

Alexis Dean

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Alexis serves with Schools of Hope as the AmeriCorps Literacy Tutor and Tutor Coordinator at Mendota Elementary School in Madison. Officially, he is responsible for overseeing volunteers who work with students on literacy goals and for providing individual tutoring to students, but he does so much more. Alexis has fully dedicated himself to the scholars and staff at Mendota, jumping in wherever needed and thoughtfully seeking out opportunities to better the school and the experience of students. He has spent a countless amount of time outside the school day helping with after school enrichment clubs, serving on the school PTO, and attending various community school events.

Alexis was always willing to step up to enable student participation in outside events, chaperoning students on evenings or weekends to provide the opportunity for students to take swimming lessons so they could compete in the Tri 4 Schools triathlon and for students to attend the annual strings festival. He was also an integral part of the school team that led Mendota's Disney musical production of *The Aristocats*, a job that required five months of late hours at rehearsals. He used his creativity throughout the year to create engaging videos and songs to spark the interest of students and gain their greater participation. After realizing the number of scholars that struggled with attendance, Alexis created a video to showcase the many reasons why being on time and present at school is imperative to school success. This video was featured on the local news and was shared with other schools across the district.

Through his leadership, radiating positivity and joy, his service has greatly impacted staff, students, and families in the Mendota Elementary community. The staff at Mendota Elementary has noted that Alexis has shown exceptional leadership, dedication, and creativity in his AmeriCorps position, consistently going above and beyond his duties to make the school a place that shines with student strengths and that the school was instantly a better place with him involved.

