



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can join the CCC?

The CCC is for individuals ages 18 through 25 and military veterans through age 29. Prospective CCC Corpsmembers must successfully pass a background check, drug test, and physical exam before enrolling in the program.

Applicants may not be eligible if they have a record of a criminal conviction or pending legal action for a serious felony or violent crime. Those who are justice involved are encouraged to apply.

CCC applicants must be California residents. The CCC accepts applicants of all income and education levels.

Why should I join?

As a Corpsmember, you will work toward sustaining California's natural resources in communities and state and national parks while enhancing your professional, educational, and personal goals. The skills and lessons you learn in the CCC build a strong foundation for starting your career, and stay with you for the rest of your life.

Veterans often find, through the CCC, pathways to careers in firefighting, transportation departments and in fish and wildlife departments.

If I'm not a California resident, can I still join?

The CCC requires applicants for the residential and non-residential year-round programs to reside in California. Seasonal programs, like the CCC's [Backcountry Trails Program](#) and the [Watershed Stewards Program](#), are open to out-of-state applicants. If interested in these programs you must complete their specific application processes. For any questions please call 800-952-5627.

How long is the program?

The CCC is designed as a one-year, full-time program. By completing a full year of service, you gain access to the full range of opportunities, trainings and experiences offered by the CCC. For example, during a full year of CCC service you can create the opportunity to promote, transfer centers and/or crew types, apply to join our Backcountry Trails Program, and also be eligible for both the CCC scholarship and the *Segal AmeriCorps Education Award*.

Can I stay longer than one year?

It is possible to extend your service and remain in the CCC for up to three years. To extend your CCC service you must successfully promote in the first year.



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How much are Corpsmembers paid?

As of May 1, 2023, Corpsmembers are paid a monthly stipend of \$2,709. Corpsmembers who demonstrate strong leadership, motivation, and work performance may be able to promote to leadership positions with an increased stipend amount.

Additionally, Corpsmembers have opportunities to earn emergency excess pay while responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

What are the benefits besides pay?

Corpsmembers receive free health insurance and Personal Leave Credits. Corpsmembers also receive a number of free trainings and certifications (such as CPR), and can earn scholarship money.

Do you have any advice for my CCC interview?

CCC interviews are a chance for your Recruiter to learn about you and your goals. It's also an opportunity to teach you more about the CCC, our various centers, and the types of crews to which you could be assigned. The better we understand what you're looking for from the CCC, the better we can advise you and help identify an assignment that's a good "fit."

Note, at the time of your interview you'll need to verify your identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. Please review the [I-9 website](#) if you have any questions regarding what documents are required to establish your identity and authorization to work in the U.S.

We recommend you apply for your work eligibility documents as soon as possible if you don't already have them. The number one reason for delays in being enrolled in the CCC is not having the required documents at the time of application.

How does the CCC decide who gets in and to which center they're assigned?

Eligible applicants are selected based on motivation for hard work, the demonstrated ability to follow instructions, an expressed desire for personal development, and a willingness to give back. Checking in weekly with your Recruiter helps demonstrate your commitment to joining the CCC and may decrease your wait time for an assignment.

Center assignments are made based on a combination of your location and work preferences and the CCC's needs.

Can I live at home or do I have to live in a residential center?

Both options are available to Corpsmembers.

Our non-residential locations allow Corpsmembers to live at home while commuting each day. A key to being successful at a CCC non-residential center is having reliable transportation. It's



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important to have a plan A, B, and C for how you will get to work each day to ensure you are able to report to your CCC center on time. If you want to be assigned to a non-residential center and do not have a personal vehicle, please research public transportation options.

Those who choose to live and work at a residential center have \$500 per month (as of July 1, 2022) deducted from their checks for room and board, meals on center, and access to other facilities.

What about weekends?

Typically, there's no project work on weekends. However, whether assigned to a residential or non-residential center, Corpsmembers may be involved in classes, volunteer projects, and/or recreational activities.

Occasionally, crews will work on “spikes” – projects that are not in daily commuting distance. These short-term projects require Corpsmembers to temporarily camp or live in another location while they work on a particular project. Spikes typically last four to eight days. Eight-day spikes typically run from Wednesday to Wednesday and are followed by six days off.

Corpsmembers may also work occasional weekends while responding to fires, floods, or other disasters.

What should I bring if I live in a residential center?

Your Recruiter will give you a packing list when you are assigned to a center. Generally, dorms are equipped with lockers having minimal closet space. For trainees it's recommended to pack light. Once Corpsmembers have been settled into the program and into regular Corpsmember rooms with larger lockers, they can bring more items.

How's the food at CCC residential centers?

Culinary staff at our residential centers prepare a variety of meals catering to the different ethnic and cultural backgrounds of our Corpsmembers. They serve traditional, vegetarian, and vegan meals which are all well-balanced, nutritious, and delicious. While it's tough to please everyone all the time, culinary staff welcome Corpsmembers' inputs on meal choices.

What are the residential dorms like?

The CCC's residential centers have separate dormitories for men and women. Corpsmembers usually share rooms with several others. [Visit each residential center page for specific details.](#)

Can I have guests or visitors at the center?

Yes, you may be welcome to have visitors at your center during your free time. Center staff must approve of visitors in advance. Visitors must check-in with staff upon arrival. Guests are required to purchase meal tickets at a low cost if they want to eat at the center.



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Will I have to cut my hair if I join the CCC?

Corpsmembers are not required to cut their hair. However, wildland fire-fighting crews must tie their hair back or consider a hair-cut for safety reasons. Corpsmembers are required to wear hats while on projects and during certain activities, so make sure to pack hair bands.

Am I allowed to have body jewelry and tattoos?

You are welcome to wear body jewelry during your free time. However, while on work projects, Corpsmembers must take out their body jewelry for safety purposes. Tattoos are acceptable in the CCC. However, if tattoos are considered violent or offensive towards others, they'll need to be covered.

What kinds of jobs do Corpsmembers get after the CCC?

Many Corpsmembers discover what they want to do during their experience in the CCC. Corpsmembers have gone on to jobs as firefighters, trail workers, park rangers, teachers, police officers, solar panel installers, small business owners, and more.

Many Corpsmembers also go on to college or vocational schools, making use of scholarships earned in the CCC.