



## **Alpine Achievers Initiative Backyard to Backcountry AmeriCorps Positions**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) AmeriCorps Program is designed to promote the academic, physical and social well-being of the youth in the San Luis Valley. The two primary objectives of this program are to provide 1) math and literacy interventions to students performing below proficiency in school and 2) intentional out-of-school and outdoor leadership programming to youth after school, on Fridays and throughout the summer. The Backyard to Backcountry Program is a subset of AAI that provides this outdoor leadership and environmental education programming to youth valley-wide. AmeriCorps members will be placed at Crestone Charter School, Moffat School, Del Norte School or Mountain Valley School which are located in rural communities throughout the San Luis Valley.

### **AAI AMERICORPS MEMBERS TWO MAIN PROGRAMS**

- **Backyard to Backcountry Out-of-School Programming (80%):** AmeriCorps members will develop and provide intentional out-of-school programming to elementary, middle school and high school youth after school, on Fridays and during the summer months. Monday – Thursday 4:00 – 6:30, Friday 9:00 – 4:00. These AmeriCorps members will assist the Backyard to Backcountry Program with providing age-appropriate, engaging environmental education and outdoor leadership programming to K-12 students, at times instructing multi-day wilderness based expeditions, and providing support to our partnering programs.
- **Math and Literacy Interventions (20%):** AmeriCorps members will be trained in literacy and/or mathematics interventions and provide small group or one-on-one tutoring to students performing below proficiency (K-12) during regular school hours Monday – Thursday.

### **TERM OF SERVICE**

- **Start Date:** August 14, 2017
- **End Date:** July 13, 2018
- **Average hours per week:** 40 hours
- **Complete:** 1700 hours of service

**SCHOOL PLACEMENT SITES:** Determined by Program Manager after interview process: dependent on member's personality, work style, intervention preference and age group preference.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- **Minimum Age:** 21
- **A high school diploma or its equivalent**
- **Experience working with youth and/or elementary and/or middle school-aged children**
- **Clean criminal record and driving background – all members must pass a background check**
- **Reliable vehicle, car insurance & driver's license strongly recommended**
- **Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds**
- **Must have current Wilderness First Responder (or ability to obtain one prior to start date)**
- **20+ expedition days**
- **Must be in excellent physical condition and able to maintain the energy and stamina to safely lead others through difficult terrain, in challenging weather and after long days.**

- Experience backpacking on and off trails and exhibits good navigation skills
- Ability to assess and mitigate risks involved with outdoor education
- Ability to organize lessons and teach effectively to students of diverse backgrounds
- Ability to listen and articulate ideas
- Ability to give and receive honest feedback
- Experience teaching environmental education curriculum preferred
- One or more season experience leading groups in a wilderness setting, multi-day experience preferred
- Proficiency in one or more of these areas preferred: Backpacking, rock or ice climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, avalanche assessment and rescue, Leave No Trace ethics, rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, search and rescue, gardening, horticulture/farming, environmental/earth science, etc.

This Program is available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or religion.

It is against the law for organizations that receive federal financial assistance from the Corporation for National and Community Service to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, age, political affiliation, or, in most cases, religion. It is also unlawful to retaliate against any person who, or organization that, files a complaint about such discrimination. 45 CFR 2522.100 (f)

#### BENEFITS:

- Up to \$12,530 maximum living allowance
- Four weeks of professional development in the areas of providing academic interventions, youth development, risk management, classroom management, organized adventure excursions and other relevant topics
- \$5,730 AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the term
- Loan forbearance for full-time member positions
- Health insurance and childcare offered for full-time member positions

TO APPLY: Please submit a cover letter, resume, and outdoor experience log to the Backyard to Backcountry Program Coordinator, Lisa MacPherson at [lisa@alpineachievers.org](mailto:lisa@alpineachievers.org) or 508-250-9692. You can also visit our website at <http://alpineachievers.org/>

*\*Positions contingent upon funding*