



PO Box 9046 • Olympia WA, 98507 • Phone: 1-888-713-6080 • wscmail@ESD.WA.GOV

September 4, 2018

Program Year 2018-19
WSC-WRC Welcome
Olympia, Washington

Dear Washington Service Corps and Reading Corps members,

Welcome to a new year of service! Together, you will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people across the state.

Service is both an honor and a privilege; you'll find that you will gain and learn as much — if not more — than you give. The rewards of service will last a lifetime and will leave an indelible mark on your lives and future careers.

I served in the U.S. Peace Corps as a community health educator in Nicaragua. Despite our differences in culture and experiences, we all shared a common human experience, I quickly learned. Our hopes and dreams, struggles and frustrations are similar no matter where we live or our positions in life.

Your service across the state of Washington is making a difference in some of the most difficult situations, with people challenged in the direst circumstances. A year of service is sometimes the only thing between a child building a life-long love of learning or giving up in despair as she falls further and further behind her peers. Your service can be part of a larger tapestry of efforts to combat environmental degradation or help the community prepare for disasters — increasing our resilience as a society. Whatever you're doing, know that every day you're helping to heal the world, whether or not you feel it in every moment. **You** are making a difference.

That doesn't mean every day will be easy. You may often find yourself in frustrating situations that make it challenging to continue your service. **The antidote: Find ways to stay connected to caring people at your sites and your peers.** Lean on each other and learn from each other. That will help you get through the difficult days and focus on the positive.



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Collectively, we are one of the largest service organizations in the country and the largest AmeriCorps service program in the state of Washington. We have over 275 sites and over 700 members combined in the Washington Service and Reading Corps. Our unique partnerships contribute more than 1.2 million service hours of goodwill and reach every corner of our state. We build capacity for change and enhance the lives of others.

The Washington Service and Reading Corps are working to enhance our processes and services. We have heard from you regarding our communications, timekeeping and organizational effectiveness. As the new director, it is my goal to continue to improve our services and enhance service opportunities for all.

Once again, thank you for your service and please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my team of colleagues as you serve the great people of our state.

In service,

James S. Trujillo
RPCV Nicaragua, 1995
Director, Washington Service Corps
Olympia, Washington