

LEWIS-CLARK SERVICE CORPS

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OVERVIEW

The Lewis-Clark Service Corps Office promotes volunteering and service in the community.

AMERICORPS

The AmeriCorps Program at LCSC recruits, trains and places tutors and mentors in targeted schools and other institutions throughout Idaho, helping students successfully deal with the challenges of staying in, or returning to, school and planning for their future.

Funding: This program is made possible by a federal grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Fifty-two percent of this budget is local non-federal cash match provided by the community host-sites where AmeriCorps members are placed.

AMERICORPS ENROLLMENT

AmeriCorps is a national service program, sometimes referred to as a domestic Peace Corps. LCSC students, as well as private individuals with at least a high school diploma or GED, may join AmeriCorps and serve either on campus or in local schools and agencies. AmeriCorps members may serve full-time (1720 hours) or part-time (920 hours) and receive a small living allowance, and upon successful completion of service, earn an Education Award which can be used for educational expenses such as fees, tuition and books, or to repay qualified student loans. In addition, scholarship positions are available to members serving a minimum of 300 hours. AmeriCorps members also organize service projects in the community and participate in statewide training events. To serve, a student must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident and be at least 17 years old. There is no maximum age limit. Recruitment for members begins in April with the service year beginning September 1 each year.

AMERICORPS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

After AmeriCorps members complete their service, many continue to have the desire to serve the community. The AmeriCorps Alumni Association provides an opportunity to stay in touch with other national service veterans to plan service projects, mentor new AmeriCorps members, recruit new members for the program and advocate for public policy changes to support national service. **Funding:** The AmeriCorps Alumni Association is funded through the fundraising efforts of local chapters.

COMMUNITY WARRIORS VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Community Warriors Volunteer Center provides volunteer opportunities for students, faculty and staff of LCSC. The Center acts as a liaison for individuals seeking to serve the community and organizations looking for volunteers. Students who volunteer gain important experience and often continue a life-long commitment to serve the community.

Funding: The Community Warriors Volunteer Center is funded through appropriation by the Dean for Community Programs. A part-time AmeriCorps member serves as coordinator of this project.

SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM

Service-Learning is a teaching method that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful service throughout the community. It integrates community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, encourage life-long civic engagement, and strengthen communities for the common good. Students are matched with appropriate community partners who provide projects relevant to the course content. For instance, engineering students design and build a wheelchair ramp for a local family.

Funding: The Corporation for National and Community Service provides the services of two full-time AmeriCorps *VISTA members to act as coordinators of this project.

FIRST BOOK-LCSC

This non-profit organization has a simple mission: to ensure that low-income children in Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater, Idaho and Asotin counties have the opportunities to read and own their first new books. Since the LCSC chapter was organized in 2005, more than 45,000 new books have been distributed to children in need. In 2008, First Book-LCSC was recognized by the Governor of Idaho with a Brightest Star Award for its efforts to promote literacy.

Funding: First Book-LCSC is supported through fundraising efforts and a grant from a variety of organizations that support literacy.