



SERVICE
YEAR

The Virtual Companion on ServiceYear.org



A free offering to support your service year corps members

“The Virtual Companion” is a free offering where every service year corps member enrolled on ServiceYear.org receives tailored email messages throughout their service year with content adapted to best support them based on where they are in their service year journey.



SERVICE YEAR CORPS MEMBERS RECEIVE:

Short, helpful email messages with relevant resources delivered at the right time throughout their service year.



YOUR PROGRAM RECEIVES:

Peace of mind that your service year corps members will receive supportive content at appropriate times during their service year.

Why create The Virtual Companion?

Service Year Alliance heard from programs that providing consistent support and resources to service year corps members throughout the entire service year can be a challenge – especially on topics outside of service activities, such as self care and stress management, professional development, and post-service job searching. The Virtual Companion provides a standardized level of engagement throughout all stages of the experience, from the day they accept their position to the day they finish their service year. It acts as a foundation of resources for your corps members, and your program can create additional site, location, or position-specific resources to make sure your corps members have all the resources they need to succeed.

How does The Virtual Companion work?

In order to participate in The Virtual Companion, your service year program just needs to enroll your corps members on ServiceYear.org. This is free for you and your corps members! The Virtual Companion uses your service year corps members' start and end dates to divide their service year into quarters, ensuring they receive the right content throughout their year directly in their inbox with resources and reminders to keep them on track.



**Enroll Corps Members
on ServiceYear.org**

[Read our step-by-step
guide to enrollment.](#)

What content do The Virtual Companion messages cover?

Here are some sample messages that your service year corps members will receive:

PREPARE TO SERVE

- Thanks for choosing to serve – watch these alum videos to help you prepare to serve
- Take a look at our Surviving Your Service Year guide
- Are you moving for your service year? Make sure to check out our relocation guide

Q1: START OFF RIGHT

- Welcome to your service year
- Nervous about your stipend? Here is our Budgeting 101 guide
- Make sure to set goals for your year – check out our Goal Setting Guide
- It's never too early to plan for your future – use our Post-Service Year Checklist to keep you on track your whole year
- Write a Journey Post about your service year so far

Q2: SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

- Make sure you are making the best of your year, in service and in life outside of service
- Check out our Thrive In Your Service Year guide
- Feeling a little overwhelmed by your responsibilities? Check out our Stress Management Guide
- It's always the right time to learn new skills – keep your brain sharp with our Ongoing Learning Guide

Q3: PREPARE TO TRANSITION

- Thinking about next steps may be overwhelming, but our Transition After Service guide will help break down the steps to be ready for what is next
- Practice talking about your service year with our Storytelling Guide
- Know how your service year skills matter to other employers? Use our Translate Your Skills worksheet
- Have you updated your resume? Use the Life After AmeriCorps Guide to make sure you are highlighting your service year in your resume

Q4: WRAP UP WELL

- Share a referral link with your friends, and help recruit the next class of corps members!
- Network & Interview like a pro with tips from our guide
- Save your work so that your program (or the next service year corps member) knows exactly where to find the great work you did
- Record your data and reflections before you finish your service year!
- Final Message: Thank you for service. Welcome to the community of lifelong service year alums.

POST-SERVICE SUPPORT

- After service, corps members will automatically become alums and be signed up to receive our alums newsletter, The Alums Corner: The Scoop After Service
- Receive regular newsletters as well as resources, networking and leadership opportunities, job postings, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Questions about The Virtual Companion?

Reach out to us at support@serviceyear.org.