WHAT'S A GAP YEAR?

Discover the benefits of a gap year & how to find the right one for you.
INTRODUCTIONS
Warm Up

• What best describes your familiarity with gap/service year programs?
  – Not at all!
  – I know a little but have questions
  – I have done lot’s of research and feel like I know everything there is to know!
Why a Gap Year?

Personal Growth
- Explore Passions
- Self Discovery
- Perspective

Professional Growth
- Analytical Thinking
- Interpersonal Skills
- Long term planning & problem solving skills

Career Ready
- Access to financial aid
- Professional Network
- Leadership Practice
True or False?

1) People who take a service year before graduating from college are 72% less likely to graduate.

2) Service year programs don’t pay.

3) **You can use the AmeriCorps education award to travel.**

4) Grad Schools look favorably on a service year experience.

5) A gap year will take you off course to establishing your career.

6) The world would be a better place if everyone did a service year.
Finding a Gap Year

Domestic or Abroad?

Paid or Unpaid? Cost?

How will this experience guide my future?

What skills or passions you want to explore?
Finding a Gap Year

Resources

- Guidance conversations with Career Support Services and Service Learning Office
- Alumni of Programs and Recruiters
- News and Blogs

Specific Websites

- ServiceYear.org
- nationalservice.gov/programs
- CatholicVolunteerNetwork.org
- Go overseas.com
What’s the difference?
- Education & Youth Mentoring
- Disaster Relief
- Partners with Non-Profits
Education & Youth Mentoring

• City Year
• SAGA Innovations
• Public Allies
• Vista

Notable Differences:
City Year is the largest program, with over 3,000 members yearly and offers a true team experience. SAGA does not have an age cap, pays more, and does work at higher level.
Disaster Relief

• NCCC
• AmeriCorps State and National

Notable Differences:
NCCC is an intense live in program that requires travel.
Partners with Non-Profits

- Public Allies
- AmeriCorps State & National
- VISTA

Notable Differences:
Not all programs offer a team experience and have varying levels of support and infrastructure.

Fields:
- Community and Nonprofit Development
- Disaster Services
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Education
- Energy and Conservation
- Health and Nutrition
- Legal Assistance
- Tribes and Native American Affairs
- Veterans and Military Families
- Youth Development and Mentoring
City Year History
City Year:
Helping students and schools succeed
THE GAP
between what schools are designed to provide and what students need to succeed.

ADVERSITY
Students in high-need communities are more likely to face adversity that interferes with their readiness to learn.

RELATIONSHIPS & SUPPORTS
Students need additional supports, grounded in developmental relationships, to thrive.
“My City Year experience took me to new heights”

Terrell Garrett, a City Year Washington, D.C. ’11 alumnus, says he benefited greatly from City Year’s investment in his professional development and personal growth. “City Year was one of the most eye-opening, life-changing experiences I’ve ever had in my life,” Terrell says.

Terrell says. “Having mentors... who were a little older than me to look up to, made me realize I had a lot of potential, and if I didn’t use it for good, I [could] find myself in a bad place.” Terrell decided to pay it forward to other kids who grew up in situations similar to his by joining City Year.

Terrell is now the Director of Teacher Support at One Goal, a program where high school juniors and seniors receive support with the college application process and throughout their first year of college.
MAKE MOVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Questions & Answers

CITYYEAR.ORG

Next deadline: May 29
APPLY NOW!
AT CITY YEAR, WE KNOW ALL STUDENTS CAN SUCCEED.