half hour, if that's what they can offer. Once they get an inside look at your organization and the work AmeriCorps members do, they're certain to gain a deeper appreciation of the value of your program to the community. Similarly, why not invite young people from the community, friends, or family members to serve beside you or your members for a day, either as part of your/their regular duties or on a special AmeriCorps Week service project.

Stage a Special Event

Everyone likes special events, especially if they help your organization fulfill its mission. AmeriCorps Week is the perfect time to host an Open House, sponsor a local service project, or connect with other AmeriCorps programs in your area to stage a joint volunteer recruitment fair. Another idea is to hold a Community Appreciation Reception to thank your AmeriCorps program's funders, volunteers, and other partners for their support. The events need not be formal or expensive – it's the spirit that counts!

Reach Out to the Media

Your organization does great work every day to meet a host of needs. What better excuse to draw attention to your efforts than AmeriCorps Week? Contact your local newspaper, radio, television, and cable stations to request coverage of your group during the week, or ask them to run public service announcements.

Engage Officials and Community Partners

Ask your mayor, town council, county leader, or even your state's governor to issue a proclamation recognizing AmeriCorps Week and your group's connection to it. Get local sports teams to recognize AmeriCorps members during the game, or ask a local celebrity to service with 'AmeriCorps for a Day.'

Spread the Word about Your AmeriCorps Service

Not everyone has time to speak to a school or community group. But everyone can do something to let others know of the power and impact of AmeriCorps. Drop off AmeriCorps brochures at your local library. Blog about AmeriCorps on MySpace or Facebook or another online site. Send a letter to the editor of your local paper, and send an e-mail to your friends, family, and colleagues to let them know about your service or about AmeriCorps Week activities that are happening in their communities.