

If you're receiving this email because you are an AmeriCorps VIP Fellow, this is a regular part of CalSERVES communication with you about your service year. Don't forget to add [americorps@calserves.org](mailto:americorps@calserves.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Your Biweekly CalSERVES AmeriCorps VIP newsletter!



## Greetings!

This is the second edition of the Biweekly AmeriCorps VIP Newsletter. I have included helpful resources and useful information for you as you get accustomed to your role as an AmeriCorps VIP! Many of you have already been at your site for 2 weeks and are in the middle of finding your place within the organization. For others, this is your second year at your site and you are applying the experience you acquired last year along with gaining new knowledge. Either way, settling in to your service year can be both invigorating and challenging. Just remember, we're all in this together!

Sincerely,  
Kaitlin Carney

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## News and Updates:

Keep an eye out for these great ways to connect and grow with your AmeriCorps colleagues:

- The first **AmeriCorps VIP monthly conference call** will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at 9am. Please mark the third Tuesday of every month at 9am for these important opportunities to connect with your statewide peers! Call-in information will land in your inbox soon.
- Watch out for an email from your **Peer Group Leader**! They will be getting in touch within the next week to organize your first meeting, where you'll have the opportunity to connect remotely with VIP fellows serving at similar organizations statewide.
- I will be getting in touch with everyone soon to connect about the **Member Spotlight** section of the Biweekly VIP AmeriCorps Newsletter. This is a chance to show off all

of the amazing things you are getting done in your community and get to know your colleagues around California!

### **CalSERVES Fall Regional Trainings are coming to a city near you!**

Get ready for learning and connection! All VIP Fellows will gather with AmeriCorps colleagues in their region for these day-long training and networking events facilitated by Program Manager, Barbara Thorsen and Program Coordinator, Lauren Serpa. Look for more information in an email from Lauren or from your Supervising Organization.

- **Central Regional Training:** Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz counties
  - Tuesday, October 6 in Marina
- **Southern Regional Training:** Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties
  - Tuesday, October 13 in Santa Ana
- **Northern Regional Training:** Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties
  - Wednesday, October 28 in Napa

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### **Useful Web Resources:**

- The **CalSERVES resource website** has a lot of helpful information and documents.
  - <http://calserves.org/resources/ameri-corps-members/>
- The **AmeriCorps VISTA campus website** includes many tutorials and articles about volunteer management. This site is specifically for VISTA members, so focus on 'The Work' tab so that you don't get bogged down in the details of VISTA service.
  - <http://www.vistacampus.gov/>
- **Energize, Inc** is an international resource firm that specializes in volunteer management.
  - <https://www.energizeinc.com/>

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### **Tips and Tricks**

Living on the AmeriCorps stipend can be tight- but farmer's markets are a great way to eat healthy and extend your budget a little further! If you've applied for and receive CalFRESH (aka SNAP, aka food stamps) benefits, then many farmers' markets have offers where you receive an extra 50-100% of the amount you spend.

- Check out [this link](#) to find a farmer's market that matches benefits near you!
- Here's [a link](#) to learn more about SNAP benefits, find recipes and ways to get involved with SNAP and food policy.
- Read [this NPR article](#) about how local community and volunteer organizers coordinated the matching program for SNAP.



## **We need your tips and tricks!**

We all have resources we rely on to get through our AmeriCorps service year. Submit your ideas to me and your advice could be featured in the next Biweekly AmeriCorps VIP Newsletter! topics could include getting by on the AmeriCorps stipend, getting to know your new community, professional and volunteer management skills, tips on living a life of service... or any topics you feel are worthy to share!

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**This concludes the second installment of your Biweekly AmeriCorps VIP Newsletter. Remember to send me your tips and tricks!**

Sincerely,

**Kaitlin Carney**

NAPA COUNTY OFFICE  
*of*  
*Education*  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

