Frequently Asked Questions

What is ExtensionCorps?
ExtensionCorps is an AmeriCorps program. ExtensionCorps members help Nebraska Extension extend reach in communities in our state. Nebraska Extension is the outreach arm of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Members are talented individuals who devote themselves to addressing some of our state's most pressing needs through service. Basically, ExtensionCorps is the opportunity of a lifetime.

What does an ExtensionCorps member do?
ExtensionCorps members provide direct service to youth and communities through nutrition education and science education programs. Members assigned to nutrition education will gain real-life experience with youth providing nutrition and physical activity education. Members assigned to science education will get hands-on experience teaching youth why science is cool. It’s so fun you’ll be wondering if this is real life.

Our members serve in communities across the state, in locations like Omaha, Lincoln, Crete, Fremont, South Sioux City, Grand Island, Hastings, Sidney, Scottsbluff and Chadron.

What are the service requirements?
First things first: you have to be awesome.

And here are the details: members must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED to serve. There are two types of ExtensionCorps positions: half-time and quarter time. Half-time members must serve a minimum of 940 hours before August 31, 2016. Quarter-time members must serve a minimum of 470 hours before August 31, 2016. In order to receive the AmeriCorps Education Award, members must meet the designated service requirement. But we don’t like to use the word “requirement.” It’s too heavy. You’ll find that your service opportunities will be so fun they won’t feel like requirements.
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Will I get training before I start?
Absolutely. All members receive training at the beginning of their service, as well as project-specific training during service.

We host three ExtensionCorps events throughout the year: Kick-Off training, Mid-Year training, and the Celebration of Service event. Additionally, our friends at ServeNebraska hold a Fall Conference and the spring AmeriCorps Symposium. These are great events.

What are the perks of serving through ExtensionCorps?
Most definitely you’ll gain the satisfaction of knowing you’re making a difference in the lives of Nebraskans. How great is that?

You’ll also have the opportunity to learn from the best and brightest and have access to University of Nebraska resources. Our mentors are talented Extension professionals who are committed to teaching and learning. You’ll also be included in Nebraska Extension professional development events where you’ll get to network with our organization. Time to get that LinkedIn profile up and running...or retrieve that forgotten password!

ExtensionCorps members receive a modest living allowance. You may not save much money during your year of service, but most members find the living allowance to be adequate to cover their needs. ExtensionCorps members who complete a term of service also receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. Education is good. We’ll also provide you with AmeriCorps gear, like a shirt, name tag, and much more. Everyone will know you’ve got a passion for service.

What does a day in the life of an ExtensionCorps member look like?
You’re making our heads hurt, but in a good way. It’s hard to describe a typical day because our members experience something different each time they serve. You might spend some time in training, preparing you for the lesson you will teach. You might spend some time preparing for the lesson by getting supplies, creating materials, and setting it up. You might spend some time in the classroom or at a special event teaching a lesson. And you might spend some time collecting information that shows the impact of your service. Remember, we’re about changing lives here. Whatever the day’s adventures, you’ll be in touch with your mentor who will be a go-to resource for you when it comes to scheduling, teaching, and everything in between.
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**Wait, what’s a mentor?**
A mentor is a Nebraska Extension professional who works closely with ExtensionCorps members. They help us select the best of the best for our ExtensionCorps program. These people care deeply about making an impact locally. We don’t mean to sound dramatic, but they’re all about changing lives. They prepare ExtensionCorps members for service by providing training, advice, and support. We really like our mentors.

**I want to be an ExtensionCorps member. How do I sign up?**
Take a look at the position descriptions to see if it fits your interests. Then, contact Christina Franklin (christina.franklin@unl.edu) and/or Ashley Mueller (ashley.mueller@unl.edu) for an application or download it from our website. Complete the application, following all instructions (we hate to be boring, but it’s important), and then send it to Christina and/or Ashley. It will be forwarded on to the mentor(s) at your preferred service site. After a review of applications, interviews will take place. The interview is a great time for you to ask questions about the position and Nebraska Extension—and for our mentor(s) to learn about you and your commitment to serving Nebraskans.

**So what am I waiting for?**
We don’t know. What are you waiting for? Apply today to join us. We’d be glad to have you on our team.