

Maker Education Initiative

● EVERY CHILD A MAKER ●

Maker Corps 2015: Program Description and Host Site Application Information

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I. INTRODUCTION

Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed):

Maker Ed's mission is to create more opportunities for all young people to develop confidence, creativity, and interest in science, technology, engineering, math, art, and learning as a whole through making.

We achieve our mission by ensuring:

1. Educators have the resources and support necessary to facilitate meaningful making experiences.
2. Organizations have the capacity to engage youth in making in formal and informal educational environments.
3. Communities are equipped to lead and advocate for youth of all backgrounds to access making opportunities.

What is Maker Corps?

The Maker Corps program, launched in 2012, was designed to meet the demand for human capacity in youth serving organizations eager to embed making into their programs. Each Maker Corps cadre is a new workforce that is constantly learning, working collaboratively, and infusing new energy into established youth serving organizations. In two years, Maker Ed has served more than 140,000 children and families by placing over 200 Maker Corps Members in 50 youth serving organizations across 24 states.

Program Goals:

1. Build confidence, creativity, and career readiness of Corps Members.
2. Diversify and expand the network of makers, mentors, and community leaders.
3. Expand the capacity of youth-serving organizations to engage youth and families in making.

The Maker Corps program highlights three themes in its work, whether in connection to Host Sites, Maker Corps Members, or the youth and families served: diversity, relevance, and community. Our 2014 independent evaluation of the program showed that Maker Corps brings together a great diversity of people and organizations into a cohesive community of learners and makers, while allowing for and ensuring that all programming is relevant to its audiences. This results in the best possible impact and reach.

Maker Ed recognizes and encourages a wide variety of making, and this diversity is reflected in the differences and uniqueness of maker programming offered at Maker Corps Host Sites around the nation. In connection with Maker Corps program goals, Maker Ed considers the following to be important elements of maker programs:

- Inclusion of hands-on, creative experiences for youth.
- Allowance for individual experimentation and for trial and error.
- Opportunities that allow for youth voice, such as projects that are youth-centered and youth-driven.

- Flexibility with timing, permitting youth to spend a short or long amount of time with the possibility of returning to a project.
- Targeted service of traditionally underrepresented youth (including gender, race, socio-economic status, rural communities and children with disabilities).
- Collaboration with other organizations in the region that extends the impact and reach of maker programming.

Program Components

Host Sites

Maker Corps Host Sites are non-profit organizations in the U.S., such as science centers, children's museums, schools, libraries, makerspaces, and other youth-serving agencies, able to provide safe, creative environments, with the personal and social support necessary for each child to have a rich making experience. Host Sites provide day-to-day supervision of **at least two Maker Corps Members** who will be employed at their site during the summer.

Maker Corps Members

Maker Corps Members come from a large variety of backgrounds and levels of experience. The majority of Maker Corps Members are (1) college students or teachers who were hired on for a summer job or (2) current staff who are passionate and committed to bringing making into their communities. At Host Sites, **Maker Corps Members should provide direct service making opportunities to youth and families, as well as develop new programs and ideas as Makers-in-Residence** to build the capacity of the organization. Maker Corps Members **MUST** be at least 18 years of age by April 30, 2015.

Summer Placements

Each Maker Corps Member serves **for 8-12 weeks, 20-40 hours per week** at a Host Site throughout the summer to develop and lead making experiences for youth and families.

Maker Corps Spring Training and Maker Corps Summer Workshops

Maker Ed hosts two series of formal trainings: (1) Maker Corps Spring Training takes place in April and May in asynchronous online sessions that equip Maker Corps Members with inspiration, connections, facilitation tips, and project ideas for their summer placements, and (2) Maker Corps Summer Workshops are online sessions held throughout June, July, and August to support Maker Corps Members and workshop any particular topics or challenges that arise. **Maker Ed also requires Host Site Supervisors to commit to a short training series in early spring** that helps them prepare to recruit, hire, and host Maker Corps Members.

