



**PY 23-24 Team UP AmeriCorps
Core Track
Position Description**

Check and Connect Mentor

Program Overview: Led by the United Way of SWCO (UWSWC), Team UP AmeriCorps places AmeriCorps members at organizations throughout Southwest Colorado. Through collaborative service, Team UP AmeriCorps members develop their own professional skills and passions, expand effectiveness of southwest Colorado organizations, and ultimately support people to thrive. Team UP has been utilizing collective impact initiatives since 2015 to collaborate across sectors and promote communication towards common goals within rural Southwest Colorado communities. Team UP AmeriCorps members provide direct service to improve outcomes in Education, Economic Opportunity & Healthy Futures. AmeriCorps, often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps,” provides opportunities to improve lives and foster civic engagement all across the country.

The Hive is a youth centered non-profit that provides programming through passion based exploration of skateboarding, music, art and beyond. Our Mission: To provide an inclusive, brave space for youth and community members to develop and discover their true selves by providing passion-based exploration through creative expression, mentorship and leadership opportunities. Check & Connect is an evidence-based drop-out prevention program that was first implemented in southwest Colorado during the 2009-2010 school year. The Check & Connect AmeriCorps members will serve to promote student success and to provide prevention/intervention services for elementary, middle and/or high school students at risk of dropping out of school.

Service Position Summary: Check & Connect Mentors will serve Hive youth participants as an out of school support. The Check & Connect Mentor will serve with school counselors and administration to implement the Check & Connect Program via The Hive’s partnership with local schools. They will track individual students’ Social Emotional Learning progress, while serving to build positive relationships with students and families. Specifically, Check & Connect Mentors will:

The Check and Connect position will provide an academic focused service in the Hive space to serve directly with The Hive’s participants that are students in the Check & Connect program and any Hive related program. The program with the most focus will be The Hive’s SOS Outreach program during the winter months. They will be supporting the Progress Report process and engage directly with school staff to support this process. This program serves Middle and High School youth. The AmeriCorps position will help create capacity to support the SOS Outreach, school staff that hold students accountable on a weekly basis in order to participate in the snowboard days throughout the winter. Outside of the SOS Outreach program, The Check & Connect Mentor will be a part of The Hive’s lead staff team that works

directly with program development, support and implementation while utilizing our Social Emotional Learning framework.

Duties and Responsibilities: Through hands-on-service, Team UP AmeriCorps members engage with organizations to develop, implement, and enhance programs, projects, and activities that develop their own skills, expand effectiveness of southwest Colorado organizations, and support local people to thrive. These duties include:

- Serve directly and collaboratively with a caseload of 15-25 individual students and their parents, district service units, administrators, school site staff, and community service providers to implement comprehensive and inclusive strategies that address school success and completion of school for students at risk of dropping out.
- Track the levels of engagement of target students daily or at least weekly.
- May refer students to appropriate community services and provide students and families with information, and develop community agency linkages.
- Serve collaboratively with school staff and programs to define and outline the role of the mentor and school staff to support and improve student participation, performance, and success.
- Complete home visits to have face to face check in with student's parents in order to strengthen the relationship between the school and families.
- Act as a liaison between schools and other youth serving organizations such as SOS Outreach, Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc. to create new connections and opportunities for youth.
- Track host site and AmeriCorps data
- Attend Team UP AmeriCorps regional trainings, cohort connection days, and Days of Service

Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual Demands:

- Willingness to learn, adapt, and grow in a position
- Ability to serve independently, take initiative, and be motivated by the projects they are doing
- Compassion and awareness: self-awareness, awareness of cultural differences, social differences and understanding of implicit bias
- Strong commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion

Desired Qualifications:

- Ethic of national and community service and a strong desire to create positive change
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; computer literate
- High School Graduate required (GED accepted,) college graduate or equivalent work experience preferred
- Ability to pass criminal history check
- Reliable transportation & proof of auto insurance
- U.S. Citizenship or lawful permanent resident status required
- Individuals with lived experience are encouraged to apply

Term of Service - Time Commitment: This is a Reduced Half Time national and community service position requiring, at a minimum, a total of 675 hours during the year (approximately 20 hours/week.) The position begins September 7, 2023 and ends May 31, 2024. Flexible hours are required, including occasional evening and weekend commitments. Service on the following dates is required (note that Days of Service dates are subject to change):

- September 7-8: Team UP AmeriCorps Member Orientation
- September 11-12: Host Site Orientation
- Jan. 16th : MLK Jr. Day of Service Event
- March/April TBD: Cesar Chavez Day of Service Event
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Training and Support Provided: Team UP AmeriCorps members receive significant training and experience in community engagement, project implementation, leadership, diverse populations, and more. Up to 20% of total hours served may be spent in applicable, approved trainings. Members will be supervised and supported by the Hive Director Kelsie Borland (kelsie@hivedgo.org), as well as by Team UP AmeriCorps program staff. The PY 23-24 cohort of Team UP AmeriCorps members serving throughout the region will act as additional resources and support for each other.

Location and Service Conditions: This position is based at The Hive at 1150 Main Ave. Durango, Co 81301. Frequent off site engagement at local school partners will be required.

Benefits:

- A living allowance of approx. \$1014.77/per month. Taxes are deducted and the living allowance is distributed by direct deposit to the member’s bank account twice per month.
- An education award of \$2,626.27 upon successful completion of term of service.
- It is possible to temporarily postpone repayment of qualified student loans through forbearance while serving as an AmeriCorps member
- Mileage reimbursement for travel to required AmeriCorps trainings, events, and days of service
- Non-tangible benefits including extensive training, valuable experience, networking, and the opportunity to serve the local community in a crucial area of need
- Discounted season pass to Purgatory Ski Resort

Diversity and Equal Opportunity: United Way values the diversity of our community. In principle and in practice the diverse nature of our board, staff, and volunteers is recognized as one of our best assets. We respect each individual’s unique gifts and prohibit unfair or discriminatory practices against anyone because of age, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and any other protected category.

To Apply:

Step 1. Email a cover letter and resume to Team UP AmeriCorps Coordinator Lindsay Luttrell @ LindsayL@unitedway-swco.org. Be sure to indicate which position(s) you are interested in.

Step 2. Create an account on [myAmeriCorps.gov](https://my.americorps.gov) and submit an application for the <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=118359>.

Please complete BOTH steps to apply.