

Stories of Service After High School

YAILYN MORAN, READING CORPS
Northfield High School, 2018



When Yailyn graduated from high school last spring, she knew college was in her future. She just wasn't sure what she wanted to study or where she wanted to go. So she decided to take some time to figure it out while serving a good cause

— young students in her hometown. "I love kids," she said. "I have four siblings, so it's always been easy for me to relate to kids, which made being an AmeriCorps member for Reading Corps a good choice."

Yailyn said she had been wavering between a career in medicine or education, and working with Kindergarten through third grade students has swayed her toward becoming a teacher. She has been inspired by the teachers who tell her why they are passionate about their careers. When she finishes two years of service and her associate's degree, Yailyn plans to transfer to a four-year university and will use her AmeriCorps education award to help cover those costs. She said her service truly complements her coursework and future direction as an education major.

BEN DAHLMAN, MATH CORPS
Minnehaha Academy, 2017



Ben wanted to do something meaningful but remain close to home before heading to college. Minnesota Math Corps seemed like a perfect fit, combining a passion for math and an opportunity to work with kids. "All in all," he said,

"I serve because it's a fun and meaningful thing to do during my gap year."

Ben meets with pairs of middle school students throughout the day to help them become more confident in math. They work with 3D models and draw on whiteboards to visualize the problems. Ben said it's fun to see his students excited about what they're learning. "It's such a cool and rewarding experience for both of us."

This year, Ben is attending the University of Wisconsin in Madison, planning to double major in math and economics. But he's not done with AmeriCorps yet — Ben said, "I'd love to serve again at some point after I obtain my college degree."

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JOELLE HANNAM, TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Evangel Family Christian Academy, 2019



Growing up in Alabama, Joelle knew she wanted to become an architect. During high school, she followed her interests by interning at House to House, a nonprofit that renovates homes in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Montgomery.

While there, she enjoyed performing a combination of office and field work. She also took a few college courses to learn the basics of Revit, a drafting program used by many architecture firms.

After graduation, Joelle returned to her family roots in Minnesota to serve with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity where she's gaining tangible skills as a volunteer coordinator on active job sites. She'll use her AmeriCorps education award to help finance her architecture degree when she heads to California Baptist University in the fall.

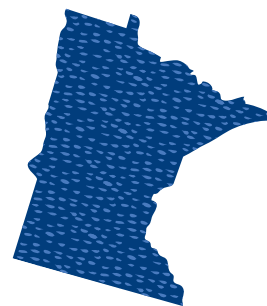
ALYSSA TULLOCH, MATH CORPS
Creative Arts Secondary, 2019



After graduating from Creative Arts Secondary, Alyssa returned for another year — not as a student, but as a Math Corps tutor. She was recommended for the position by her teacher, who knew she was looking for a gap year before college and an opportunity to work with kids. Math Corps seemed like a perfect fit.

So far, she loves working with students. She recognizes that not every student learns in the same way and enjoys her unique position to cater to their needs during small group time. "Math Corps does evidence based interventions which work on basic skills. Those basic skills are kind of the core of everything," Alyssa explained. Without these skills, "It would make it so much harder for them to excel and succeed in life."

Taking this gap year gives Alyssa time to decide what she wants in her future. And the AmeriCorps education award will help her pay for college when she's ready.



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