Possibility Boxes

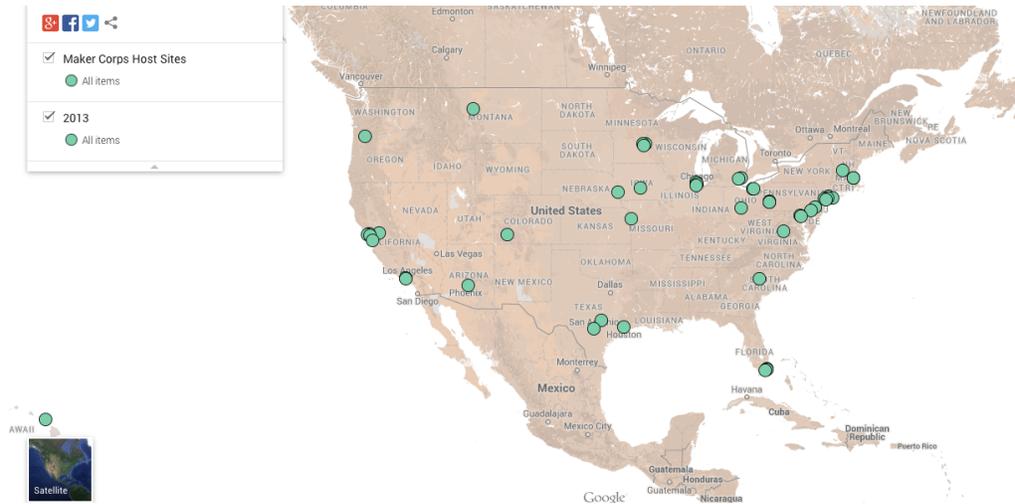
The Possibility Box is a physical box of curated materials and tools that Maker Corps Members receive prior to Maker Corps Spring Training. It is a key component of training and helps to spark exploration and foster the development of creativity and community among Maker Corps Members.

Maker Corps Community

Maker Corps Members are required to share their creations, processes, and ideas via frequent posts on the Maker Corps Community, currently hosted on the Google+ platform. In addition to this community, a national network and community are created amongst the Host Sites and Maker Corps Members, leading to new connections, strengthened relationships, and a spread of opportunities.

Maker Corps 2013 and 2014 sites

Fully interactive map available at makered.org/makercorps



II. APPLICATION AND PROGRAM COSTS

Maker Corps is a fee-based program. The following chart is a breakdown of the costs of the program for individual organizations:

Annual Institutional Budget	Program Fee
Under \$500,000	\$500
Between \$500,000 and \$1 million	\$1,000
Over \$1 million	\$2,000

Maker Corps Member Salaries

Each Host Site is required to pay at least 2 Maker Corps Members to work at their respective sites for 20-40 hours per week for 8-12 weeks of the summer.

Possibility Boxes

In addition to the Program Fee, each Host Site will be required to purchase Possibility Boxes for each of its Maker Corps Members. Any additional Possibility Box purchases are at the Host Sites' discretion. Each Possibility Box, at \$200 each, will be invoiced along with the program fee and shipped to Host Sites in the spring. Host Sites will be responsible for transferring Possibility Boxes to their Maker Corps Members. At the conclusion of the program, all Possibility Boxes should return to the Host Site.

Grants

With the generous support of Cognizant, Maker Ed is able to provide a small number grants (up to \$7000) to Host Sites, to cover the costs of Possibility Box(es) and/or Maker Corps Member salaries. For grant recipients, the program fee will be waived. Any Host Site may apply to be considered for the grants and will be asked, as part of the application, to provide further details.

Host Sites receiving a grant will be required to hire new Maker Corps Members, not utilize existing staff of the institution.

