

**YMCA at Virginia Tech**  
**AmeriCorps Position Description**

**International Program: East-Asian Youth Mentor Program**

In partnership with our sponsoring organization, Equal Heart, the YMCA at Virginia Tech is recruiting individuals to serve as AmeriCorps members to reduce hunger, provide engagement for youth, promote job readiness, and support environmental education. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps Members receive a bi-weekly living allowance and an end-of-term education award – total living allowance is \$6,750, education award is \$2,474.

Applicants **must meet** the following minimum criteria:

- ✓ Available for the entire duration of the program
- ✓ 17 years old or older by program start date
- ✓ U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- ✓ Commitment to serve the community!

**General Description**

The YMCA at Virginia Tech will offer one (1) AmeriCorps position for 20 hours per week from September 2022 to May 2023. The focus of this work will be development and delivery of a pilot program to mentor middle-school-aged East Asian youth. In the wake of some anti-Asian sentiment in the United States, this program aims to provide social and cultural support for these youth, including the development of positive racial and ethnic identity in addition to their own personal strengths and problem solving skills.

**Scope of Work**

- I. Recruit participants
  - a. 6 to 10 mentees of East Asian background from the local middle school
  - b. A TBD number of college-aged mentors of East-Asian background
  - c. Establish and maintain a professional rapport with participants, parents, school administrators, volunteers, etc.
- II. Oversee college mentors
  - a. Develop training program
  - b. Establish and communicate expectations of participation
  - c. Provide on-going coaching and feedback
  - d. Ensure interactions support positive socio/emotional/cognitive growth of mentees
- III. Lead program meetings / activities
  - a. Employ small group dynamics to create an engaging atmosphere and “safe space” for the participants
  - b. Focus on community building by connecting participants (mentors and mentees) to one another so as to develop a sense of belonging
  - c. Enhance cultural understanding and appreciation among participants
  - d. Plan activities and develop a schedule to meet the desired goals of the program
  - e. If needed, integrate some language competencies into activities to assist with acquisition of conversational English skills
  - f. Monitor youth participation and respond appropriately to incidents, such as accidents or behavioral issues.
  - g. Evaluate the program and make recommendations for future activities

## **Required Skills and Knowledge**

- East Asian background
- Strong communication capabilities, particularly for individuals with limited English skills
- An understanding of, and appreciation for, the importance of cultural diversity
- A desire to help other people develop a sense of connection and belonging
- Skilled at group dynamics and developing connectivity among groups of people
- Valid driver's license
- Self-starter who possess strong leadership skills
- Ability to interact and problem solve with youth of various stages of development
- Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain working relationships
- Preference: education, employment, or training in group facilitation skills with youth
- Preference: a basic level of communication in East Asian language(s)