



Call for VISTA Members and Alumni: Volunteer Reporters *VISTA 45th Anniversary Project* *1965-2010*

About:

In 2010, the AmeriCorps VISTA program is celebrating its 45th anniversary. For 45 years, VISTA volunteers have reshaped lives and tackled poverty issues throughout America. To highlight this milestone, we are looking for current and former VISTA members to share their stories over the remainder of this anniversary year. The participants will be loaned Flip video cameras as volunteer reporters. Edited and approved content may be highlighted on the VISTACampus.org, the CNCS YouTube channel, VISTA member and alumni Facebook pages, the VISTA Viewfinder e-newsletter and selected blogs. This position requires a strong interest and/or background in multimedia production and a desire to create compelling stories about the VISTA program for the Internet.

Assignments:

Reporters will be required to complete a minimum of 3 video assignments over the course of three months. We are looking for short, creative pieces no longer than 4 minutes in duration. These video reports will address various topics related to VISTA and national service. Reporters are encouraged to go beyond this requirement, time permitting.

Creativity is key! There are an infinite number of ways to create your videos and we encourage reporters to develop a personal style that inspires viewers. Don't simply give a video blog at your desk; go out into your community and show the world how VISTA is working!

Assignment Options:

1. *Intro Video**: Reporter will introduce his/herself and describe their role as a current or former VISTA member. The reporters also encouraged to integrate footage and photos from their current or former VISTA project.
2. *Update*: For current members - update viewers on the progress of their projects. For alumni - go into detail about their past project or discuss how they continue to benefit and serve the community since their VISTA service.
3. *Interview a past or current VISTA #1*: Find another current or former VISTA and interview them about their experience with the program.
4. *Update #2*: For current members - update viewers on the progress of their projects. For alumni - go into detail about their past project or discuss how they continue to benefit and serve the community since their VISTA service.
5. *Interview a past or current VISTA #2*: Find another current or former VISTA and interview them about their experience with the program.
6. *Creative License*: Create a video project that shows the importance of VISTA volunteering in America. Examples: Interview people on the street about their knowledge of VISTA and the poverty issues facing their community -or- Create a report on the life of a famous VISTA alum. Get creative!
7. *Final Update/Sign Off**: Discuss the progress they have made over the last year and where their service and experience as a VISTA leads them next.

* = required assignment

About Flip Cameras:

The Flip is a hand-held, easy to use video camera built for the web. There is a USB connector right on the camera as well as a high-quality microphone and onboard editing software. The Flip makes shooting video a piece of cake! Visit www.theflip.com to learn more.

Qualifications:

- Must be a current or former VISTA member
- Strong interest and/or experience with multimedia and journalism projects
- Knowledge of basic video editing (videos must be edited before submitted)
- Access to a computer and video editing software (Flip cameras come with onboard editing software, but it is recommended to use other software such as Windows Movie Maker, iMovie and others with more features)
- Ability to commit to the minimum reporting requirements over a three month period
- Commit to transferring the Flip camera to next reporter once assignment is complete (instructions and shipping provided)
- Must sign agreement outlining responsibilities as volunteer reporter prior to starting project
- If current VISTA member, must have approval from Supervisor

Training and Support:

Selected VISTAs and alums will receive a detailed packet with instructions and one Flip camera. There will be an introductory conference call prior to the first assignment. Tips on how to generate a good story will be covered.

To Apply:

Please email the following to VISTAOutreach@cns.gov:

1. Brief statement of intent (300 words max) describing your experience with VISTA and your desire to take this volunteer position.
2. Brief overview of your experience filming and editing video. If you have limited experience, but a strong desire, please explain how you will approach learning how to edit your videos.
3. Link to (1) multimedia or journalism project you have created online as a sample of your work. This can be a video, website, photo or written piece.
4. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2010

Selected applicants will be announced during AmeriCorps Week (May 8-15, 2010).

Questions?

VISTAOutreach@cns.gov

Special thanks to VISTA alum, Blake Brown ('09-'10), for creating this project.