

Sample Questions – Rural

Name of applicant: _____ Date of interview: _____

Name of interviewer: _____

Introduce the program, briefly talk about what the year looks like.

1. How did you hear about our program?
 - a) What draws you to national service?
 - b) What is your interest in rural communities?
 - c) Tell us about your interests/experience with community-building.
3. What are your personal development/learning goals and expectations for your year in our program? How will this year help you reach your goals after finishing the program?
 - a) What do you want to do immediately after you complete your service here?
 - b) And in 3–5 years?
4. Please think about your most rewarding job or internship experience. Can you describe to us what you found rewarding?
5. Please describe the personal strategies you find most useful when working as a member of a team.

6. Please describe personal strategies that you use when you are working on your own to manage a project.

7. What skills do you contribute to any project?

8. Can you please tell us about a specific professional situation in which you had to be especially resourceful and creative in order to successfully advance a project?

9. Tell us about your ideal supervisor. What qualities make up your ideal supervisor?

10. Can you please tell us about a time when you experienced difficulties with a supervisor? How did you handle the situation?

11. Describe what your perfect experience in our program would look like. How would you spend your day? Week?

12. **Scenario 1:** You are placed in a fairly remote community with a supervisor who is new to his or her position. While your job description seemed fairly detailed, and all your questions were answered in the interview, it's become apparent since you've been in the community that your position is not nearly as well thought out as you assumed. The main project you thought you were working on doesn't seem to be a priority now, and you're not sure what the focus of your job really is, or even where to start. What would you do?

13. **Scenario 2:** You are at a public meeting on a topic that is somewhat divisive in your community. You are asked a question about the project you are working on. You are not fully informed on the topic and your supervisor is not there. What do you do?

14. **Scenario 3:** You are working for an organization that has an Executive Board and a Director. Your work plan describes numerous projects. Your direct supervisor, the Director, has stressed that two of these projects take top priority. The Board Chair has told you that another project should be your top concern. At the same time, there is an additional project that attracts you personally and is "*just what you have always wanted to do.*" How would you handle these competing interests for your time?

15. How would you reconcile yourself to completing your work if you don't agree with a project, yet it is supported by the community?

16. What would you describe as both the rewards and the challenges of living in a rural area?

17. A critical component of our program is the training curriculum we provide. What are some areas that you would like to receive training in?

18. Have you thought about how you are going to live on \$1,250?

19. What is your summer schedule? You will need to be available for (list projects or tasks and dates).to review community project applications for two weeks in mid-July.
 - a) When/where can you be reached? Is the information on your application correct?

 - b) Will there be any time during these weeks that you will be out of touch for more than a couple of days?

20. For your interview trip, we will cover the costs of a plane ticket, rental car, and hotel reservations. You will need to cover the costs of food and gas.

21. We may be contacting your references. Is that a problem?

22. Do you have any questions for me about our program?

23. (Notes on potential sites)