

## **2017-2010 True North AmeriCorps Program Proposal**

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state and national service programs that connect more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. AmeriCorps opens the door for citizens to serve in a variety of ways. Through their service and the volunteers they mobilize, AmeriCorps members address critical needs in communities throughout the country. AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.

Duluth's homegrown program, True North AmeriCorps is designed to meet specific needs of Duluth and its surrounding communities. Through strong local partnerships, the True North AmeriCorps program serves the needs of youth through academic interventions during the school day and advancing youth development through recreational programming and enrichment both afterschool and in the summer.

Members serve in schools and with youth serving agencies that serve youth afterschool and in the summer. Recognizing that it is important to serve all neighborhoods in Duluth, True North partnerships span across the City.

Below is a breakdown of how the program is funded:

Program costs include 35 member stipends and health care, administrative and program staff salaries, professional development for members and staff, office supplies and rent.

Corporation for National and Community Service	\$415,590
Cash match from partners:	\$193,510
City of Duluth Parks Fund	\$120,000
In-kind support	\$121,458
ServeMinnesota Innovation Fund	\$17,500
Total Program Costs	\$868,058

Through generous funding from the Park Fund in 2017-2020, True North will employ the following strategies to ensure the advancement of youth development through recreation programming in our community.

### **Member Placement in our Community**

- Eight members will be placed at youth serving agencies across the community. Members will support youth through mentoring and leadership of recreation, outdoor education and academic support and enrichment activities.
- Five members will be placed at Duluth Parks in the summer months and one full-time member will provide support to City of Duluth Parks & Recreation to strengthen access to Parks & Recreation equipment and services.
- Fourteen members will be placed in schools with 35% of their service supporting afterschool and summer programming. Building relationships with youth during the school day through classroom support and academic interventions, members will carry that relationship to the

afterschool and summer program supporting youth through mentoring and leadership of recreation, outdoor education and academic support and enrichment.

#### **Engagement with Community Priorities**

- Through a partnership with the Outdoor Collaborative, all members will support Duluth's Outdoor Charter by engagement in a variety of outdoor education opportunities.

#### **Training and Professional Development**

- In partnership with the Outdoor Collaborative, design and implement Youth Development Institute focused on getting youth active and engaged in outdoor education. The Youth Development Institute will train and coach members throughout their service year on principles of high-quality youth development and outdoor education, and standard curriculum that is accessible and culturally relevant for youth in Duluth.
- Members will be trained and supported to work in our diverse community through experiences and conversations with key members of our community who support communities of color and low-income youth.

#### **Evaluation**

- Design and implement an evaluation plan to measure the impact of the partnership between True North AmeriCorps, City of Duluth and Schools and Youth Serving agencies.

#### **Marketing and Communication**

- Work to design a marketing and communication plan that will engage our community in the important work of the partnership between True North AmeriCorps, the City of Duluth, Schools and Youth Serving Agencies. Plan will include two annual events that will highlight the work in a press conference format, active social media presence, promotional materials including brochures and posters that highlight the impact of the partnership.

In summary, the Duluth community is a leader in community partnerships. At a state level, people recognize our creativity in pooling our wisdom and resources to serve our youth through high-quality programming. This partnership is a shining example of we can come together to improve the lives of our youth.