



# Is a VetsWork AmeriCorps Internship for Me?

VetsWork is a career development internship program for veterans interested in making the transition from a military career to natural resources/public lands management. Participants are placed in 45 week internships with Federal, State, and Local resources management agencies.

After reading our related FAQ, answer the following questions. It is important to consider the personal, financial, and professional commitments of a VetsWork internship in order to determine if this experience is a good fit for you.

1. VetsWork positions don't typically require degrees or prior related employment experience, but they all require a desire to pursue this career field. The more experience / education you have in your personal and professional life, the more appealing you will be as a candidate. Your passion for working in natural resources and public lands will also set you apart.

Do you have experience with and/or a desire to work in the field of natural resource management?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. AmeriCorps is a federal program that supports community service projects across the country. While you are developing a pathway to a career in natural resources, you will be serving, technically, as a volunteer providing needed service to your host site. The Mt. Adams Institute also places an emphasis on community service and citizenship and will require you to complete a Community Action Project during your term of service. As a Veteran, you have served the country already. Are you committed to this kind of community service, as well?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. VetsWork participants commit to a 45-week (10.5 months) full time position. The intent is that this experience helps you develop skills, direction and professional contacts that will prepare you as a desirable candidate for job opportunities in this field. If you leave the program early, it could negatively impact your likelihood of securing employment.

Can you commit to the entire 45-week term of service? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Many VetsWork positions are located in remote, rural areas. For many participants that means relocating and being away from friends and family. This may have been typical of your military experience, but it can present obstacles. There may be considerations such as family, pets, storage of furniture or simply the strain of assimilating into a small town where you don't know anyone.



Are you able to relocate to a potentially remote location? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. VetsWork, as an AmeriCorps program, provides members with a living stipend of \$12,500 (pre-tax) for the 45 weeks. This is your only income from the program. You also will be offered health insurance and childcare reimbursement, if you meet certain conditions. Most members qualify for food stamps and we do our best to secure low cost or free housing, though this is ultimately your responsibility. This is not always possible, however. Consider your monthly financial obligations. Do they add up to more than \$900 to \$1,000 per month? What if you have to pay rent? Applicants with GI Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll in our Apprenticeship Program and utilize their housing allowance during the program. Use the [linked spreadsheet](#) to estimate your monthly budget. Is your final monthly balance negative? Is it close to \$0.00? This may create difficulties in completing the program.

Can you manage your financial obligations based on the results of your budget estimate?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. The VetsWork experience can present some real (though temporary) challenges: little money, potential relocation, adapting to a new work culture, etc. The ultimate value of VetsWork is the opportunity to learn new skills while demonstrating your value to a potential future employer. Getting your foot in the door and building relationships with supervisors and decision-makers is the key benefit of VetsWork as statistics demonstrate that over 50% of jobs come through personal connections. THIS IS NOT A JOB. The potential opportunities for turning this experience into employment depend on your work ethic, networking skill and motivation.

Does the potential value of a VetsWork internship outweigh the identified challenges for you?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If, after honest consideration, you answered YES to all of the above questions, then you may be a good fit for a VetsWork AmeriCorps Internship. We look forward to receiving your application and/or inviting your participation in the program.

If you answered NO to any of the above questions or had reservations about your ability to meet the conditions of the program, you may need to consult with your family, friends, or trusted advisor before applying to the program and/or accepting a position. Mt. Adams Institute staff are always available to answer questions and provide additional information. Your signature below indicates that you've considered the practical and financial commitments and wish to move forward with an application. Please return to Katie Schmidt at [katie@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto:katie@mtadamsinstitute.org)

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

