2024-2025 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Member Virtual Information Session

Questions & Answers

Q1: Is the stipend just a one-time payment or will it be dispersed periodically throughout the year?

A1: The stipend is dispersed in equal amounts (totaling $31,200 for the full program year) every two weeks. If a Corps Member leaves the program early they will only receive stipend payments for the portion of the term in which they served.

Q2: Is there a difference between Corps Member Finalists and being accepted into a Host Organization?

A2: After the Corps Member application closes on March 7th, 2024 at 4pm, the applications will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers and a select group will move forward to the "Matching Phase" of the application process. This group are Corps Member Finalists.

Q3: Can you be a Corps Member Finalist and end up not getting matched?

A3: Becoming a Corps Member Finalist means that you will have the opportunity to connect with potential Host Organizations, however, final placements are made based on a number of factors (outlined on page 9 of the Corps Member Application Package) as well as the strength of the match between Corps Member applicant and potential Host Organization. We anticipate placing 50-55 young adults but may have more than 50-55 Corps Member Finalists.

Q4: Can I participate in the program if I attend college/university full-time?

A4: While it does not exclude you from being eligible, we **highly** recommend waiting until you have completed your education to apply for the program. The Corps requires participants to serve 40 hours a week (full-time) which can be nearly impossible to maintain while pursuing a degree full-time.

Q5: Do Corps Members serve on-site, remote, or hybrid?

A5: Corps Members must be available to participate in activities within the state of Maryland. While some Host Organizations offer a hybrid model, Corps Members participate in required site visits, in-person trainings, and activities based in Maryland. For Host Organizations offering hybrid positions, the ratio of in-person to remote time will vary based on the organization and type of activities they offer. For example, Environmental Education focused organizations may have more in-person time since they are delivering lessons and providing field trips, while a Restoration focused organization may have more remote time for data analysis.

Q6: If we might have to take days off (ie. for emergencies or medical reasons) how would that work?

A6: Corps Members receive 15 days of leave for the year (as well as holidays). Corps Members placed in the program will receive a full schedule of official holidays they will have off as well as additional information about leave policies.

Q7: Is housing provided for the Corps Member in any way? Or is there any support for housing?

A7: The Trust does not currently provide housing or support for housing. However, some Host Organizations offer their Corps Member additional benefits which could include housing. Corps Member Finalists are welcome to ask potential Host Organizations whether this is a benefit they offer during the "Matching Phase" of the application process. Corps Members placed in the program are added to a listserv in late July where they can contact other members of the cohort where they can discuss potential housing/roommate arrangements.

Q8: Do Corps Members often continue working for their Host Organization after the term ends?

A8: On average, about 25% of Corps Members are hired by their Host Organization when their year in the program is complete.

Q9: For the Capstone projects, trainings, other projects, etc., will those dates and deadlines be on the calendar, and will you receive additional guidance throughout the process?

A9: Corps Members and Host Organization Mentors placed in the program will receive a "Corps Handbook" at the orientation event on August 14th, 2024which contains a calendar of all the key program dates and deadlines for the year. The handbook will also contain other relevant information about the Corps year.

Q10: If you submit an application but are not placed in the program, do you encourage applicants to re-apply the following year?

A10: Any applicants who are not placed in the program for the current year are welcome to apply in future rounds as long as they are eligible (18-25 years old on the first day of the program – typically mid-August). Each year the pool of potential Host Organizations also changes which means that folks who do not find a strong match in one program year may in a different year.

Q11: Will reviewers be selecting more applicants who are 18 years old, as compared to applicants of other ages (within the eligible range of 18-25)?

A11: Reviewers will make recommendations for participation based on the criteria outlined page 9 of the 2024-2025 Corps Member Application Package which does not include age.

Q12: In the application under the skills section, what would you recommend including when it comes to computer skills?

A12: Make sure to share any skills/tools you are comfortable using or have experience with such as Microsoft Suite (Word, Office, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.), databases, graphic creation tools (i.e. Canva), video editing/production software, etc. Corps Member Finalist's application materials will be shared with potential Host Organizations during the "Matching Phase" so make sure to list skills/tools that you would want potential Host Organizations to see.