III. MAKER ED RESPONSIBILITIES:

For these program costs, Maker Ed will provide:

Professional Development:

Host Site Supervisors:

- Three required sessions of online training, covering recruitment, summer program facilitation, and managing unique summer staff. These sessions serve to support Host Site supervisors in providing quality experiences for their Maker Corps Members, as well as successful and sustainable summer making programs at their institutions.
- Monthly informal online sessions that serve to build community, share best practices and provide administrative-specific on-boarding for the Maker Corps program.

Maker Corps Members:

- Two series of formal online trainings: Maker Corps Spring Training to introduce, inspire, and provide practical suggestions for Maker Corps Members to develop making, facilitation, and documentation skills; and Maker Corps Summer Workshops to support and sustain Maker Corps Members as they work with their institution.
- Regularly scheduled, casual online sessions during the spring and summer. These open sessions serve to bring Maker Corps Members together to share and discuss their work in an informal format.

Communication:

- A national recruitment effort to bring in Maker Corps applicants.
- A robust online community where participants engage with professional development materials, connect with fellow Maker Corps Members, and share documentation of their respective projects and programs.
- A framework for Maker Corps Members and Host Sites to collaborate and network in smaller groups based on topic, geography and/or institution type.
- Highlighted media attention through Maker Ed's newsletter, blogs, and social media channels.

Program Support:

- Online toolkits for outreach, fundraising, and recruitment.
- Systems to track Maker Corps Members progress in the Maker Corps Spring Training and Summer Workshops, as well as their smaller cohorts and community, to send data to the Host Sites.
- Ongoing technical assistance and programmatic support to achieve common goals.
- A national evaluation of the Maker Corps program.
- An online Resource Library of program models, directory of spaces, research, and project ideas.
- National connections to and opportunities with maker educators, institutions, and Maker Ed network.
- Request-based site-specific check-in's with Maker Ed regarding maker program development and other related questions.
- End of summer program recognition.

Possibility Box:

- Highly curated, discounted tools and materials to be used for project development and professional development.
- List of suggested sources and items for projects.

IV. HOST SITE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Upon selection to participate in the Maker Corps program, Host Sites commit to the following:

Recruiting and Onboarding of Maker Corps Members:

- Onboarding of 2-5 paid Maker Corps Member staff positions (at a minimum of 2 Maker Corps Members) for 20-40 hours per week for 8-12 weeks, focused on bringing making to youth and families. Maker Corps Members should dedicate at least 50% of their time towards direct service and approximately 50% of their time towards service as a Maker-in-Residence.
- Recruiting and hiring of Maker Corps Members through the institution's standard HR practices, if institution decides to hire outside their organization. Maker Corps Members may be existing staff members of the organization, unless Host Sites receive a grant, in which they're required to hire anew.
- Activation of local recruiting efforts, utilizing site's own expertise and connections as well as Maker Ed's toolkits, including a blog post to be shared on Maker Ed's national blog for recruitment efforts.

Supervision of Maker Corps Members:

- Selection of a supervisor for the Maker Corps program. The selected supervisor must:
 - o Attend 3 sessions of supervisor-specific online training that will take place in March and April.
 - o Dedicate at least 5 hours per week in the summer to the Maker Corps program including:
 - Conducting regular check-ins with Maker Corps Members.
 - Posting and contributing to Maker Corps Communities.
 - Participating in Maker Corps Summer Workshops.
 - Documenting Maker Corps programs and projects.
 - Participating in Maker Ed-led evaluation of the Maker Corps program by responding to surveys in a timely manner.
- Assignment of a secondary staff contact whose information is provided to Maker Ed, in the case of unplanned staffing or organizational changes.
- Involvement of Maker Corps Members in the planning and execution of innovative programs as Makers-in-Residence.
- Provision of facilities and materials for Maker Corps Members to perform their work and fulfill Maker Ed's expectations.

V. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Maker Ed will launch the Maker Corps Host Site application for its 2015 program on **January 5, 2015**.

