SNAP F.A.Q.s

1) Is housing provided during SNAP service?

Usually, the AmeriCorps Members must find their own housing near their site location. Sites are expected to provide whatever support they can, which usually means providing information about where to look for affordable housing, key contacts, outreach to friends and the organization’s network to help out with housing, and provide short-term housing while the Member searches for housing. (This usually means a place to sleep for a few nights - site supervisor home, home of a supporter of the organization, etc.). Our Members have been able to find decent housing and do not struggle to live.

2) What is the SNAP hiring process?

SNAP staff will review all applications, cover letters and resumes. SNAP staff will select candidates for a first round interview, performed by SNAP and Alliance staff, board and volunteers. After the first round interviews, SNAP will review the interviews, and based on the qualifications of the applications, the site preferences of the applicants, and the position requirements, SNAP will match applicants with second-round interview opportunities at different sites. The sites will receive the application packets on approximately August 16th, and they will set up second-round interviews with the applicants from between August 17th and 31st. The sites will provide feedback to SNAP, and SNAP will make placement decisions based on site and applicant preferences. SNAP expects to make position announcements around September 2nd.

3) How long is the program?

It’s an 11-month program beginning in mid-October 2016 and ending in mid-September 2017.
4) **How many hours do I work per week?**

SNAP members are obligated to serve 1,700 hours during the service term to successfully complete service and receive the $5,775 education award. Over the 11-month service term, it averages out to about 40 hours/week, accounting for a normal allotment of holidays and vacation. These hours will sometimes occur during the evening, weekend, and other “non-business” hours. In addition, SNAP Members may serve more hours at certain points of the year – for example, during the field season, SNAP Members may serve more than 40 hours/week and may work less hours per week during the off-season.

5) **Is the living allowance taxed?**

Yes, the $1,254 monthly living allowance is taxed.

6) **Can student loans be deferred?**

Yes, student loans can be deferred for the duration of our program. In addition, AmeriCorps will pay for accrued student loan interest (on approved loans) during your year of service.

7) **What other benefits will I get from the SNAP Program?**

SNAP Members will receive health care and dental benefits. A child care allowance is also available for Members who qualify. In addition, SNAP Members receive training from the SNAP Program and their Host Sites. Core trainings include First Aid/CPR, watershed restoration & monitoring, public speaking, facilitation, event planning, volunteer recruitment, Project WET, and more. Some Members will have the opportunity to train in GIS, trail building, chainsaw safety, California Naturalists and environmental eduation.