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**Why did you join AmeriCorps?**

AmeriCorps service is something very special to me. It not only guided me to my career but also helped me grow up. I started my first year of service at age 18 right after graduating high school. I had no idea what kind of adult I wanted to be, what I could be capable of, or what my next step was. AmeriCorps helped me answer all of those questions and gave me the opportunity to serve and gain experience. The guidance, wisdom, and support from my superiors was absolutely invaluable. After serving at another program I joined Communities In Schools AmeriCorps. Here I was able to work more directly with youth than I had before. The experience put me even farther on my way to becoming a social worker. I love that I had a chance to make a difference in the city where I grew up.



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

Do it for the days where someone is so glad you were there. Do it for the times when you make a breakthrough with a student who you have been working with all year. If you are interested in the field and want to try it out, do it. AmeriCorps is the ultimate trial of your willpower and endurance. You will come out stronger than you thought possible. You will realize the things you need to learn to be a better person. Challenge yourself and when you get here, stick with it.