

COLLEGE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

by Krystal Ward Carter

The past six months I have given a great deal of college help information for those who are going to college. For those who don't plan to go to college,

this month, I would like to offer information on a no-cost, vocational training program offered across the nation by the United States Department of Labor- Job Corps. Job Corps, specifically targets young people ages 16 thru 24 to help them become more marketable in the work force, make money, and contribute to society! Job Corps allows students to adopt a trade, earn a high school diploma, obtain a GED, and help finding a good job. The students are paid a monthly allowance that increases throughout the program. Career counseling and transition support is offered up to 12 months following graduation.

JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for students must be age 16-24, be a United States citizen or legal resident, be from a home that is considered low income, be ready, willing, and able to participate fully in an educational environment.

HEALTH SERVICES:

One of the benefits of Job Corps is the Health Services offered to students: medical care, mental health counseling, dental cleaning, some dental services, eye exams, glasses, immunizations, family planning, anger management classes, smoking cessation assistance and substance abuse counseling. All students are required to have a physical, HIV/STD tested upon entrance into Job Corps if you or someone you know is interested in job corps and/or would like more information about the program call (800)-733-JOBS or (800) 733-5627, an operator will provide you with general information

HOW CAN YOU JOIN JOB CORPS?

and/or refer you to an admissions counselor in your area that will provide you with more information.

WHAT HAPPENS IN JOB CORPS?

Each Job Corps center has its own unique environment, similar to colleges it has feature campus-like settings dormitories where students live. Again like college campuses, it provides a great atmosphere to complete an education, learn a marketable trade, and make lifetime friends and to ultimately graduate with a good job! There are 4 phases that describe the student life cycle at Job Corps: Outreach and Admissions, Career Preparation Period, Career Development Period, and Career Transition Period.

WHAT DO THE JOB CORPS STUDENTS DO FOR FUN?

The activities and events are tailored for each site at the Tulsa Job Corps Site (918-591-5644) they offer a slew of recreational programs like Intramural sports, Cultural and Social events, Chess club, Bowling club, Horseback riding, Mountain bike riding, Dance just to name a few. Job Corps also has a Student Government Association and special events throughout the year: Blood drives, Prom night, Women's Monthly Luncheon, Diversity week, Basketball Tournaments, National Youth Service Day, Legislative Day, Project Life, and Car washes in the spring. In the summer offer Softball, Survivor challenge/Fun day,

Academic Challenge, Summer Frulic Park Day, Volleyball Tournament, Project Life, and United Way's Day of Caring. In the fall the events include a Halloween dance, Thanksgiving dinner, Breast Cancer Walk,

Walk for Diabetes, Men's Month Luncheon, Make a Difference Day. In the winter season the offer Christmas Parties, Basketball Season, Valentine's Day Dance, Black History Month Program, Groundhog Job Shadow Day, John 3:16 Mission Food Drive, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.



WHERE IS JOB CORPS LOCATED?

Job Corps locations are across the nation in every state. However, the Job Corps locations in Texas include the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center in El Paso, TX; the Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, TX; the Laredo Job Corps Center in Laredo, TX; the North Texas Job Corps Center in McKinney, TX.

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED AT JOB CORPS?

Job Corps offers over 100 vocational programs at each site varies, therefore you must contact each site individually to find a program that fits you. Listed below are some of the vocations offered: Business Technologies, Rehabilitation Technician, Food Service, Nurse Assistant, Medical Office Support, Facilities Maintenance, Welding, Automotive Repair Technician, Advanced Career Training, Dental Assistant, Retail Sales, Facilities Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Meat Cutting, Auto Repair Technician, Plumber, Health Occupations, Electrician, Material

Education

Handler, Lithograph Printer, Machinist, Carpenter, Accounting Clerk, Bricklayer, Bookkeeper, Security, Warehousing/Material Handler, Desktop Publishing, Office Technology, Computers, Painting, and there is more! For those who plan to use Job Corps at step towards college, they do college prep courses, and have connections with local community colleges that help students transition to college, and even obtain college credits.

WHAT IS CAMPUS LIFE LIKE?

Once again, each site has it's own feel and environment; however, each site offers residential housing and non-residential housing. The sites are near shopping centers, restaurants, stores, churches, industrial businesses, financial institutions, and public schools. Just like college students share dorm rooms and responsibilities.

As you can see Job Corps provides a great opportunity for our youth ages 16-24 to take control of their lives! Once again, Job Corps provides a structured environment with career planning, on-the-job training, job placement, residential housing, food service, drivers education, health and dental care, bi-weekly basic living allowance, and a clothing allowance. Some centers even offer childcare programs for single parents. Each year it provides over 62,000 youth with an opportunity to gain a career with at no cost! Don't wait any longer if you, a sibling, your daughter or son or grandchild is ready for a life changing experience call today: (800)-733-5627 and visit the website at

www.dol.gov

Krystal Ward-Carter
For questions or comments

Krystal_ward@hotmail.com

Information received from www.dol.gov

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