

SERVICE YEAR ALLIANCE



Mission

Service Year Alliance is working to make a service year a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans. A service year before, during, or after college – or as a way to get back on track – gives young people the chance to transform their lives, make an impact in their community, and become the active citizens and leaders our nation needs.

What is a service year?

A service year is a paid opportunity to develop real-world skills through hands-on service. It's an extraordinary year that transforms your life and your community.

Why Service Years

Service years have the power to:

- Unleash the idealism and talent of young Americans to help tackle our greatest community challenges in education, health, poverty, and more
- Increase higher education access and completion
- Provide a pathway to a career by developing 21st century skills, including for disadvantaged young people
- Build bridges and understanding between different races, economic divides, and religions
- Develop the next generation of leaders
- Build the habits of citizenship and civic leadership

Why Now

America is facing a variety of challenges that service years can address, including:

- Significant social challenges that require human capital
- Racial, economic, religious, and political divisions, with trust in one another at historic lows
- 5.5 million young adults who are not in school or working
- Civic participation that is atrophying
- A 21st century skills gap that is leaving millions of Americans behind

Service Years Transform Lives

Alumni share their service year stories



**From Gang Member to
Community Leader**

"I don't know where I'd be if I didn't do my service year"

- Germain Castellamos



**From Homeless Shelter to
National Nonprofit Executive**

"Because you have so little, you have an obligation to the person who has even less."

- Maisha Leek



**From Business Student to
Education Leader**

"Doing a service year...changed my trajectory and got me involved in education."

- Austin Dannhaus

Vision



Today, there are 65,000 service years. Our vision is 100,000 service year opportunities by 2019 on a path to one million every year within a generation.

What We Do

ServiceYear.org

A state-of-the-art online marketplace and resource hub that offers service year opportunities

Inspire and Reward a Generation

National Recruitment, Awareness, and Corps Member Support

Grow Service Year Programs

Grow existing programs and help create new ones, focusing on specific issues and places

Policy and Advocacy

Support a Washington, DC policy operation, grassroots movement, and alliance of influential Americans

Partners & Funders



A service year has the power to bring young people together from different races, ethnicities, incomes, faiths, and political backgrounds to work on pressing problems facing U.S. society today. In the process, they can build empathy by getting to know each other around something positive—the shared work of participating in a democracy—as they shape their views of their country and the world.

— General (Ret.) Stan McChrystal,
Service Year Alliance Chairman

Service Year Alliance is asking nonprofits, higher education institutions, cities and states, companies and foundations, policymakers of both parties, and people of all ages to join the movement.

Learn more at
ServiceYear.org

