

Serving Others in Health, Community Development, and Education

Do you want to serve others as an expression of your commitment to Christ? Are you planning to pursue a career in health, community development, or education? Sterling College and AmeriCorps are searching for men and women who have a passion to serve others through community service in health, community development, and education.

If you feel called to serve others while you prepare for your career in health or education, Sterling College and AmeriCorps offer you an opportunity to serve communities, gain valuable experience in your field, and obtain the financial benefit of monthly stipends and Education Awards.

Sterling College and AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities

With a grant from the Corporation for National Service, Sterling College has developed the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program, giving students the opportunity to volunteer in community development, health, and education programs while receiving monthly stipends and federal education awards. This program places students in community development organizations, public schools and health facilities, volunteering approximately twelve to fifteen hours each week during the nine-month academic year.

Sterling College has developed partnerships with the Presbyterian Manor in Sterling, Lyons USD 405, The Good Samaritan Center of Lyons, Nickerson-South Hutchinson USD 309, Sterling USD 376, Chase USD 401, the Rice County Health Department, the Hospital District No. 1 of Rice County, the Rice County Economic Development Council, Main Street Sterling, and the Rice County Community Foundation as placement options for students in the program. Twenty-four service positions are available for the 2003/2004 academic year.

Through these community partnerships, students serve in volunteer positions structured by the individual community development, health and education organizations. Students working in these positions are able to utilize their servant-leadership training from Sterling College and receive on-the-job training and service experience.

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, is a national service network that engages more than 50,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. AmeriCorps members train volunteers, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, build housing, clean up rivers and streams, help seniors live independently, provide emergency and long-term assistance to victims of natural disasters, and meet other community needs.

The Program Requirements

During each academic year, student members agree to volunteer 450 hours over nine months and receive a monthly stipend of \$266 between September and May, as well as a \$1,250 Education Award to repay federal student loans. The total benefit for one year

of 450 hours volunteer service is \$3650.00. Sterling College students can serve as volunteer members for up to four years.

To be eligible for this service program, students must be full-time students of Sterling College pursuing careers in education, community development, or health related fields, United States citizens or permanent resident aliens, and at least 17 years of age. Sterling College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry.

The Selection Criteria

Applicants for the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program must meet the requirement for admission to Sterling College to be accepted into the program. Selection is also based upon an applicant's record of academic achievement in high school and in any college courses completed, and involvement in service activities in school, church, and/or the community. Serious applicants should have a passion for serving others through health, education, or community development.

Students living in the United States are required to come to the Sterling College Campus for an interview as part of their application.

Application Process

Please use the forms in this packet to complete your application to serve in the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program.

1. Write a cover letter to accompany your application materials to Sterling College.
2. Complete the Sterling College *Application for Admission and Financial Aid*.
3. Use the *Personal Essay* forms to submit your essay that details your desire and goals in serving with the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program.
4. List and briefly describe your most meaningful service activities in your school, church and community during the past four years using the form provided.
5. Give the *Letters of Support* forms to two individuals and ask them to return the completed forms to you to accompany your application materials.

Send materials to:

**Sterling College AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities Program
P.O. Box 98, 125 W. Cooper
Sterling, Kansas 67579-0098**

For more information call 1-800-346-1017 ext. 466 or 467 or email kcook@sterling.edu

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip or Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: Day() _____ Night() _____

Email: _____

How did you first hear of the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program? _____

Please indicate your academic interest or major: _____

List your career or professional plans: _____

Please list the courses *in your major* that you plan to take during the 2004/2005 academic year.

Fall Semester: _____

Spring Semester: _____

Please indicate your primary area of interest in serving with the AmeriCorps program. For those applying to serve in public schools, please indicate a preference of elementary, junior high, or high school. _____

Please list any activities, including sports, that you plan to be involved with during the 2004/2005 academic year. _____

Do you plan to be employed while working in the AmeriCorps program? _____

Sterling College recommends that you do not seek other employment while serving with AmeriCorps.

If yes, please give your expected work schedule- _____

Is this a WorkStudy position? _____

Sterling College and AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities Application 2004-2005

Personal Essays

Please attach essays on the following topics.
Please do not exceed one page for each topic.

1. Describe your interest in the AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities program.
2. Describe your primary personal goals, career goals, and your plans for reaching those goals, and how you feel the AmeriCorps program could help you fulfill them.

Service Activities

List and briefly describe the *most meaningful* service activities that you have participated in through your school, church, and community during the past four years. Please also include the number of years you were involved in each activity.

	Service Activities (Include a brief description of each) Activities	Years
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Please attach your answer to the following question

Describe what you have learned and gained from your most meaningful service activities.

Sterling College and AmeriCorps Serves Rural Communities Application 2004-2005

Letters of Support

- This letter should be returned to the applicant in a sealed envelope with the applicant's name on the front and the supporter's signature on the back flap.

This section is to be filled out by the individual writing the letter of support.

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____
Relationship to applicant: _____ Years known _____

Letter of Support

Please include what you have observed about the applicant that suggests he or she has a passion to serve others. In addition, please describe the interpersonal skills of the applicant, based upon your observations. Address specific skills regarding communicating with others, working in groups, leading others, managing others, etc.

May we call if more information is needed? Yes _____ No _____
Phone Numbers Day: () _____ Evening: () _____
Signature of Supporter: _____