Submissions must be received via our online application by **5:00 PM PST on Friday, January 30, 2015**. Questions should be emailed to makercorps@makered.org

VI. TIMELINE:

Maker Corps Host Site Application

January 5, 2015 - Application Opens

January 30, 2015 - Application Closes

February 13, 2015 – Announcement of Selected Host Sites

March 6, 2015 - Payment or MOU (for grant recipients) Due

Supervisor Training and Site on-boarding

Early March through May– Release of spring timeline for Supervisor Training and Site Onboarding, Recruiting and Hiring, and Maker Corps Spring Training and Summer Workshops.

Summer Programs

June through August

Evaluation and Survey period

September

VII. PROGRAM FAQs

PROGRAM

How is the Clinton Global Initiative America involved?

Maker Corps was formulated as a national commitment towards building the next generation of innovators at the Clinton Global Initiative America Conference in June 2012 in Chicago, IL. President Clinton announced the commitment by Maker Education Initiative, Cognizant, and Intel to develop 50 partnerships, train 1000 Corps members, and serve 50,000 youth across 50 states by 2015. In 2014, Maker Ed was on stage with President Clinton to reaffirm our commitment to this important work. In its first two years, Maker Ed has served more than 140,000 children and families by placing over 200 Maker Corps Members in 50 youth serving organizations across 24 states.

How do I become a Host Site?

Maker Ed solicits new Host Sites in the winter of each year. A call for applications from sites will launch in January of 2015. Maker Ed will prioritize organizations that serve underrepresented youth among other criteria such as staff involvement, funding available, and quality of summer placements. Application information is available at MakerEd.org/MakerCorps.

Decisions for the 2015 program year will be made by February 13, 2015. Program fees for new and returning sites will be due on or before March 6, 2015.

PROGRAM FEES

My school, library, etc. is part of a larger organization. Is my program fee based on the annual budget of the larger organization?

The program fee is based on the Host Site's annual budget. If the Host Site is part of a larger set of organizations, such as a school district, library district, or university, the membership amount can be calculated based on the annual budget of the individual school, library, or university department/school.

Is my program fee tax deductible?

No. Host Sites are receiving a service in return for their membership fee; therefore, it is not considered a donation.

Can I make my own Possibility Box?

Maker Ed strongly discourages Host Sites from creating their own boxes. Maker Ed seeks deep discounts from vendors, buys in bulk, and curates contents of the box months in advance of the hiring of Maker Corps Members. The Possibility Box is one of the key components of a successful Maker Corps training for site staff and Corps Members. Host Sites and Maker Corps Members may supplement the Possibility Box with additional materials and tools, especially if familiarity with them is helpful in advance of summer programming.

How do I pay?

Included with the official letter of acceptance into the 2015 Maker Corps program will be an invoice and instructions for how to pay the program fee. Fees will be waived for grant recipients. Payments are due no later than March 6, 2015. As soon as Maker Ed receives an organization's signed payment, we will begin the onboarding and orientation process with the Host Site. Promotion of the Host Site, its summer placement opportunities, and recruitment of Maker Corps Member applicants will also begin nationwide in the early spring.

FUNDING

Who sponsors Maker Corps?

On the national level, Maker Ed receives generous support from Cognizant to implement Maker Corps. Maker Ed is a nonprofit organization that conducts additional fundraising activities to reach new communities and serve additional Host Sites each year. Locally, each Host Site is responsible for providing facilities, equipment, staff time for the supervision of Maker Corp Members, and meaningful paid placements for at least two part-time or full-time Corps Members.

Does Maker Ed offer fundraising assistance?

Maker Ed is eager to partner with organizations who want to collectively seek grant support from corporations and foundations; however, only requests that meet our mission and goals can be entertained. Maker Ed provides basic language to help your staff describe their relationship to our organization in funding requests. We also provide letters of support on a case by case basis. The Maker Education Initiative is a non-profit project of the Tides Center, Tax ID: 94-321-3100.