

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration



AmeriCorps

The AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) branch has been a mainstay collaboration with GOALS for more than 15 years. An outgrowth from the Model Cities initiatives envisioned under the Johnson Presidential administration, service in America has an extensive and gallant history. Our own GOALS service has long produced both year 'round and summer components. Our full time VISTA members are drawn from our remarkable alumni participants, regional college graduates, or others who

are drawn to our blend of programs tailored to “at promise” and under resourced youth. We have multiple high profile projects that will benefit greatly throughout the '21-'22 service calendar year. Among these are:

- GOALS Everybody Counts—service to support our “differently abled” friends
- GOALS—A Better Community (ABC) project
- GOALS For Valcrest/Forest Service project
- GOALS Workforce Development/GOALS Cadets for teen/young adult service

We asked our new crop of talented and idealistic Corps members to share some thoughts on their own backgrounds, GOALS prior experiences and favorite program observations, along with their achievement hopes while serving with the Corps. Their commentaries follow...



GOALS has partnered with AmeriCorps VISTA for more than 15 years. During that time period scores of Corps members have served both full and part-time in various capacity building (year 'round) and direct service (summer) roles. The collaboration has had an enormous influence on community projects and the development of the members themselves. In keeping with the GOALS emphasis on community service for our own youth participants, the multi-tiered age and experience levels has offered invaluable mentoring and leadership opportunities as well.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Jareli Gordillo:

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I started here at GOALS during the summer of 2020 as part of the Americorps Summer Associates program. After the summer, I spent some time assisting with one of the GOALS' In-Person /Distance Learning school programs, then returned to help with the re-opening of the school site for actual learning.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I am attending university part-time at Long Beach City College and majoring in Early Childhood Development. With my education I would love to explore the areas of Child and Adolescent psychology in correlation with the different physical and developmental abilities of individuals.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

I am the GOALS/Everybody Counts Resource Development Coordinator for our partnership with My Day Counts.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

I think there is so much support in terms of gaining insight and assistance in particular projects. There are so many opportunities I have seen for people of all ages, whether that's through athletics, learning, service or even resume building experiences.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

I hope to create a system that will allow for a more sustainable program for the differently abled. By the end of my term I would love to have found a way to permanently fund the Everybody Counts program!



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Sally Olea

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I started out as a college intern during the spring of 2021 helping out at one of the GOALS Distance Learning Centers. I worked with 3rd graders primarily until I accepted this service opportunity.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I went to high school in the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District. From there I went on to earn my Bachelors degree in Human Services from Cal. State Dominguez Hills.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

The GOALS “ABC” project! I am the newly appointed “Community Outreach Coordinator” for this community facility and programs run by GOALS.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

My favorite observation is the passion that the staff with GOALS brings every day toward serving others, along with the support and love we have in our work environment.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

I want to make an impact on every individual I come across during my service term. I also have a huge goal where I want to help bring in at least one supporting grant to help the ABC project thrive.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Angelina Ross

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I first served as a 2020 GOALS Summer Associate with GOALS Cadets and helped with the ABC site and the Dad Miller Golf course improvements. I worked part time at one of the GOALS Distance Learning Centers during 2021 and also supported afterschool coaching.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I am in my third year at Cal. State Fullerton pursuing my Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Anthropology.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

My choice was to work on the latest big project of GOALS—namely a camp restoration and ultimately major camp operation to enable hundreds of children to enjoy a unique (free) wilderness experience. My role is Camp Program Development Coordinator.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

Working with a close knit team to inspire hope in under-resourced youth within our communities via programs focused on education, athletics, and service. I love to see the smiles on our participants faces during each and every program.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

Establish funding (hopefully multi-year) for restoration and programming of the GOALS camp project. Also I want to help write/develop camp programs. Finally I want to oversee the 1st groups of campers and or volunteers who will be enjoying the camp experience.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Jazlin Gordillo

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I began at GOALS last February as an afterschool program coach. I was so delighted to learn about the VISTA opportunity so I applied and was chosen!

