



# Finding joy through local food procurement and serving alongside my fellow AmeriCorps member



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One of the important roles of an AmeriCorps member is local procurement which is mainly described as menued local foods. This is one of my favorite things to accomplish as a member, for two reasons. The first reason is for the students and the second reason is because of David.



Last service year I was only an intern serving as an AmeriCorps member. The main focus of my internship was to teach students the importance of nutrition and gardening during our summer school class. But when I became a member for the year, I had no idea how different the job was going to be. The main focus during the school year is local procurement and I love it. It brings me so much joy to see students eat the locally sourced food we have brought to their lunch and breakfasts. This way we can see the impact and the importance of what we do on a regular basis.

Not only do I get joy when I see the foods eaten, I also get joy when we prepare the foods. One of my favorite things about preparing the foods is I have time to talk to David about his past life experiences and his past management roles. David has shared several stories about leadership and his management roles, that it intrigues me to become a leader in my future career. My favorite story was when David was in a conflict but he used his conflict management skills to resolve the problem. This has shown me that it is possible to get out of those sticky situations and move forward. David always tells me "alligator skin, don't be a sponge". I will use that alligator skin to become the great leader I strive to be. Maybe not today, but someday I will become that alligator.

