



**Student Engagement Specialist
Youth Mental Health Corps AmeriCorps Member
Alpine Achievers Initiative**



Updated April 16, 2026

Start Date: August 24, 2026

End Date: July 10, 2027

Position Type: Full-time, AmeriCorps Service Position

Average hours per week: 40 hours

Total expected hours: 1700 hours of service

Pay rate: \$979 bi-weekly (before taxes and rent deduction); approximately \$24,480 for the term

To apply: complete an application [here](#)

Contact: recruiting@alpineachievers.org

Benefits and qualifications: see details below.

If you require reasonable accommodations at any stage of the application, interview, or service process, please contact us—we're happy to support your participation.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) inspires, connects, and nurtures youth, families, and communities in south-central Colorado. AmeriCorps serve as Student Engagement Specialists, supporting youth from pre-K through high school across schools and community-based programs in the San Luis Valley and Arkansas River Valley. Members provide consistent, relationship-based support that helps students build academic skills, confidence, and social-emotional well-being. This is a direct service role focused on working with youth—not counseling, but meaningful daily support that helps students succeed in school and life.

SERVICE POSITION SUMMARY

Student Engagement Specialists provide direct academic and social-emotional support to youth through tutoring, small group work, and structured programming. Members serve in both in-school and out-of-school settings, building strong relationships with students while supporting learning, engagement, and positive youth development. Each placement is tailored to community and site needs, with guidance from a site supervisor and AAI program manager.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES):

These duties are fundamental to the position and are used in the member selection process.

Academic Support & Student Engagement

- Provide one-on-one and small group academic support in areas such as reading, math, and homework completion
- Support student learning by reinforcing lessons, building foundational skills, and encouraging academic confidence
- Apply age-appropriate behavioral and engagement strategies to support student participation and growth

Youth Development & Relationship Building

- Build consistent, positive relationships with youth to foster belonging, trust, and engagement
- Model and reinforce social-emotional skills such as communication, self-regulation, and problem-solving
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries while creating a supportive and inclusive environment

Out-of-School & Enrichment Programming

- Plan and facilitate structured activities that support academic enrichment, recreation, and personal development
- Lead a variety of activities (indoor and outdoor) that engage youth in meaningful, developmentally appropriate ways
- Ensure programming environments are safe, inclusive, and well-structured

Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC)

- Participate in the Youth Mental Health Corps program (unless opting out)
- Complete the Behavioral Health Plus Certification through Front Range Community College (10 weeks; ~1.5 hrs/week, plus outside coursework; minimum 70% required)
- Apply learned skills to promote mental wellness and provide appropriate peer-level support to youth

Collaboration & Professional Responsibilities

- Meet regularly with site supervisors (weekly) and AAI program managers (monthly)
- Participate in required trainings, including orientation, monthly professional development, and a winter retreat (all include some overnight components)
- Serve as a positive representative of AmeriCorps and AAI in all service settings
- Collaborate effectively with teachers, staff, and peers to support student success

MARGINAL FUNCTIONS (SECONDARY RESPONSIBILITIES)

These responsibilities apply in certain roles or to returning members and may be adjusted if needed.

Returning Member Leadership (if applicable)

Returning members (those who have completed at least one prior AAI term) may take on additional leadership responsibilities that support the member cohort and broader community. These responsibilities are secondary and can be adjusted as needed.

- Lead or co-lead a training or workshop for peers
- Plan and coordinate one cohort or community-building event
- Organize and facilitate one community service day for the cohort
- Serve as a mentor to first-year members by offering guidance, support, and informal check-ins
- Serve as a recruitment ambassador, which may include outreach, travel, or presentations
- Model professionalism, inclusion, and maturity within the cohort and at service sites

Additional Duties

- Transport youth to and from programming (in positions where this is required)
- Support occasional AAI-wide events or initiatives

PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND INTELLECTUAL DEMANDS

Physical

- Active engagement with youth throughout the day, including standing, moving, and participating in activities

- Regular service in school or community settings; occasional outdoor programming
- Participation in overnight trainings and travel to service events

Emotional

- Patience and consistency when working with youth of varying academic and social-emotional needs
- Ability to navigate challenging situations with professionalism and composure
- Capacity to build supportive relationships while maintaining appropriate boundaries

Intellectual

- Ability to learn and apply youth development, behavioral, and instructional strategies
- Adaptability in dynamic service environments with varying student needs
- Willingness to receive feedback and continuously improve practice

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

AmeriCorps Required Qualifications

- High school diploma or GED
- U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident
- Ability to pass federal, state, and National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) background checks

Program Requirements

- At least 20 years old by the start of service (waiver possible)
- Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, and insurance strongly recommended
- Ability to actively engage with youth throughout the service day
- Willingness to live in AAI-provided shared housing (no pets or additional occupants)
- Commitment to completing required training and service hours

BENEFITS

- Living allowance of \$979 bi-weekly (before taxes and \$328 housing deduction)
- Segal Education Award of \$7,395 upon successful completion of service
- Health insurance for full-time (1700-hour) members
- Subsidized shared housing (utilities included)
- Behavioral Health Plus Certification (YMHC members)
- Professional development and training opportunities
- Loan forbearance and interest accrual support for qualifying loans
- SNAP eligibility for those who qualify
- Access to AAI gear library and outdoor programming

HOST-SITE PLACEMENT

Placements are determined based on program and community needs, as well as member preferences when possible.

Disclaimers:

In accordance with AmeriCorps Regulation 45 CFR 2540.100, this position does not duplicate work of previous or existing employees or volunteers, supplant the hiring of workers, or include service or duties that have been performed or were performed by a current employee, an employee who recently resigned or was discharged, an employee subject to a reduction in workforce, or an employee who is on leave.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is committed to achieving a diverse, high-performing workforce. Alpine Achievers Initiative prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information, or military service. We strive to provide a service environment free of sexual, racial, ethnic, religious, or other harassment.