

# Avery Floyd

AmeriCorps Member

Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders - AISD



## Why did you join AmeriCorps?

I never saw myself not completing college so when I dropped out of school in 2012 to have my daughter I told myself I would be back in one year. Well, that year quickly turned into five. I began to grow accustomed to the life I was leading, working at a dead-end job just to make ends meet, and not really tapping into my full potential. I knew that if I did not dig myself out of the hole nobody else would.

So in 2017, I became a youth leader at my church and began volunteer service with the middle school students there. I found that I loved the impact I had on the children and yearned to serve children full-time in the same way.

Being out of school for so long I began to look for a way to gain hands-on experience while pursuing my education. One day, I saw a Facebook ad for Service Year and it took me to all types of service-related projects and opportunities all over the country.

Something in me said to jump on it—so I did. That jump led me right to Austin and I will never regret the leap of faith I took to capitalize on my dreams.

Joining Communities in Schools AmeriCorps has given me the opportunity to work on my skills and to recognize the importance of a mentor relationship. Now I want to pursue higher education in either teaching or school counseling and the opportunity that AmeriCorps has provided with hands-on mentoring experience is

just what I was searching for.

## **What would you say to someone who is interested in joining but not sure?**

To anyone reading this and considering joining AmeriCorps I encourage you not to wait. Do it! This opportunity will change your life in more ways than you can imagine.

I chose the path of serving children in school, but AmeriCorps offers so many other pathways for serving that it is almost limitless. That being said, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. It is normal to feel anxious and uncertain because you don't know what lies ahead but one great thing about this opportunity is that you will not be alone.

This was my first year in the program and I am so grateful for my supportive program manager, the wonderful staff at Ann Richards Middle School, and endless support from the AmeriCorps crew. If you are wanting to open a door to great opportunities for service and to start "getting things done," join AmeriCorps today!