



Frequently Asked Questions about AmeriCorps Education Awards



To serve you better, we recommend that you review these Frequently Asked Questions, before contacting someone at SCA.

How will I know if a position qualifies for an education award?

When you are selected for an internship you will be connected to an SCA staff member who will be able to determine if there is an award available for you. If so, you will be sent a packet from SCA containing detailed information about the education award, additional forms and requirements as well as the eligibility requirements.

How will I know if I qualify for an education award?

The following are criteria that must be met to qualify:

- You are a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident (You will need a copy of your birth certificate or a passport as proof of U.S. Citizenship or legal residence. Take whatever steps will be necessary to get this documentation).
- Completion of several forms in order to enroll for an AmeriCorps education award. Please return this along with the SCA forms as soon as possible. Delay in submitting these forms may result in a delay in getting your living allowance. If you have questions about the AmeriCorps education award or the forms, please contact your Program Representative.
- You successfully complete the full term of the position you accepted (e.g., if you accept a 12-week position, you must complete the 12 weeks to earn the award.)
- You complete the required number of hours (set by the Corporation for National Service*) within that term. If you are serving full time during your position, this will not be a problem. If illness or injury briefly interrupts your service and as a result you will have difficulty completing the required number of hours before the scheduled end of your internship, we may be able to extend your term briefly so you can finish those hours. This depends upon your availability and the site's willingness to do so.
- You complete and return all required paperwork, including evaluation forms, in a timely manner.

Note: Hour requirements are set by the Corporation for National Service, which administers AmeriCorps. SCA does not have the flexibility to adjust these hours.

What are the award amounts:

- \$1,000 -\$1,250 for serving 12 to 25 weeks
- \$2,362 for serving 26 weeks (six months) to 38 weeks
- \$4,725 for serving 39 weeks (nine months) to 52 weeks

Additional points to consider:

- You will not receive cash. Once you have completed your AmeriCorps exit paperwork, an account will be set up in your name at the National Service Trust. You will then draw upon that account to repay college loans or pay current or future tuition and other costs of attending college. (Funds are paid directly to the lending institution or school.)
- You must use your Education Award within 7 years of earning it.
- Your Education Award will be considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service in the year in which you use it.
- If you accept an Education Award, your living allowance from SCA will be considered taxable income, and Social Security and Workman's Compensation taxes will be withheld from that allowance. However, SCA will not withhold income taxes. You will need to account for income taxes when you file your tax return with the IRS at year end.

Note: For those interns serving in short-term positions (Resource Assistants) with a living allowance of \$60 per week, we will increase the allowance so that, after withholding, you will still receive \$60!

- Under CNS policy, failure to complete all requirements will make you ineligible for this Education Award and possibly for any award in the future.

For more information about AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (which makes awards available to organizations like SCA), feel free to check out their website at www.nationalservice.org.

You could double your ed award! Access to higher education is a major benefit of having served in AmeriCorps. A group called "AmeriCorps Alums" is working hard to make sure that colleges and universities value AmeriCorps and see benefits to recruiting alumni. Visit their website to see a constantly growing list of [colleges and universities that augment the AmeriCorps Education Award](#).