



# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## COLLEGE BOUND AMERICORPS\*VISTA & AMERICORPS\*STATE POSITIONS

### What are AmeriCorps\*VISTA & AmeriCorps\*State? -----

VISTA began in the 1960s and stands for Volunteers In Service To America. VISTA members work to build capacity in organizations, helping them become stronger and better at what they do. VISTA members work on indirect service; College Bound's VISTAs develop professional skill sets in event planning, writing/research and fundraising that are highly valued in the nonprofit community.

AmeriCorps\*State was created in 1993. AmeriCorps\*State joined VISTA and both (along with other programs) reside under the large umbrella of "AmeriCorps". State members provide direct service with the College Bound students.

### What is the relationship between College Bound and AmeriCorps? -----

Both AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*State are a part of the same national service organization (AmeriCorps) where individuals work in community organizations on various issues: education, housing, technology, health industry, and others. Because College Bound receives AmeriCorps funding (through a grant process) to implement the program, the organization is considered an AmeriCorps program. For further information, please visit the AmeriCorps website at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

### What is a living allowance? -----

This is an AmeriCorps term for the regular financial support that service members receive; it is similar to a salary. The living allowance is about \$10,700 or \$11,800 depending on the position – AmeriCorps\*VISTA or AmeriCorps\*State, respectively. Members typically serve 40-50 hours each week and also on some evenings and weekends.

### How often do I get paid the living allowance and when do I receive the education award? -----

The AmeriCorps living allowance is paid monthly or every two weeks (depending on the position). The education award (\$5,350) can be used to repay student loans or fund future education expenses. It is given to the member after his or her 12-month term of service – August 2010-August 2011 or November 2010-2011.

### Where will I be working? -----

- **College Coaches** are typically based in the high schools where they lead class sessions during the week. They also lead classes on Sundays and spend time during the week at the College Bound office for meetings and training.
- The **Programs Leader** is based at the College Bound office but spends time during the week, in the evenings, and on weekends at enrichment activities with College Bound students.
- The **Persistence Coaches, Leader positions, and VISTA positions** are based at the College Bound office.

**For All Positions:** There are some required evening and weekend hours throughout the year.

### Is there health coverage? -----

Yes, health coverage is offered at no cost to the members.

### Can I have an additional (part-time) job? -----

The rules and regulations of AmeriCorps\*VISTA state that a VISTA member may not hold another job during their term of service. Because of the importance and time commitment of serving to help under-resourced students succeed in college, all AmeriCorps members are asked to not hold an additional job during their term of service.



*AmeriCorps is committed to engaging individuals without regard to disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.*

"Commonly Asked Questions" adapted from Admission Possible (St. Paul, MN), September 2007.