

FOODCORPS SERVICE MEMBER

Connecticut Position Description



Who We Are

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders that connects kids to real food and helps them grow up healthy. We do that by placing motivated leaders in limited-resource communities for a year of public service. Serving under the direction of local partner organizations, our service members focus on three areas of service:

- **Hands-on learning:** students grow, cook, and taste new foods, which builds their skills and changes food preferences
- **Healthy school meals:** the cafeteria experience steers students towards the healthiest options and gets them excited to try new healthy foods
- **Schoolwide culture of health:** as a whole, the school community and environment – from hallways to classrooms to cafeteria to grounds – celebrates healthy food. We measure our success in terms of changes in children, schools, and systems.

What We're Looking For

- Passion for building a healthier future for schoolchildren
- Commitment to working hard in order to make a difference
- Demonstrated leadership ability
- Motivation to serve full-time in a limited resource community
- Perseverance in the face of challenges and creativity in finding solutions
- Respect for diversity of opinion, experience, and background
- Experience working in or studying food systems, agriculture, public health, education, community organizing, or public service
- Experience working or volunteering in education, youth development, or other teaching setting
- Knowledge of the culture, history, and/or language of the communities we serve
- Desire to gain hands-on experience for your career
- Demonstrated ability or dedication to performing the activities listed below

To be considered for a FoodCorps service member position, you must:

- Be 18 years or older by the start of your service term
- Be a legal, permanent resident of the United States
- Hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent

What You'll Do

As a FoodCorps Service Member with Norwalk Public Schools you will work with schools and community partners to build healthy school food environments. You'll do this in a variety of ways including:



- Teaching children in grades K-5 about food and nutrition in the classroom by teaching lessons, integrating activities into subjects such as math, science and history, working with teachers and school administrators to increase food and nutrition education in curricula, and more.
- Lead opportunities for students to grow healthy food with students, teachers, and community members in school gardens—dynamic educational settings where kids can get their hands dirty and experience what they’re learning first-hand. You will also help maintain already-existing school gardens, run after-school programs, and lead projects that engage schools and staff in their use and sustainability.
- Contribute to a positive cafeteria experience for students by dining with students, leading healthy food promotions, and hosting regular taste tests to encourage students to try new things. Other cafeteria efforts include collecting feedback from students to inform menu item and promoting school breakfast.
- Build schoolwide cultures of health by working closely with teachers and school administrators, recruiting and engaging volunteers, and organizing committees and running meetings to accomplish school goals for supporting a healthy school food environment.
- Spend time learning and participating in trainings, raising money to help support the school projects, and helping FoodCorps and schools assess the impact we are having.

What You’ll Gain

- Up to \$18,250 living stipend, paid bi-weekly
- \$6,095 AmeriCorps Segal Education Award, upon successful completion of your term of service
- Health insurance*
- Partial childcare reimbursement, if you qualify
- Student loan forbearance, if you qualify
- Training, mentorship, and professional development opportunities

**Participation in the FoodCorps health insurance option is required if you cannot provide proof of existing coverage.*

Where You’ll Serve

FoodCorps offers service positions in communities throughout Connecticut. For a list of current communities, visit: <https://foodcorps.org/apply/where-youll-serve/connecticut>. Apply here today: <https://foodcorps.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>

The Details

In order to successfully complete your term of service, you must, at a minimum, serve 1,700 allowable hours between August 1, 2019 and July 15, 2020.

FoodCorps service members report to the designated supervisor at their service site. Your State Field Office and national staff provide additional guidance and oversight.

Service members are expected to abide by rules of conduct set forth in their member contract and will be evaluated for performance twice during the term: at the mid-point and end of service. Performance is evaluated based on progress toward achieving goals set forth in your unique service plan as well as general professional conduct in the service environment. Service members who break the rules of conduct may be suspended and/or terminated at any time.

FoodCorps is a proud member of the AmeriCorps network. All FoodCorps service members are full-time AmeriCorps members and are therefore bound by AmeriCorps rules and regulations, including abiding by AmeriCorps prohibited



activities and ensuring that volunteers abide by prohibited activities, which can be found in your member contract and your FoodCorps Service Member Manual. See www.americorps.gov for more information about AmeriCorps service.

All FoodCorps service members must pass a three-part background check to be eligible for service, including clearing the National Sex Offender Public Registry, state background checks in your state of service and residence at time of application, and an FBI criminal history check (fingerprint-based). This position includes access to vulnerable populations (individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, and/or youth). To successfully perform their duties, service members must be able to stand for extended periods of time to teach; supervise groups of children in- and outdoors; perform manual labor in the school garden, including digging, getting up and down, lifting garden equipment; aid children in the garden; coordinate and organize meetings; recruit and manage volunteers; and travel to and from National Orientation and Gatherings as required.

Your position is unique to AmeriCorps and does not displace organization staff or volunteers.

FoodCorps is an equal opportunity organization and we respect diversity. FoodCorps does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, alienage or citizenship, disability, marital status, military or veteran status, or any other legally recognized protected basis under federal, state, or local laws, regulations or ordinances.

FoodCorps provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees as required by law. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

All service positions at FoodCorps are at-will. Service positions, though designed to last for one year, are not guaranteed for a set period of time. Both service members and FoodCorps have the right to terminate the position at any time. FoodCorps reserves the right to conduct employment, education, and background checks upon which your position may be contingent.

