



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about AmeriCorps

Thank you for your interest in the AmeriCorps program with Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis (HFHSL). At HFHSL, AmeriCorps members will play an essential role in transforming our St. Louis community. Our program allows members to serve their community, gain professional work experience, and make new partnerships and friendships to last a lifetime.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is not a job; it is a service opportunity that unites Americans in improving our communities. Members take responsibility, learn valuable skills, and fulfill their pledge to "get things done." AmeriCorps National Direct members have direct service positions, assisting volunteers, families, and the home building process. VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) members serve to build capacity and sustainability by establishing long-lasting procedures and programs that help us partner with more families and build more homes.

What is Habitat for Humanity?

The ultimate goal of Habitat for Humanity International is to eliminate poverty housing from the face of the Earth by building adequate and basic housing. Furthermore, all of our words and actions are for the ultimate purpose of putting shelter on the hearts and minds of people in such a powerful way that poverty housing and homelessness become socially, politically, and religiously unacceptable in our nation and world.

What are the objectives of the Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps program?

- Members will strengthen communities by helping Habitat affiliates build their capacity, so that more volunteers and partners help with building more houses.
- Members will develop their sense of citizenship through service and reflection.

What is Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis?

Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Since 1986, we have built and renovated 283 houses in neighborhoods all across St. Louis. Our affiliate headquarters is located in mid-town on Forest Park Ave & Vandeventer Ave. The 2010 build is the first of its kind and is located in two neighborhoods, Old North St. Louis and JeffVanderLou (JVL).

What positions do AmeriCorps Members serve in at HFHSL?

VISTA: In-Kind Acquisitions Coordinator and Neighborhood & Grant Outreach Coordinator

National Direct: Volunteer Services Assistant

**Positions for the 2010 – 2011 year are pending official approval.*

Is reliable transportation necessary for these roles?

Yes. In order to travel to area meetings, build sites, professional development/trainings, special events, etc, it is imperative that members have reliable transportation. Some of these events are scheduled at a moments notice and are located throughout the metro area.

Do you provide assistance with housing?

No. Currently HFHSL does not provide additional assistance with housing for AmeriCorps members.

What are the benefits?

- Opportunity to incorporate service into your life by making a difference in your community or country
- Gain real world on-the-job experience
- Monthly living allowance of no less than \$833/month during service for VISTA members (before taxes.) **Subject to change for 2010-2011 year.*
- For eligible members, an education award upon successful completion of the term. VISTA members may opt for a cash stipend.
- Health insurance and limited dental benefits
- Holidays: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.
- Federal loan forbearance on qualified student loans while in service
- Childcare assistance for eligible members
- Leadership, construction, and/or office skills, and other training opportunities

What is the time commitment?

VISTA members commit to 12 months of service, starting in mid to late August in 2010. VISTA members are expected to work 40 hours per week. National Direct members must commit at least 1700 hours of service *and* the full 10.5 month term from September to July.

When and how do I apply?

Applications are being accepted NOW, until Wednesday, June 16, 2010 for VISTA members.

(1) Submit the following items via email or fax on or before June 16, 2010.

To: Jacinta Witherspoon

Email: jacinta@habitatstl.org

Fax: 314-371-0404

Subject: In-Kind Acquisitions Coordinator VISTA

- (a) **Cover Letter**—expressing your interest in participating in the AmeriCorps program.
- (b) **Resume**—that includes educational background, work experience, volunteer experience, leadership experience, and extracurricular activities and/or professional affiliations.
- (c) **Contact Information for (3) references.** References should not be relatives or peers. Consider supervisors, teachers, clergy, coaches, counselors, or others familiar with your personal and work background and motivation.

(2) Go to <http://my.americorps.gov>, and set up a profile and apply online.

How can I learn more?

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis go to www.habitatstl.org.

To learn more about the Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps program go to www.habitat.org/amicorps.

To learn more about AmeriCorps and service opportunities other than Habitat for Humanity, go to www.americorps.gov.