



AmeriCorps St. Louis

See the Need, Meet the Need



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Life After ERT

Reminders, Tips and Best Practices for Resumes and Interviews

Putting ERT On Your Resume

- Basic Example: Served for an 11-month National Service term as a member of an Emergency Response Team that responded to natural disasters, performed various environmental stewardship projects and fought wildland fires
- Consider mentioning the time commitment, living stipend, certifications, hard skills (even if they aren't relevant) and fundamental skills you acquired
- If relevant to the job, include partner organizations you served with
- If relevant to the job, include specific conservation projects, fires, or disaster responses
 - If in doubt, include it

Talking About ERT During An Interview

- Potential employers will ask you about your service year, so BE PREPARED - Come up with your "elevator speech" beforehand and practice! ERT is a unique thing - use that to your advantage.
 - Focus on the successes and the challenges
 - How did you overcome/grow from those challenges?
 - Highlight the variety of things you did - different conservation projects, wildfires, prescribed burns, disaster deployments, trainings, travel opportunities, communal living, etc
 - Always try to use the word "serve" instead of "work" (trust me, it sounds way better!)
- Most employers are looking for these qualities - think of experiences from ERT to provide specific examples
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork (especially with diverse people)
 - Flexibility
 - Initiative
 - Work Ethic
 - Dedication



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- Conflict Resolution
- Overcoming Adversity/Challenges
- Don't undervalue your experiences! Even the most "normal" day on an invasives or felling project always involves planning, problem-solving, coordination, flexibility, teamwork, perseverance, etc

Self-Reflection and Interviewing

- As your term wraps up, think back on all of the things you learned about yourself. Use those lessons when applying and interviewing for jobs
- REMEMBER: When interviewing for a new job you are interviewing the organization as much as they are interviewing you! You are an amazing person, and you don't want to work for just anyone, right? Make it clear what you are looking for out of the position and where it will take you in life. The more transparent you are about what you want, the better the likelihood of finding a job that's a good fit.
 - Tip: If you really want the job, make sure you tell the interviewer that! Don't be shy about this! People want to hire other people who want to be there.
- Do your research and always come prepared with questions. Feel free to ask your interviewer(s) about themselves (How long have they been working there? Why have they stayed? What do they value there? Their answers may tell you a lot.)
- Some things to consider...
 - What are your strengths and areas of improvement?
 - You know they'll ask you this in an interview...so have a good answer. Always say how you're working on your areas of improvement. And never say you don't have any weaknesses - it's false and you'll sound full of yourself. Think about any critical feedback you received in ERT for a starting point.
 - What do you value most in your job?
 - The actual work? Your co-workers? Learning/training opportunities? Upward mobility opportunities? Work/Life balance?
 - Make sure you are asking about these things in your interview - you should work somewhere that will give you the things you value



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- What type(s) of leadership styles do you like best?
 - Chances are you've served under a variety of leadership styles in ERT. Which one(s) did you enjoy? Which one(s) allowed you to thrive?
 - Ask your potential employer what their style is - you want to make sure they are someone you will enjoy working for
- How do you best receive feedback? Give feedback?
 - A great way to test this during an interview is to ask your potential employer if they have any feedback on your application or your interview answers (ex: "Was there anything in my application or interview answers that is a flag for you that I may address?"). 1) You can experience how they give you feedback, and 2) you can address anything they bring up then and there.
 - Ask about the feedback culture in the organization. How often can you expect to get feedback?
- What qualities do you value most in your teammates/co-workers?
 - Always try to meet some of the people in a potential workplace. Are they friendly? Is there diversity? Do they seem to enjoy their work? If you can talk to them directly, ask them what their favorite and least favorite parts of their job are.
- What kind of workplace environments do you enjoy?
 - Don't be afraid to ask a potential employer about the workplace environment - if they don't know/have a good answer, that says something too

ACSTL Alumni Network

- Use it!!!
- ERT Networking Facebook page is a great resource
- Call the office - we have contact info for most folks, plus we will always love to hear from you :)