



City Year Los Angeles FAQs

Application

How do I apply?

The easiest way to apply to City Year is online at www.cityyear.org/joinus. In addition to completing your application online, you must print out reference forms for your recommenders to complete. You may fax the forms to us at 213.596.5910 or mail them to:

City Year Los Angeles
606 S. Olive St., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90014

When should I apply to City Year?

City Year has four application deadlines: November 15, February 1, April 1, and May 15. If City Year is your first choice program then you should apply for our November 15 deadline. If you are considering City Year as well as other options, you should apply to the earliest deadline where you can make a decision amongst all of your options.

What happens after I submit my application?

Once City Year receives your completed reference forms and completed application, you may be invited to select a telephone screening interview time on our scheduling website. If you are selected to move to the next round, you will be invited to a full selection interview. After you have completed both interviews, your application will be considered by our Selections Committee. You will receive notification regarding the committee's decision on your application via e-mail by our posted notification deadline, typically 4 weeks after each application deadline. It is very important that you provide City Year with a functional e-mail that you check regularly!

I have received an invitation to join City Year Los Angeles. What do I do to confirm my position, and how long do I have to make my decision?

First, carefully consider the time, financial and logistical commitment that joining City Year requires. Talk to the different stakeholders in your life to make sure that City Year is feasible. City Year requires that an invited applicant return their letter of commitment by the deadline listed in their offer letter, typically two weeks from the offer date. Out of fairness to all of our applicants, City Year cannot extend the response deadline, so be sure to apply to a deadline that enables you to make your best decision.

Service

What is the time commitment for City Year?

City Year is a 10-month-long, full-time service commitment. Service starts in August and ends in June. Corps members in Los Angeles serve Monday – Friday from the start of the school day (7AM) until 6PM. There are occasional weekend commitments that are communicated to corps members well in advance.

What exactly will I do?

Corps members serve in the Los Angeles Unified School system providing one on one mentoring and classroom assistance. You will help students who may not receive enough attention due to class size or other class dynamics to succeed academically. In addition, City Year Los Angeles corps members serve in after-school programs to provide students with a safe, structured, and engaging environment. City Year Los Angeles also has a small group of corps members that serve on the Civic Engagement Team and plan large-scale community beautification projects throughout Los Angeles.

Do corps members receive training?

Corps members go through an intensive period of training - Basic Training Academy - before they begin their in-school service. Throughout their City Year, corps members receive ongoing training to improve their service and learn new skills.

Where do corps members serve?

City Year Los Angeles corps members serve in fourteen different Elementary and Middle Schools in four Los Angeles neighborhoods – Boyle Heights, Pico-Union, South LA, and Watts.

When do I find out where I'll be placed?

Corps members will receive basic information about each school and fill out a survey listing their preference during Basic Training Academy. The surveys will then be processed by the selections committee and each Corps Member will be placed accordingly.

Housing and Life in the City

When does City Year start? When do I need to be in Los Angeles?

Your City Year service will begin in August 2011. There will be a mandatory Registration day in early August that corps members will need to attend. Registration days are assigned by last name.

Does City Year provide housing? Is City Year a residential program?

No, City Year corps members are required to identify and secure their own housing for their term of service. City Year does not maintain any apartments from corps members from previous years, nor do we have connections with landlords or management companies. However, once you have confirmed your spot with City Year, you will have access to a secure website where you can communicate with other confirmed corps members regarding housing. You will also receive a link to our housing guide, which includes information on different neighborhoods and housing search options.

Potential landlords ask for proof of employment, but I won't have pay stubs until three weeks into the program...what should I do?

City Year can provide you with a Proof of Volunteer Service letter to substitute for pay stubs. It verifies your enrollment in the program and outlines your stipend.

Is it possible to live on the stipend?

Yes! Your \$275 per week is taxable and your actual take home pay varies depending on your withholding. As an AmeriCorps member you may also be eligible for food stamps, which can provide up to \$200 a month for groceries. Corps members typically pay \$300-\$500 per month in rent and benefit greatly from splitting grocery and utility costs with roommates. Keep an open mind about which neighborhoods you look in and expect to commute around 30 minutes to and from your school. Also be prepared to pay at least a month's rent up front as a security deposit on your apartment.

Can I work a part-time job while serving with City Year?

Some corps members work on the weekends or evenings, but your second job cannot conflict with your City Year hours. You may not leave service prior to 6PM to get to a second job.

Can I go to school part-time while I do City Year?

City Year is an intensive commitment that requires corps members to be present Monday – Friday 7AM to 6PM without exception. Corps members are strongly encouraged to not commit to classes until they have started their service and know what they will be able to take on. Corps members may not enroll in classes that require them to leave their service prior to 6PM.

Benefits

Are corps members paid to do City Year?

Corps members in Los Angeles receive a living stipend of \$275 per week, pre-tax.

Do corps members get vacation or time off?

Corps members have 10 days off for the year to use for sick days or personal days. Corps members also receive a break around the winter holidays and some school holidays. It is important to note that a few traditional days off are actually "days on" for City Year. For example, we serve on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and serve during spring school vacation.

Do corps members receive health insurance?

Can I stay on my parents' insurance?

Corps members do receive basic health coverage. Corps members are permitted to waive the insurance if they provide proof of coverage, such as a medical card.

Do we get a scholarship when we graduate from City Year?

All AmeriCorps members who complete 1700 hours of service and graduate from their program receive the Eli Segal Education Award, an award of \$5,350 to pay off existing loans or pay for future schooling. To learn more about the Education Award visit

http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/benefits_ed_award.asp

Can I request loan forbearance while I am serving with City Year?

AmeriCorps members enrolled in an AmeriCorps project are eligible for forbearance for most federally-backed student loans. For other types of student loans, ask your loan holder if your AmeriCorps service qualifies you for a deferment or forbearance. You will have the opportunity to request forbearance once you have begun service and are fully enrolled in AmeriCorps, typically during October. For more information about loans visit

http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/benefits_ed_award_repayment.asp