

**Share Our Strength's, Cooking Matters®
AmeriCorps National Direct Program**

AmeriCorps Assignment and Project Description

Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters is a national program that empowers families with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to select and prepare healthy and affordable meals. In 2009, University of Minnesota Extension partnered with Share our Strength to offer Cooking Matters® in Minnesota.

Cooking Matters plays a critical role in Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign-a national effort to end childhood hunger in America (www.nokidhungry.org). We are seeking a full-time AmeriCorps member to work with Cooking Matters Minnesota, University of Minnesota Extension.

University of Minnesota Extension is a major outreach arm of the University of Minnesota, a land grant institution with a mission to serve the public through applied research and education. The mission of University of Minnesota Extension is: *Making a difference by connecting community needs and University resources to address critical issues in Minnesota*. More information about Extension is at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/>

Cooking Matters® is a program of UMN Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP Ed) program which provides nutrition education to Food Support Program eligible families in a variety of community partner sites including schools, Workforce Centers, low-income housing, food shelves and Community Action Program sites. SNAP Ed is a nationwide program funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The goal of Minnesota SNAP Ed is to improve the health and well-being of low-income Minnesotans.

The AmeriCorps member will work with University of Minnesota Extension Cooking Matters staff to implement effective hands-on courses and tours that teach families at risk of hunger that healthy cooking and eating can be delicious, enjoyable and affordable.

Cooking Matters AmeriCorps members are part of the local and national Cooking Matters team and take part in all associated training and activities. AmeriCorps members will receive orientation from Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters national staff as well as locally, from Extension's Cooking Matters staff. Members will be part of a peer network of AmeriCorps members from around the nation and be a part of regular training opportunities including monthly webinars and two in-person retreats.

The Cooking Matters AmeriCorps member is being sought for a term of service starting no later than Sept 16th, but will keep the position open until it's filled. The position will end approximately 1 year from start date. Share Our Strength and University of Minnesota Extension are equal opportunity employers and do not make hiring decisions on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or religion.

The Member will work with Extension's Cooking Matters team to implement effective hands-on courses teaching families at risk of hunger that healthy cooking can be delicious, enjoyable-and most important-affordable. The Member will:

- Coordinate courses and tours, including managing the classroom, securing needed food and materials, and supporting volunteers and participants.
- Work with community-based agencies who host courses for their clients in efforts to expand reach of program.

- Recruit, train, and retain culinary, nutrition, and support volunteers who lead Cooking Matters courses.

Member commits to 1700 hours of service within a 12-month period. The full-time member will receive a living allowance of \$12,764, a basic health plan, training, child care (based on income eligibility and need), and an AmeriCorps education award of \$5,815 upon successful completion of service.

TRAINING:

AmeriCorps members are part of the local and national Cooking Matters® team and take part in all associated training and activities. AmeriCorps members will receive orientation training from Share Our Strength's national Cooking Matters® team as well as the Cooking Matters® Minnesota staff. Members will be part of a peer network of AmeriCorps members from around the nation and be a part of regular training opportunities including monthly calls and in-person retreats.

Required QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 18 years of age
- High school diploma, or GED
- Interest in nutrition and/or culinary arts
- Driver's license and good driving record
- Public speaking skills
- Computer skills/Microsoft Office

Preferred:

- Volunteer management experience preferred
- Own means of transportation

Position Closes: January 17 or until filled.

TO APPLY:

Please submit a cover letter and resume to: CeAnn Klug at: cdklug@umn.edu

Your cover letter should include why you want to take part in AmeriCorps and why you are interested in the Cooking Matters® position at the University of Minnesota Extension.

For questions about Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters® and the AmeriCorps National Direct program nationally, contact:

Ellen Damaschino
National Training Manager
Share Our Strength
Email: edamachino@strength.org