



AmeriCorps Member Position Description

TNOYS AmeriCorps

Title: Youth Support Specialist AmeriCorps Member	Member Type: Full Time (1700 hours)
Host Site: Lena Pope-Chapel Hill Academy	Immediate Supervisor: Lisa Cox

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 1700 hours over a 12-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, 9:00 am to 5:30 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. 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

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 problem solving skills and plan to develop short/long-term positive behavior goals
- Provide leadership skills to youth using skills learned in TNOYS training
- Provide support to youth by encouraging youth to enter and finish high school credits or secure GED
- Provide support to youth in developing public speaking skills
- Deliver soft and life skills training to support youth's transition into high school
- Improve positive social skills, by fostering relationships with youth and using positive reinforcement techniques
- Provide mentoring and leadership groups following a set curriculum to 7th and/or 8th grade students with support of Chapel Hill Academy faculty.
- Coordinate exemplary student's activities associated with the Principals Ambassador Program at Chapel Hill Academy.

Host Site Job Duties

Lena Pope uses nine decades of experience in child and family services to inform their current efforts to improve child well-being here in Tarrant County. Through the use of evidence-based, research-tested programs focused on prevention and early intervention services that support child development and improve the behavioral and mental health of children. Lena Pope believes investing in kids now leads to happy, healthy, and successful adults later. We believe providing proactive services and support to improve the emotional, behavioral, and intellectual well-being of kids ensures the largest returns on our investments and keeps kids on a path toward success.

Lena Pope's Chapel Hill Academy Youth Mentoring Program provides a behavioral and therapeutic intervention in an academic setting for youth at high risk for interface with the juvenile justice system, increased potential for school dropout, drug use and struggles associated with unemployment and or/low socioeconomic status . The program is administered by Chapel Hill Academy for students who desire additional guidance into young adulthood. This program is designed to promote grade-level academic progress, improve attendance and classroom behavior, and address other child or familial needs.

1. As a member with YYA lived experiences, provide a mentor-like relationship for students enrolled at CHA
2. Facilitate and develop materials/activities for ongoing youth support group to promote healthy and safe relationships with peers, decision making skills, coping skills, and education
3. Provide one-to-one support with youth to focus on the youth's individual needs around education, classroom behaviors, and goal setting to ensure the success of promotion to the next grade level
4. Provide students educational coaching to promote decrease in truancy, through tools like troubleshooting challenges at school/home and providing best practice study habits
5. Support students with public speaking skills and leadership preparation through activities that promote professional communication, leadership, assertiveness, and community engagement skills training through ongoing check-ins during the term of service and through Ambassador training.
6. Receive training and administer the pre/post testing for the TNOYS Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Guides
7. Actively participate and attend: staff meetings, in-service trainings and local community events, gaining knowledge of other resources available for students in the community

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.

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