

Y-Corps Volunteer Job Description

Organization Description: The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association develops engaged citizens and servant leaders inspired to effect change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation and world. Through experiential learning, service, and community activism, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association fosters critical thinking, leadership, and social responsibility in teens. Students in our programs build communication skills and confidence while developing a network of meaningful relationships with diverse students from around the Commonwealth.

Y-Corps Description: Y-Corps is a six-month service learning program for students who want to make a difference in their communities and around the commonwealth and country. The program culminates in a 7- to 9-day service trip throughout Kentucky or a specific region of the country, i.e. the North, South, or Midwest. Through a combination of hard work, cultural experiences, travel, self-discovery, and reflection, Y-Corps extends the Y's mission into communities throughout our Commonwealth and beyond.

Age Requirements: Y-Corps Volunteers must be 21 years old by the beginning date of the Y-Corps trip to which they are assigned.

Y-Corps volunteers act as an extension of Y-Staff on our 7- to 9-day service trips. Volunteers will be responsible for filling the following roles:

- Care for the mental and physical well-being of a team of 15-35 teenagers from across Kentucky, perhaps in unfamiliar cities
- Supervise and actively participate in daily manual labor projects, including heavy lifting
- Act as emotional support and mentor to program participants
- Maintain a positive attitude and high energy during a trip that will include active days, very basic food options (e.g. PB&J), limited opportunities to shower, and nights sleeping on YMCA gym floors, often for fewer than 8 hours (note: all adults will be provided air mattresses)
- Be able to drive and in possession of a valid driver's license. Spend long stretches of time in transit. Take shifts supervising students on a school bus or driving/riding passenger seat in a van or car. (If you are unable or uncomfortable with driving, please indicate that when prompted on the next page; knowing this in advance is important for logistics.)
- Be able to lift and move 35 lbs, have good mobility, and maintain a high level of energy over an extended period of time
- Be able to relate effectively to diverse groups of people from all social and economic segments of the community
- Keep an open mind in different, potentially new cultural settings and invite participants to challenge their perspectives
- Actively engage with participants by talking with individual team members, asking questions, and supporting any struggling students
- Maintain constant phone communication with other Y-Corps adults. Must have reliable mobile phone
- Be able to work independently and with a team
- Handle potentially stressful situations (schedule changes, student illness, inclement weather, unexpected difficulties) gracefully and productively
- Model servant leadership by participating fully in all activities, being respectful to all individuals and communities, and exhibiting a positive attitude at all times