



Member Spotlights 2021-22



CoL Member Spotlight on...

Clayton Delp, a second-year member serving 8th grade ESL students at Andersen Middle School



What were you doing before serving with CoL?

I graduated from Duke University, where I studied music and English.

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

After months of quarantine-induced isolation, I felt drawn towards relationship-driven work. I had worked summer jobs in education before, having taught English in the CDF's Freedom Schools program and music at a summer camp. Though both experiences were fun and fulfilling, I left each feeling that I could have learned more and performed better if given more time. I'm hoping that a longer program like CoL will give me a better sense of direction as to whether teaching is in my future.

What's something you love about middle school students?

I think middle schoolers are hilarious. They work so hard to come off as adults, but despite their best efforts, they still hold on to a lot of childlike wonder, giddiness, and enthusiasm. It's a great feeling when they let the act slip and you can see through to their true selves.

CoL Member Spotlight on...

Angela Preuss, serving 8th grade ESL students at Sanford Middle School

What were you doing before serving with CoL?

I am a current student at St. Catherine University. My major is English with a concentration in Fine Art Photography.

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I decided to serve with AmeriCorps for the experience of working with multilingual students.

What has been the most surprising challenge of your service so far?

The most surprising challenge in service so far is keeping up with the fast pace of everything.

What's something you love about middle school students?

I love the middle schoolers because they are full of energy and life!



CoL Member Spotlight on...

Ian Lockhart, serving 8th grade ESL students at Justice Page Middle School



What were you doing before serving with CoL?

Studying Psychology and Management Studies at St. Olaf College.

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I decided to serve with CoL because I wanted to give back to the community that I grew up in and because it will allow me to make sure that education is the career path that I want to pursue.

What do you plan to do after you serve with CoL?

I would like to teach in a foreign country or pursue my Masters in Education.

What's something you love about middle school students?

Middle schoolers never fail to make me laugh!

CoL Member Spotlight on...

Michael Finn, serving 7th grade ESL students at Andersen Middle School

What were you doing before serving with CoL?

Life guarding for the Cape Cod National Seashore!

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I wanted to work in a school to determine if I wanted to go into education. The mission described by CoL seemed like an excellent fit due to the commitment to a small group of under served students and the capacity for impact on their educational trajectories. I want to form serious relationships with these students as both a tutor and a mentor, as well as have some fun!

What is one thing you've learned through your service so far?

I have really had to learn to be patient. Sometimes the students just keep going, so learning to work with them can be challenging!

What's something you love about middle school students?

I love how they are starting to discover their own autonomy. The students are starting to figure out their own paths and it has been very fun to watch!



CoL Member Spotlight on...

Caden Salo, serving 6th grade ESL students at Andersen Middle School



What were you doing before serving with CoL?

Before serving with CoL, I was attending the University of Minnesota double majoring in Spanish and Political Science. While I was in school, I also worked as a tutor and summer staff member for UMD's Upward Bound Vision Quest program, serving potential first generation college students at South, Roosevelt, and Edison high schools in Minneapolis!

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I decided to serve with CoL because I found a passion for youth work while serving with Upward Bound, and wasn't quite finished working with students when I graduated, especially because of COVID and distance learning last year. Additionally, I speak multiple languages, and the opportunity to work with EL/multilingual students was too good to pass up.

What do you plan to do after your service with CoL?

After my service with CoL, I plan to eventually attend law school where I will study to become an immigration attorney so I may continue to advocate for immigrant children and families. In the meantime, I will continue to work and do whatever I can to support my community!

What's something you love about middle school students?

Something that I love about middle schoolers is their resilience. After a long span of distance learning, I have felt so energized by their charisma and their desire to learn and create a community together. It truly brightens up my morning every time they come to school!

CoL Member Spotlight on...

Katya Spielvogel, serving 6th grade ESL students at Justice Page Middle School

What were you doing before serving with CoL?

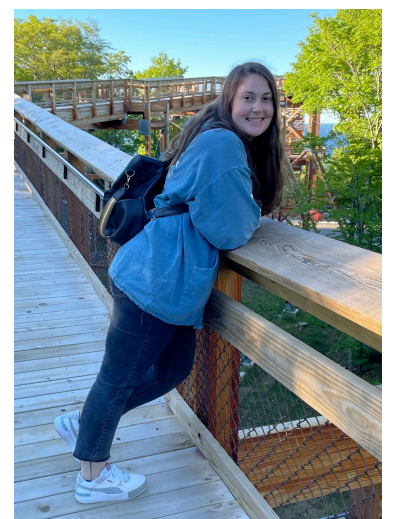
I graduated from Winona State University in 2019 with a bachelor's in Global Studies and Spanish. This past year I worked as a substitute teacher in Wisconsin for the Cuba City school district.

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I decided to serve with CoL because I was interested in working with EL students and I have first-hand experience learning a second language. I also thought it was a great opportunity to develop skills and provide me with experience that will help me achieve my career goals.

What's something you love about middle school students?

Middle school students have a great sense of humor and sometimes they have no filter, so you will always know how they feel. They also are at the age where they still think I'm funny and not embarrassing.



CoL Member Spotlight on...

Max Sheck, serving 8th grade ESL students at Anwatin Middle School

What were you doing before serving with CoL?

Working at Mori no Ike through the Concordia Language Villages as a camp counselor.

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

I want to gain more experience working with students so that I can figure out what kind of teacher I would like to be in the future.

What's one thing you've learned through your service so far?

Middle schoolers can have really intelligent thoughts sometimes.

What do you plan to do after your year of service?

I plan to travel abroad to teach English in Japan.



CoL Member Spotlight on...

Finn Hawkins, serving 6th & 7th grade ESL students at Northeast Middle School

Why did you decide to serve with CoL?

When I left college, I started looking through AmeriCorps programs after one of my sisters recommended it since she enjoyed her service. CoL was (and is!) the program for me because I love working with youth and seeing their progress. What I want to get out of this year is growth for me and my students and a sense that I've done something of positive impact. I'm confident I will feel that way at the end of my service.



What do you plan to do after your year of service?

Depending what COVID looks like at the end of the year, I'd like to either serve another year in CoL or go back to school and finish my degree.

What's something you love about middle school students?

Something I love about middle schoolers is how funny they are. One time the ESL teacher, myself and three students were going to one of the basement computer labs and a sea of students were going the other direction. In the chaos, the ESL teacher and I lost track of two of the students. I ran back up to the second floor and we looked around the ground floor for them. After a few minutes we thought they could have gone down to the basement and somehow got in the room without a key. We walked down and the two we couldn't find jumped from behind the staircase and spooked us. It was hilarious and even more so when we found out the student that was helping us look knew where they were hiding the whole time!