Most programs in the Response book (plus Peace Corps, Americorps-Vista-NCCC, Teach for America, etc.) cover your basic needs:  
- room, board, local transportation, basic health insurance, the ability to defer loans  
- a small stipend (usually about $100/month; “ice cream money” after your essentials are covered)  
- some also offer the Americorps Education Award (up to $5,550) toward loans or further education

Programs differ in several ways; you need to discern what is most important to you in a program:  
- International v. Domestic, Length of commitment, Faith-based or secular  
- Type of community:  
  - Other recent college grads (e.g. JVC, Magis, Cap Corps, Amate House, etc.)  
  - Lay people and religious (priests or sisters) in an intergenerational, established community (e.g. Dominican Volunteers USA)  
  - On your own (e.g. Peace Corps, Americorps)  
  - Urban v. Rural, Specific cities, states, or countries  
  - The job itself (teaching, medical work, environmental work, etc.)  
  - Size of the program, Application Deadlines

Volunteering is NOT for everyone, but here’s a partial list of Reasons to Volunteer:  
- You want to serve, and you understand you will also learn about yourself, your world, your faith, people, justice, a profession, etc. (this reason is fundamental!)  
- You want some “real world experience” before you take a job or go to graduate school  
  - Many “FVs” (former volunteers) believe they were BETTER graduate students because they volunteered because they knew more clearly what they wanted to study, why they wanted to study it, and sometimes what they did NOT want to study!  
- You are not sure what you want to do next; you want to take a year “on” rather than “off” while figuring out your next steps  
- Each person has his/her own reasons, so ask around!

Family and Friends  
- Some graduates have support and encouragement from loved ones about volunteering  
- Some graduates experience indifference or even opposition from loved ones about volunteering  
- No matter what your loved ones opinions on the matter, do not dismiss them. Appreciate it if you have support and talk with people if you do not. Family and friends should not make your decisions for you, but they can definitely be part of your discernment.

Significant Others  
- If you are seeking to volunteer together, most programs are willing to work with you but probably will not place you in the same living community. Many programs have more than one living community in the same city. Many cities have more than one program. Or you don’t have to be in the same part of the country or world for a year or more. All part of your discernment.

Other Recommendations  
- Find a program that “fits” you best: most program directors understand that while they would like to recruit you to her/his program, it is more important for everyone that you discern which program is best for you  
- Apply to more than one program in case your favorite doesn’t work out, but don’t go wild; 3 or 4 tops should be plenty if you have done your research  
- Talk to the Program Directors, but also ask to speak with current or recent volunteers who know about the position you are interested in

Post-Grad Volunteer & Religious Life Missioning Ceremony  
- If you do decide to volunteer (or even if you are still figuring that out at the time of May graduation weekend), this ceremony is for you and your family and friends!  
- Fr. Lannon will bless the graduates/volunteers and their family/friends. Family/Friends will know that Creighton supports and values graduates who choose to volunteer or explore Religious Life after graduation.  
- Friday of graduation weekend, 10:30 am, St. John’s church

For more information . . . .  
- Go to www.catholicvolunteeretwork.org, take a Response book, go to the websites for JVC, Peace Corps, Magis, Americorps-Vista, etc.  
- Set up an appointment on campus to talk with any of the following people:  
  - Ken Reed-Bouley in the Creighton Center for Service and Justice (Harper Center)  
    - krb@creighton.edu, 280-2754  
    - General info about volunteering, discernment, Dominican Volunteers USA (FV), etc.  
  - Carrie Wortmann in the Magis office in the Education Department (Hitchcock)  
    - Phone: 402-280-3491; Email: carriewortmann@creighton.edu  
    - Magis Catholic Teacher Corps Director and Former Volunteer in the Dominican Republic  
  - Katie Wadas-Thalken in Alumni Relations (Wareham Building 4th floor)  
    - (402) 280-1767; kwadas@creighton.edu  
    - Former Volunteer with Jesuit Volunteer Corps

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