

Joining Teach For America as a Professional

All kids deserve the chance to reach their full potential—but today, only 8 percent of students growing up in poverty graduate from college by the time they're 24, compared with 80 percent of students in more affluent areas. Teach For America is building the national movement to change this. We know it's possible to give all kids a great education and the countless opportunities that come with it. As someone who has gained valuable work experience since graduating college, you have the opportunity to leverage your professional skills and experiences to ensure all of your students are put on a different life path.

HAVE OTHER PROFESSIONALS JOINED THE CORPS?

In the 2012-2013 school year, approximately 2,500 individuals—23% of 1st and 2nd year corps members—are teaching in low-income communities after graduate school or another post-college career. They will use the skills they developed through these experiences to help their students reach their full potential.



Jose Moreno,
Houston Corps '12

Before the Corps:
Upstream Sourcing
Associate and

Business Analyst, ExxonMobil
Global Services Company

Why did you decide to join the corps?

"I grew up in a low-income household and was the first child to graduate from college in my family. Despite those challenges, my parents, teachers, mentors and role models encouraged me to continue working towards my goals. My experiences provide me with great insight to what many of our students may face. That is why I believe that a teacher is there not only to instruct, but to lead and encourage our students to achieve their greatest dreams by ensuring they receive a great education."

HOW WILL THE SKILLS I DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT MY CAREER TRANSLATE TO MY WORK AS A CORPS MEMBER?

Whether you are several years out of college or just recently starting your career, the management, communication, and problem solving skills you have developed will help you to lead your students to academic success. You can leverage your knowledge of what it takes to be successful and serve as a role model for your students. As a corps member, you will assume a unique and challenging leadership role—you will manage a classroom of students; set an ambitious vision for their academic success; invest them and their families in working hard toward that vision; and plan purposefully, execute effectively, and work relentlessly to ensure that you and your students reach your goals. You'll continue to develop essential leadership skills throughout your two-year commitment while making an impact on students' lives every day.

DOES BECOMING A CORPS MEMBER MAKE SENSE FOR ME FINANCIALLY?

Corps members are full-time teachers employed by their school districts. They receive full salaries and the same comprehensive health and retirement benefits as other beginning teachers. Additional benefits, such as funding for relocation, testing, and start-up costs, as well as help with student loans, are available to ease your transition and support your financial stability. We recognize that personal finances can vary widely from person to person. Visit our website to learn more about compensation and costs in our 46 regions. **Learn more:** www.teachforamerica.org/compensation

WHERE AND WHAT WILL I BE TEACHING?

Corps members and alumni teach grades pre-K through 12 in 46 urban and rural regions across the country, reflecting the tremendous scope of the challenge our nation faces. When assigning corps members, we work hard to consider the many factors that influence your preference for living and working in certain regions, and we also strive to work in communities with the highest need. Openness to teaching in a variety of communities, subjects, and grade levels will give you the opportunity to work with students who need you most.

If you are invited to a final interview, you'll be able to tell us your regional, subject, and grade-level preferences. Some corps members have unique circumstances impacting their regional assignment, such as: a spouse or domestic partner whose job restricts where they can live, a role as primary caregiver for an elderly, young, or sick family member, or a serious medical condition that requires assignment to a specific region. You'll have the chance to let us know if your circumstances limit the regions where you can live. **Learn more:** www.teachforamerica.org/where-and-what-youll-teach

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE FINISHED MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT?

Providing a great education to all students will require much more than bringing great leaders into classrooms for two years. We need our alumni to continue throughout their lives as active members of the movement to expand educational opportunity. Teach For America alumni are part of a network of leaders who support each other personally and professionally throughout their careers as they advocate for kids. Whether you choose to continue teaching, work in another role in the education sector, or even pursue a career in another field, your corps experience will expand your options and your ability to make an impact on this critical issue. Nearly 28,000 people are part of the Teach For America alumni network, with access to resources and benefits that foster their leadership and impact after the corps, such as the Career and Leadership Center, regional alumni support, and graduate school and employment partnerships. **Learn more:** www.teachforamerica.org/alumni-resources



Jessica Chan,
Nashville Corps '09

Before the Corps:
Program Manager,
Invisible Children

How did the skills from your previous job translate to your work in the classroom? "In my previous job, I was required to juggle a number of tasks and to make game-time decisions regularly. This certainly helped me in the classroom because this is what teachers do all day! I had experience in keeping a goal in mind, finding out the best way to get there, and adjusting course along the way."



Birdette Hughey, Mississippi Delta
Corps '09

Before the Corps: Sales Associate,
Johnson & Johnson

What are you doing after the corps? "I am continuing in the classroom serving my term as Mississippi Teacher of the Year. I see myself transitioning into education administration and pursuing education policy in the long-term. The corps experience has shaped this by truly giving me the opportunity to develop as an educator, while reflecting on the role I will play in educational reform."



David Meyrowitz, Bay Area Corps '09

Before the Corps: Financial Auditor,
Google

What are you doing after the corps? "I'm returning to Google. I want to be an example that you can come from a corporate background, be a successful teacher, and return to a corporate background. I feel that my example will encourage many more professionals to join the corps and have immediate and tangible results over a vital national resource—America's future leaders."

For more information about joining the corps and to hear about the experiences of our corps members and alumni, visit our website at www.teachforamerica.org.