How Can I Become an AmeriCorps Member Serving with Land of Lincoln?

**Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps** is a partnership conducted through five Illinois college campuses. By contacting the **Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps** Campus Coordinator, you can learn more about how to become an AmeriCorps member. Following is a list of Campus Coordinators:

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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Campus Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highland Community College</td>
<td>Michael Shore</td>
<td>815-599-3491</td>
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<tr>
<td>John A. Logan College</td>
<td>Lauralyn Cima</td>
<td>618-985-3741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaskaskia College</td>
<td>Evelyn Stover</td>
<td>618-545-3054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rend Lake College</td>
<td>Ed Ruffino</td>
<td>618-437-5321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawnee Community College</td>
<td>Jean Ellen Boyd</td>
<td>618-634-3240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern Illinois College</td>
<td>Karen Weiss</td>
<td>618-382-8869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Illinois University</td>
<td>Mythili Rundblad</td>
<td>618-453-7520</td>
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If interested in service opportunities with any of the 400 AmeriCorps projects nationwide, call the national recruitment registry at 1-800-ACORPS or visit our website at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

The partner institutions of Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps are Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Educators and Employers. Rend Lake College is the administrator and fiscal agent for Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps.

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What is Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps?

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps is a grant-based, community service project made possible through the Illinois Governor’s Initiative and the Corporation for National Service in Washington, D.C., under AmeriCorps U.S.A. In Illinois, it is administered by the Illinois Commission for Volunteer and Community Service as a function of the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Likened to a “domestic Peace Corps”, AmeriCorps follows a long tradition of national service programs, where dedicated, civic-minded Americans provide service to their country and communities. Throughout American history, national service has culminated as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the GI Bill, the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, and the Points of Light Foundation.

Who is Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps?

A consortium of eight Illinois community colleges and one state university has partnered as Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps, to link the time and talents of college students with their communities’ schools.

What Type of Service is done by Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Members?

AmeriCorps members primarily focus their service in education, providing direct, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring assistance to teacher-referred K-2 emergent learners, or middle-school students who would benefit from a relationship with a caring adult. Also, members work with adults and families to achieve the following:

- Increase literacy skills of emergent learners and English language learners
- Attain grade level reading competencies by grade three
- Increase the rate of homework completion and submission, and the quality of work
- Reduce the absenteeism rate
- Enhance student self-esteem
- Promote a positive perception of education

Are There Other Means of AmeriCorps Service?

Yes. While Land of Lincoln members’ primary accountability is to meet our communities’ educational needs, members also elect to provide valuable, additional community service in other areas such as safety and public health, human services, the environment, and homeland security.

Who Can Serve?

First and foremost, a candidate must be committed to helping others and aspire to:

- Getting Things Done
- Make a difference, and
- Improving the quality of life of the individuals and the community served.

In order to become a member in Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps, the following criteria must be met:

- Be at least 17 years of age at the time of enrollment
- Have completed high school or a GED
- Successfully pass a background check
- Complete a personal interview process
- Attend pre-service training and arrange class schedules to accommodate service hours.

What are the Terms of the Service in Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps?

- To commit to a total of 900 hours of direct service, community service, and training
- To perform and complete the 900 hours over a course of one year from the date of enrollment
- To abide by the guidelines and conditions set forth in the Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Member Handbook.

What is An Education Award?

Upon completion of service, the Corporation for National Service places $2,362.50 into a trust fund in the member’s name. The funds are used to defray the costs of higher education and are directly released to either a qualified educational or lending institution on the member’s behalf. An award must be used within seven years of the date that service is completed. Members are limited to two education awards, one for each term of service.

How Can I Use My Education Award?

- Repay qualified, existing or future, student loans (not in default).
- Pay all or part of the cost of attending a qualified institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs).
- Pay expenses incurred while participating in an approved school-to-work program.

What are the Contingent Benefits?

Land of Lincoln members are eligible to receive the following benefits:

- A yearly stipend or living allowance in the sum of $6,405.00 in 10 checks
- An education award in the amount of $2,775.00, upon successful completion of 900 hours
- A portion of interest accrued on an existing education loan during the term of service.

In addition, members benefit from career exploration, personal and professional development, and numerous training opportunities.

Additional Questions To:

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Ina, Illinois 62846-9740
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