



Kansas Corps Volunteer Assistance Program Guidelines

History of Kansas Corps:

Kansas Corps is a grassroots effort conceptualized in the spring of 2007 when ten Kansas colleges and universities came together to discuss various issues related to their community service programs. These discussions lead to the development of a statewide college student volunteer program dedicated to providing a pool of volunteers. Kansas Corps volunteers hail from all higher education institutions from around the state, and can be mobilized to work in any Kansas community.

Purpose of Kansas Corps:

The primary purpose of Kansas Corps is to provide and coordinate college student volunteers in communities of need. While Kansas Corps seeks to provide volunteer opportunities for students, and manpower for the communities of Kansas, Kansas Corps also seeks to empower students to make a difference through their volunteer efforts. In addition to empowering the generation of tomorrow, Kansas Corps strives to create a network throughout the higher education community.

Mission of Kansas Corps:

Focusing on three areas of volunteerism, Kansas Corps recognizes the need for public action for natural disaster relief, social service needs and community development. Once these issues have been identified, Kansas Corps actively participates in meeting these needs.

Examples of Kansas Corps projects:

- **Social Issues:** Volunteers are available to help with activities in regard to homelessness, literacy, child development, or elderly services, to name a few.
- **Community Development:** Volunteers can provide manpower in activities that help construct playgrounds and public parks, assist with downtown makeovers, or provide volunteer efforts to depressed regions of Kansas.
- **Disaster Relief:** Volunteers can be mobilized to provide a variety of emergency relief services, during or following, a local or state-wide disaster. Some volunteers have had First Aid and CPR training through Kansas Corps' partnership with the American Red Cross.

Outline of what Kansas Corps offers:

It is important to understand what Kansas Corps can offer in terms of assistance. Expectations of volunteer services and community considerations are outlined below:

- Kansas Corps assists communities that have identified a need that falls under one of the three arms of service; social issues, community development and/or disaster relief.
- Kansas Corps offers sweat equity efforts only. Kansas Corps **does not** have the supplies to work on service projects. This program provides the volunteers only.
- Depending on the circumstances surrounding the service project, some communities may be asked to identify food and shelter for volunteers.*
- Kansas Corps offers to coordinate and organize their volunteers; communities applying for volunteers need to have identified a local supervisory staff that can provide guidance to volunteers.
- Kansas Corps does not offer any monetary compensation or financial assistance.
- Kansas Corps volunteer services are offered during the academic school year.**
- Kansas Corps volunteers are available to work on ongoing projects, but typically the availability of volunteers is for a single event. (For example, Kansas Corps volunteers might be able to participate for one or two days of what might be a seven day project.)

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- Kansas Corps does seek to build partnerships with organizations; organizations that apply more than once are welcome to do so and will be considered again for projects. Decisions will be made based on experience.
- Kansas Corps volunteers are available to work projects that add value and/or meaning to the community.
- Kansas Corps volunteers are available upon a complete and successful application.

*Kansas Corps may be able to apply for in-kind donations for food. Sheltering depends on the length of the service project and the distance traveled.

**Kansas Corps availability of services aligns with the academic school year of higher education institutions. Due to Winter Break, Kansas Corps volunteers are not as readily available during December and the first couple weeks of January. Please take this into consideration when applying for volunteers.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants are communities that have identified a community need and abide by the aforementioned outline. Eligible applicants will also have gained the proper permissions from the community authorities and provided documentation verifying this.

Project Schedule:

Kansas Corps and the community will agree upon the project's schedule. This includes everything from start and finish times to meal times. This agreement will become more precise closer to the service project date.

Project Requirements:

Other things to consider are:

- Volunteers are not to be put in any danger or compromised circumstances.
- Liability insurance for the suggested project.

Detailed information on Kansas Corps' website will provide insight to the types of projects that Kansas Corps volunteers can assist with.

For more information about Kansas Corps, please contact the state office at 785-628-4668, visit the website at www.kansascorps.org, or follow us on Facebook.