

AMERICORPS CLEARWATER PROGRAM OVERVIEW

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve through more than 2,100 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps is commonly referred to as the "domestic Peace Corps."

AmeriCorps Clearwater assists the Clearwater Police Department with public safety efforts and provides excellent experience for individuals interested in a law enforcement career. AmeriCorps Clearwater members work hand-in-hand with community policing officers, school resource officers, crime prevention officers and staff of local community service agencies to help prevent/reduce crime in targeted areas. Our mission is to enhance public safety and act as a catalyst for crime prevention activities by fostering citizen responsibility and bringing communities together while providing unique educational opportunities to the AmeriCorps members.

2011 GRANT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Needs and Services:

After one year, members will save a minimum of 6,000 hours of assisting police units with non-emergency details including crime prevention and patrol services that will result in saving \$168,000 worth of police officer time. As a result, 70% of community stakeholders will report a sense of feeling safer as measured by stakeholder surveys.

Strengthening Communities (Volunteers):

After one year, 40 volunteers will collectively provide at least 200 hours of volunteer services as measured by volunteer logs.

ACTIVITIES

Middle & High Schools:

AmeriCorps members will patrol the school grounds of the 1 local middle school & 2 area high schools at least 3 days per week leading to 90% of school administration staff feeling that the presence and accomplishments of the AmeriCorps members contributed to a safer school environment.

Homeland Security:

AmeriCorps members will conduct safety patrols of specific critical infrastructure ("hot spots"), provide perimeter traffic and security services for emergency incidents, and assist law enforcement personnel in educating and training the public as it relates to homeland security.

Clearwater Beach Patrol/Ambassador:

AmeriCorps Members serve as downtown ambassadors, patrolling the downtown core and Clearwater Beach Walk area assisting citizens and visitors and promoting a safe environment. Members assigned to Beach Walk Program will be trained to take routine, non-hazardous police reports from citizens for incidents such as lost or found property and petty thefts.

Neighborhood & Park Patrol:

AmeriCorps members will assist police units in the execution of crime prevention, traffic control, and closing area parks that will result in saving valuable police officer time.

Special Events/Details:

AmeriCorps members will assist the department with city sponsored special events (i.e. festivals, concerts, parades, funeral processions) as requested by upper management.

Bike Patrol:

Members will patrol the Pinellas and East/West Trails of Clearwater being alert for hazards and safety issues and providing assistance and directions to citizens, visitors and tourists.

Police Mentoring:

AmeriCorps members are given the opportunity to choose a police officer as their mentor. This component allows the member to experience law enforcement first hand and develop an increase of policing knowledge.

Child Passenger Safety Seat Installations:

Vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children ages 2-14 in the United States. Using the appropriate car seat and making sure it is properly installed can help reduce the risk of injury or death to children who ride in vehicles. AmeriCorps members provide installation services two days per week; as a result providing a direct valuable service to the Clearwater community.

Crime Analysis Unit (CAU):

The Crime Analysis Unit is responsible for collating and analyzing information relating to the occurrence of crime and quality of life concerns within the City. AmeriCorps members' tasks include pawn slip entry, obtaining photographs of properties and/or persons, identifying obvious hazards at properties that might contribute to repeat calls for service, and create graphs and reports in support of crime analysis.

Telephone Report Unit (TRU):

The Telephone Report Unit processes various permits and background checks, prison visitation applications, and data concerning police calls for service within the Clearwater city limits. AmeriCorps members' tasks include working the front desk, taking minor reports, and fingerprinting.