

## Highland Street AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring FAQs

### ❶ What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a federally funded national service program, similar to the Peace Corps, where Americans are offered the opportunity to serve their community. Over 80,000 Americans serve in AmeriCorps each year. 1,200 served in Massachusetts this year. 25 of which served in the AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring program. Learn more at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

### ❷ Who is Mass Mentoring Partnership?

Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is fueling the movement to expand empowering youth-adult relationships to meet the needs of communities across Massachusetts. We work with mentoring programs and youth development organizations to assess programmatic needs and organizational capacity to provide customized strategies that strengthen youth, families, and communities.



### ❸ Why Mentoring?

Mentoring is a proven youth development strategy. Quality Mentoring can help a young person realize his/her potential and stay on the right path. Mentoring is also an intervention strategy for youth who have already been involved with violence, drugs, alcohol or other risky behaviors.

### ❹ What are the program benefits; why should I commit to a year of service?

- AmeriCorps service can help you explore work in the nonprofit sector and build your resume.
- As an AmeriCorps member you can take on leadership opportunities that are unparalleled to regular, paid entry level positions.
- Corps members receive a \$1250 living stipend once a month and an Education Award of \$5,730 upon the completion of service to help supplement your 11 month commitment.
- Free health care coverage
- You'll also gain professional development related to youth development and nonprofit leadership is also provided.
- Corps members can also defer their student loans while serving.

### ❺ What does an Ambassador do?

Ambassadors are placed, full-time, at mentoring programs and youth-serving organizations statewide to help build their capacity in the following program areas: mentoring program

development and support; mentor/mentee training; match support; and mentor recruitment/marketing. Ambassadors are not teachers or mentors and **do not** provide direct mentoring service. As an Ambassador you can develop a new mentoring program, develop and lead a regional marketing campaign to recruit diverse mentors; strengthen a girls' self esteem mentoring program; improve a mentoring program's overall support to volunteers; create and lead volunteer and youth trainings and program curriculum; create fun activities for mentors and mentees, and more!

### **What kind of work experience do I need?**

Ideally, Ambassadors have some previous volunteer and leadership experience either during or post college. Previous office experience, customer service or service project or event planning experience is helpful as well. Candidates should have a demonstrated commitment to service and a connection to mentoring is usually a plus. If selected you would receive 40 hours of training on the A-Z's of developing and operating a quality youth mentoring program, along with technical assistance around your project as needed, which is why this is a great professional development opportunity! You will also have a direct onsite supervisor to coach your work.



### **How can I learn more about the AmeriCorps Ambassador service experience?**

Twice a month, different Ambassadors contribute to the Highland Street Corps Blog. Read about their experiences at [highlandstreetcorps.blogspot.com/](http://highlandstreetcorps.blogspot.com/).

### **How many positions are available?**

We will have up to 25 positions across the state available for 2015-2016. Three positions are located at the Mass Mentoring Partnership office in downtown Boston and Springfield. The actual projects are in the process of being selected and will be posted on the [MMP website](#) between late April and early May of 2015. Positions will be available in areas such as Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Cape Cod and the South Shore.

### **How do I apply?**

You can apply to be an Ambassador one of two ways. Generally, applications can be submitted to [humanresources@massmentors.org](mailto:humanresources@massmentors.org) by submitting a cover letter, resume and three references. You would then be screened and referred out to a site that may be a fit for you, unless you are considered a good candidate for the Team Leader positions at MMP headquarters in Boston. AmeriCorps applications through [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov) may also be accepted. After April 2015, the full list of available positions and host sites will be posted on [www.massmentors.org/ambassadors](http://www.massmentors.org/ambassadors). You may also submit your application directly to the specific hiring organizations (host sites) listed on the Website.

### **Is being a mentor a part of my service requirement?**

No, if you would like to become a mentor it must be done apart from your service work.

**Q Can I apply for multiple positions at the same time?**

You may apply to multiple host-sites if you are qualified for the positions.

**Q What does an Ambassador service-year timeline look like?**

The 2015-2016 service year will run from August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. You will commute to Boston monthly to participate in collaborative learning, service project generation, and professional development.

**Q What does a typical Ambassador schedule look like?**

The schedule is determined by each host-site; therefore, the schedule may vary. Each Ambassador serves full-time and is required to complete 1,700 service hours in order to have a successful service year. Most Ambassadors serve from 9AM-5PM, M-F. Some host-sites may require some weekends, however, the Ambassador can choose to supplement weekend service with a day off during the regular service week.



**Q Can I still serve as Ambassador if I am not a resident of MA?**

Yes, as long as you are prepared to relocate for the position.

**Q Does Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) provide any aide for relocating?**

MMP does not provide a moving stipend, however, we are willing to provide temporary housing for transitions during orientation week. We also try to provide leads on rental opportunities when available and connect you to other AmeriCorps members looking for housing.

**Q Is a bachelor's degree required to be an Ambassador?**

No, however, a bachelor's degree is preferred. Candidates with a GED/High School Diploma and relevant experience will be considered.

**Q I've decided to take delay my bachelor's degree / attend school part-time, will this affect my service year?**

Your decision to delay or attend school part-time should not affect your service year as long as it does not interfere with your ability to complete your service requirements.

**Q Is there a minimum age requirement to become an Ambassador?**

Yes, the minimum age is 18 at the start of your service year. There is no age limit for this program.

❷ **Do I need to be a US citizen to serve?**

Yes. You must either be a US citizen or Permanent Resident in order to serve.

❸ **Whom do I contact if I have any additional questions?**

Krystal Hope, Program Manager of Highland Street Corps Ambassadors of Mentoring, [khope@massmentors.org](mailto:khope@massmentors.org) or 617-695-2475.

