



National Indian Justice Center
AmeriCorps Tribal Transportation Safety Corps
AmeriCorps Member
Frequently Asked Questions

Do I get paid?

The Tribal Transportation Safety Corps provides full-time members with a modest living allowance of \$11,800, which is paid in monthly installments over the course of the member's term. Full-time and part-time AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service also receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. The award for 2010 is \$5,350 for full-time members and \$2,675 for part-time members.

What if I'm out of school and not interested in the education award? Can I get that money in cash?

No, the education award is only available to AmeriCorps members for use for educational expenses (i.e., tuition).

What if I can't complete my term of service?

If you have a "compelling personal circumstance" like an illness, family illness, or military duty, and you have completed at least 15% of your service hours, you may be able to receive a partial education award.

How long are the assignments, and are they all full-time?

The time commitment varies, from ten months to a year, depending upon your project. Some assignments are full-time (1,700 hours), and there are some 900 hour, part-time service opportunities available.

How many AmeriCorps terms can I serve?

A person can be awarded up to 4 AmeriCorps education awards in a lifetime but not to exceed the equivalent of 2 full year terms of service or 2.0 MSY (member service years).

Can I join if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

You must be a U.S. citizen, national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S. to be an AmeriCorps member.

Is there an age requirement?

You must be at least 17 years old.

What skills do I need to have?

Our tribal transportation host sites will have specific skill requests for different projects, and may be looking for someone with a bachelor's or more advanced degree and/or transportation specific job experiences. Your motivation and commitment to serve the transportation safety needs of tribal communities may also be a primary requirement.

Where will I serve?

Safety Corps members may serve in American Indian communities or at public agencies or non-profit organizations that serve tribal communities' transportation safety and improvement needs.

What will I do?

It depends on the needs of your host site. The purpose of the Tribal Transportation Safety Corps is to improve tribal transportation safety and facilities throughout Indian Country by building the skill and capacity of tribal communities to address transportation safety and improvement issues. A detailed member position description, developed by your host site, will outline your activities and be part of your member agreement.

Will I get any training before I start?

All Safety Corps members undergo orientation with NIJC AmeriCorps Program staff at the beginning of their service, and receive project-specific training and host site orientation during service.

Who will I report to during my service term?

On a day-to-day basis, AmeriCorps members report to their host site supervisor about their activities. The site supervisor in turn reports to NIJC AmeriCorps program staff. AmeriCorps members must also document their service hours and activities to be eligible for an education award. NIJC provides an online portal, <http://nijc.myservicelog.org>, to facilitate member reporting.

Can I defer student loans during my service with AmeriCorps?

You may qualify for postponement, or forbearance, of the repayment of your loans during your service. The education award will help you pay off qualified student loans when you're finished. Contact your lender for more specific information or to confirm your loan status during AmeriCorps service.

Are there any loan forgiveness programs or repayment plans that I might qualify for as an AmeriCorps member?

On September 27, 2007, President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 ("CCRAA") into law. In addition to other amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965, the CCRAA created two new federal programs: a new Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and a new Income-Based Repayment plan (IBR) for the repayment of federal loans. The new Income-Based Repayment plan helps to make repaying education loans more affordable for low-income borrowers, such as an AmeriCorps member living on a stipend; AmeriCorps service

is also recognized as equivalent to a public service job for the purposes of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

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