



Member Position Description

TNOYS AmeriCorps

Title: Youth Support Specialist AmeriCorps Member	Member Type: ¾ Time (1200 hours)
Host Site: Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Immediate Supervisor: Matt Taylor, TNOYS Director of Operations

The mission of Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is to strengthen services and support for Texas youth and families to help them overcome challenges and achieve healthy development.

TNOYS AmeriCorps program will provide young adults with lived expertise with professional development and employment opportunities to member organizations (youth service providers) across Texas. Lived experience is defined as someone who has faced homelessness, foster care, juvenile justice, mental health, or involvement in other social service systems. This program will create employment opportunities for young people with lived experience that provides professional development to youth in the systems that impact/have impacted them.

This service opportunity is highly interpersonal and requires that members serve well with others. Members must be able to accommodate changing service conditions and diverse points of view. Members must learn to balance both program identity and AmeriCorps identity. Members will support Host Sites by providing services to youth to support their transition into adulthood, focusing on preparing the youth for employment, including improving financial literacy and professional skill development. As near-peers, AmeriCorps members will use their own lived experience to provide insight to the youth they serve.

Service Hours

TNOYS AmeriCorps members serve a minimum of 1200 hours over a 9-month period, or an average of 40 hours per week. In addition, all members are expected to participate in centralized AmeriCorps training – including, but not limited to initial pre-service orientation and Life after AmeriCorps training. Members are also required to participate in any national service days scheduled during their term of service. A calendar of required trainings and service projects is provided at pre-service orientation. Members serve during program hours, defined as Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and some weekend and evening hours as needed. Depending on COVID-19 guidance or member service needs, service may be in-person as well as remote. TNOYS is a completely remote organization and will provide the member the same flexibility COVID-19 pending. Members are expected to serve through their end date even if the minimum hour requirement is met prior to this date.

Primary Role and Expectations Goals

TNOYS AmeriCorps is available to all, without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, gender, political affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, creed, or veteran status.

The primary role and expectations of the Youth Support Specialist AmeriCorps member placed will work directly with YYA to achieve the following program goals:

- Provide support to youth with job searching skills and plan to develop short/long-term career goals
- Provide interview and resume preparation to youth using skills learned in TNOYS training
- Provide career and secondary education exploration to youth and support youth to finish high school credits or secure GED
- Provide support to youth on managing finances such as managing money, setting up and managing bank accounts, and learning about credit and budgeting
- Deliver soft and life skills training to support youth's transition into adulthood
- Improve positive social skills, by fostering relationships with youth and using positive reinforcement techniques

Host Site Job Duties

- Support the TNOYS YYA (Youth and Young Adults) lived experience mission and vision
- Support and coordinate professional development efforts for YYA in TNOYS programs, including in the creation of a new internal technical training series focused on building professional skills for YYA, including such topics as resume creation and managing finances
- Support professional development programming for YYA that fosters positive youth adult partnerships by providing youth perspective to identify the needs of YYA, evaluate our current efforts, and help present future trainings
- Support annual PEAKS Camp (a therapeutic, experiential camp for youth in foster care) by ensuring the camp is a positive experience for 50 foster care youth in two camp sessions in August 2022. Activities include recruiting youth participants, adding youth voice in training plans and orientations, and assisting in the organization of logistics for youth participation, such as travel
- Support in creating the PEAKS Camp youth informed curriculum and schedule; tracking attendance and participation; and creating surveys and evaluation measures for the camp
- Strengthen TNOYS' Annual Conference by recruiting YYA attendees and YYA workshop presenters; working with workshop presenters in the creation of materials as needed; facilitating interactions with presenters and youth attendees by organizing breakout sessions, networking events, and other in-person activities; assisting in the organization of logistics for youth attendees, such as scheduling and providing technical assistance as needed
- Build knowledge of youth program reporting outcomes, including satisfaction surveys, training evaluations, and internal life skills assessments to measure the level of impact achieved in supporting youth's transition into adulthood

Qualifications

Members must be at least 18 years of age with lived experience within the seven systems focus areas as follows: housing/homelessness, child welfare/foster care, juvenile justice, mental/behavioral health, education, workforce, and victim services/commercial sexual. Minimum: High school diploma or GED. Interest in serving vulnerable populations. A U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. Ability to serve flexible hours as requested - some Saturdays and evenings. Access to reliable transportation to and from the host site on a daily basis.

This position requires work with vulnerable populations. As such, it requires a three-part National Service Criminal History Check, including an FBI fingerprint background check, state of residence/work criminal background check, and National Sex Offender Registry check.

Essential Functions

Adhere to professional standards, such as reporting for service on-time, staying on task, being friendly and helpful on site and in the community, and maintaining a professional manner and appearance. Members are

required to complete and submit timesheets to the appropriate onsite supervisor for signature and approval. Members are required to call in to the appropriate site supervisor and any relevant site staff when absent or late to the program or scheduled service event. Chronic tardiness and absenteeism are grounds for suspension and/or dismissal. Members who miss three consecutive days or more of scheduled service due to illness or other compelling circumstance, such as a family emergency, must provide a doctor's note or other similar documentation explaining the reason for the absences.

Members must have a strong commitment to community service, to communicating effectively with staff, with fellow members, community partners and AmeriCorps staff. Members must also exhibit a strong ethic of service (attendance, record-keeping, completing timesheets in a timely fashion, etc.). Members are required to adhere to all codes of conduct and or related policies and procedures of host site program, TNOYS and AmeriCorps. Members are required to wear the AmeriCorps logo during service.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Member safety is important to TNOYS and all host sites. If a member feels uncomfortable serving due to COVID-19 concerns, they should reach out to their host site supervisor and/or TNOYS for accommodations. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the ability of members to implement in-person service activities, members will conduct aligned teleservice activities. In addition, if a member is exposed to COVID-19, they will follow the CDC guidelines for quarantining and testing before returning to in-person activities. AmeriCorps defines Teleservice as: “meaningfully serving or participating in training from a remote location where a host site supervisor is unable to physically be present but will verify hours served by an AmeriCorps member.” Additional Teleservice Qualifications: access to internet, ability to serve remotely, including communication via video conferencing, and ability to serve independently.

AmeriCorps Disaster Relief Effort

In the event of a local, state, or federal disaster declaration, AmeriCorps members may be asked on a volunteer basis or be required by OneStar to activate to assist in disaster response and recovery activities within their communities. This may involve virtual service opportunities or in-person service opportunities. This may include service opportunities outside of the member's standard service hours or in place of their standard service duties. In the event of a large-scale, high needs local, state, or federal disaster, AmeriCorps members may voluntarily or be required by OneStar to deploy to an area outside of their service area to assist in disaster response and recovery activities.

All of the above duties and responsibilities are essential position functions are subject to reasonable accommodation.