

If you're receiving this email because you are an AmeriCorps VIP, follow. This is a regular part of CalSERVES communication with you about your service year. Don't forget to add 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!

Happy #AmeriDay! Today is the AmeriCorps official opening day for the new year of service. Many of us in VIP are already more than a month in to our 11 months of service, and today thousands more AmeriCorps members across the country are joining in the movement. You can show your support by changing your social media profile pictures to the AmeriCorps logo for the day!

Time just flies by when you're getting things done. There's been a lot going on in AmeriCorps VIP lately, with Regional Trainings continuing and several new members joining the team in the last weeks. Now that many of us are old timers, having been at our agencies for almost five weeks, we can welcome our new VIP peers by helping them celebrate the heart of AmeriCorps service and adjust to their term of service. I encourage you to take some time out of this week and extend a hand of welcome to any new members on your team.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Carney

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 next 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! Attendance information will land in your inbox later today.
- Watch out for an email from your **Peer Group Leader**! They will be getting in

touch soon to organize your first meeting.

- **Make a Difference Day** is next Saturday, October 24th! Are you and your local team putting together a **Day of Service** for MaDD? We would love to hear about it! Shoot me a quick email about your project.

Useful Web Resources:

- The **HandsOn Network** has a lot of helpful tools and information on skills based volunteering. They also partner with AmeriCorps and frequently have information about nationwide events, including Days of Service!
 - <http://www.handsonnetwork.org>
- I'm sure you've heard of **Volunteer Match** as a place to list volunteer opportunities, but did you know they also have trainings and guides to volunteer management?
 - <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- **Nonprofits with Balls** is a blog I follow about working in the public sector and trying to improve nonprofit best practices. As you can tell from the blog name, there is a lot of humor and snark involved.
 - <http://nonprofitwithballs.com/>

Member Spotlight



Meet VIP member Spencer Takata!

Spencer is a returning member of the Santa Cruz VIP Cohort. When he's not supporting his fellow members as the Team Lead or relaxing at the beach, he is collaborating with Volunteer Center staff on various events and programs. Currently his main focus is preparing for the annual Adopt a Family program- a campaign to solicit gifts such as clothing, toys, and food gift cards for local families who otherwise could not afford to purchase gifts during the holiday season. Whether he's out on the front lines leading a volunteer project or working behind the scenes at the office, Spencer is proud to be getting things done for his community.

Tips and Tricks

It's autumn, which means it's harvest season in California and everyone has yummy seasonal food on their mind!



Our Spotlight Member, Spencer

Takata, uses the local food bank and his crock pot to stretch his food budget:

- "In Santa Cruz you can volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank and they send you home with a big bag of produce and possibly things like rice or beans. I'd bet that most communities have something similar. It's a great way to serve, save money, and get fresh produce."
- "I just throw in whatever meat or vegetables I want (such as the ones I got for free at 2nd Harvest), some spices, and a base like chicken broth then press power. When I come home from work, I have a hot delicious meal ready to go and can make enough to have leftovers for a few days. Taking it one step further, you can get crock pot liners from the store which eliminate the clean up step. Personally, it has saved me a lot of time and money."

Don't know what meals to cook with all the food you get from the food bank or farmer's market? Try out [this cookbook!](#)

Thanks for the tips, Spencer!

Do you have any tips or tricks for surviving the AmeriCorps stipend to share with your fellow VIP members? Reply to this newsletter with your tips and you could be the next featured VIP member.

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

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Carney