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I graduated high school in 2016, attended Cal State Long Beach and then took a bit of time off from my studies to work due to financial needs in my family. I am planning to return to college in the fall of 2022 and complete my remaining few semesters of study.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

My assignment is to build upon the GOALS major service program called GOALS Cadets. In addition I will be working to expand our overall focus on Workforce Development for older teens/young adults. I will be seeking to boost participation from college interns and at some point soon begin outreach with the County continuation high school which is due to open by 2022.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

My favorite thing out of many, is being able to work with a unique development opportunity and gain experience supporting adults with disabilities.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

To find more fundraising support including equipment and supplies for the GOALS Cadets teen service part of GOALS—especially for the upcoming 2022 “Summer of Service”.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Ashly Miranda

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I previously interned at GOALS during the spring of 2021 as part of my service obligations related to my Human Services curriculum at Cal. State Dominguez Hills. I had a wonderful experience then, which led to me wanting to continue my service in some meaningful ways to help children. I grew up in the Jeffrey Lynne community of Anaheim, which was one of the original areas that GOALS was organized in when I was a child.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I earned my Bachelors degree in Human Services from CSU Dominguez Hills.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

My role is to recruit, train, lead and otherwise manage high school and college level internships with GOALS. We expect this to be a busy year, now that there is finally much more freedom for people to get out and interact personally. We have relationships with area high schools and colleges and I expect that we may have other opportunities with AmeriCorps for a large block of paid summer positions in 2022 as well. As the lead for overseeing placements in the GOALS Cadets "Summer of Service" program, I am ready for a very exciting and active year ahead!

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

It is so uplifting to be part of a program that provides completely free services to underserved children while bettering their lives.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

To give back to my community while helping as much as I can.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: [Isha Arora](#)

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I learned about GOALS thanks to their outreach to Valencia High School in Placentia. So, my involvement began with some school year programs and then as a high school intern, volunteering on special projects through the "Valtech" program that was linked to the GOALS Cadets Summer of Service.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

After my high school days, I was admitted to Cal. State Fullerton, where I am currently in my 2nd year as a Psychology Major there.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

My role is to help plan and establish a strong plan for future GOALS year 'round mountain camp operations. That will include establishing an environmentally oriented curriculum, crafting daily activity schedules, identifying personnel needs and creating a training plan, and also helping on figuring out the unique facility and functional needs of a major new wing of GOALS.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

Being able to provide opportunities for youth as well as those who are differently abled. It is so heartwarming to see the happiness and excitement of those who participate.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

I would love to provide the avenues for growth and progress by helping GOALS to open a free mountain camp for children. It would be amazing, by the end of my service, to see what I am able to contribute to see this dream become reality.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Chris Olmedos

Do you have a history or background with GOALS? GOALS has been a huge part of my life since 3rd grade. I joined the program while playing for the Patrick Henry school (Anaheim) GOALS hockey team. Once I was in junior high school I also began participating every summer in the community service programs through GOALS Cadets. For the past 5 years, I was privileged to work part time as a coach at one of the GOALS daily afterschool programs here in Anaheim as well.

Tell us a bit about your education background? I am a graduate of Anaheim High School and following graduation I was admitted into Cal. State Dominguez Hills. While there I majored in Community Health and am proud to say I expect to graduate in the Fall of 2021 this year.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment? With the AmeriCorps VISTA project, I will be helping out as our “Everybody Counts” program development coordinator. This unique, year-round part of GOALS is a partnership with a nearby not for profit program called My Day Counts. I intend to build program plans and support resources for their “differently abled” participants. We host therapeutic recreation, gardening, art, nutrition and basic job training activities daily.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS? I always liked how GOALS serves youth in underserved communities. The key to me is that it is absolutely free! This gives youth an opportunity to experience things like hockey, hiking, and service that is not typically available in their community.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps Vista service? I want to continue to use my experiences and build on the Everybody Counts program by creating year ‘round curriculum and enjoyable activities for therapeutic recreation, fine art, sports and nutrition.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: [Alejandro Gutierrez](#)

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

My introduction to GOALS came pretty recently with a fall internship involved with the GOALS Everybody Counts program. I have been mentored by two of the AmeriCorps VISTA service members (Chris Olmedos and Jareli Gordillo) and was interested in following in their footsteps.

