



Member Position Description

TNOYS AmeriCorps

Title: Youth Support Specialist AmeriCorps Member	Member Type: Full Time (1700 hours)
Host Site: Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Immediate Supervisor: Tiona Moore, TNOYS Director of Partnerships

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. 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 lived experience mission and vision
- Support the development and implementation of the Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC), which is comprised of YYA with lived experience within the seven systems TNOYS works within (highlighted above) through activities such as developing strategies to keep the YALC engaged virtually and creating goals for each YALC member to support the youth engagement roadmap
- Attend weekly YALC meetings in order to: provide coordination support to the TNOYS Engagement manager, contribute agenda ideas and ensure robust and engaging meetings, support the implementation of with creative icebreakers, conduct trainings in conjunction with the YALC, and share AmeriCorps experience as a way to empower members to explore a similar experience
- Support the Partnerships Coordinator in the facilitation of the PEAKS Camp (a therapeutic, experiential camp for youth in foster care) through such activities as: leading an activity and/or session, maximizing youth experience during the camp through check-ins and rapport building, and encouraging attendees to complete a survey for feedback and program improvement
- Foster relationships with the YYA engaged with TNOYS through ongoing attendance at weekly YALC meetings, PEAKS Camp, developing ideas for TNOYS YYA Newsletter based on YALC and TNOYS engagement network, and attending external YYA training opportunities
- Supporting TNOYS Voices Portfolio: Storytelling and Listening Sessions for YYA to share their stories and lived experiences, as facilitated through the following activities: contributing to improvement strategies, identifying new ways to ensure YYA stories are non-transactional and impactful, and learning the process of storytelling and listening sessions

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.