Tell us a bit about your education background? I originally matriculated at Pasadena City College and achieved my Associates of Arts degree in Psychology. As a transfer student to Cal. State Fullerton, I am completing my final semester with a dual major in Psychology and Chicano studies.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

As the latest AmeriCorps VISTA placement with GOALS I am honored to be placed in the largest service group (four members) supporting the development and future plans for the GOALS mountain camp service restoration and operating efforts. This is something I hope I can help in many ways as we create opportunities to help children, workforce training and service experiences for teens, and the health of the forest too.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS? The dedication to help underserved/low income youth in many ways is the most appealing thing to me. I am coming from a very low income neighborhood so I want to dedicate myself so that others can have a better upbringing.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service? I want kids to enjoy their childhood and adolescence. It's my turn to give back to help others, much as I was helped while growing up by people who cared.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Vanessa Olmos

Do you have a history or background with GOALS?

I consider myself almost a GOALS veteran! I spent the past 3 years helping out part-time at the large GOALS afterschool program based out of the Oak View Elementary School in Huntington Beach. I have spent two summers with the AmeriCorps/GOALS summer associates program and most recently helped this past year with one of the GOALS Distance Learning Centers during the Covid-19 school shut downs.

Tell us a bit about your education background?

I have already completed my Associates degree in the Arts and am currently pursuing my Bachelors of Arts degree with a major in Spanish at Cal. State Fullerton.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment?

My chosen assignment is with the GOALS-A Better Community project in west Anaheim. I have had some past summer experience helping the youngsters out there at the GOALS Clubhouse and jumped at this chance to dedicate my full time AmeriCorps service to help develop programs and resources there.

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS?

The rewarding experience I get to have by helping the children in the "ABC" neighborhood and putting a smile on their faces every day!

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service?

We need to unearth regular resources to sustain our valuable programs in this extremely needy part of Anaheim. Our costs out there are over \$100,000 per year so I am dedicating my efforts to help find at least some of that annual support.



AmeriCorps

More About The GOALS-AmeriCorps Collaboration

GOALS-AmeriCorps Service Star: Jason Peña

Do you have a history or background with GOALS? When I first started out in GOALS I was the youngest player in the program at 5 years of age! Now, 15 years later I guess I am one of the older ones! Anyway I have played for years in this great program, served in GOALS Cadets for about 6 summers, been the beneficiary of summer camp scholarships through GOALS and served as a GOALS Cadets Summer Associate when I turned 18. I spent time this past year helping at a GOALS Distance Learning site and then serving through another AmeriCorps supported program with GOALS at the ABC site. I guess I have a pretty extensive GOALS background!

Tell us a bit about your education background? I graduated from Anaheim High School, and am taking a series of college coursework at Fullerton Community College as I pursue my Associate of Arts degree.

What is your GOALS/AmeriCorps assignment? My very challenging but I think fortunate assignment, will be to help plan and coordinate the continuing restoration of our target wilderness camp in the San Gabriel mountains, in order to help GOALS youngsters. I spent some time during the summer of 2020 helping the top coaches with initial camp service, and have a good bit of camp experience. We have dozens of structures to restore to safe function and there are infrastructure matters involving water, septic, electric and fuel that have to be assessed. I expect to learn a great deal as I serve!

Describe your favorite thing about GOALS? The fact that this program offers so many diverse opportunities. That and the rewarding experience I get working with new kids joining our programs.

What do you want to achieve with your AmeriCorps VISTA service? To gain more life experience and skills, while honing the ones I have already developed. As I do so I will be mentoring the youngsters in GOALS who will one day carry these efforts forward to new heights. By the way that is me on the right—the taller one.



AmeriCorps