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Dear 2020 Corps Member,

Welcome to Dallas-Fort Worth and the 2020 corps! You are embarking on a journey of a lifetime where you will tackle necessary challenges, succeed mightily, build steadfast friendships, and be forever changed by your students. The time is now in Dallas-Fort Worth to make significant strides for our students, and you are going to be part of the most exciting education transformation movement in the country. We couldn’t be more excited to have you on board. We’ll be in touch regularly until you arrive at Institute and will support you consistently throughout your transition because you are officially part of our DFW family. Your commitment starts now as there is already a classroom of students in the Metroplex waiting for you. So let your enthusiasm for this opportunity build while you take a quick look at the realities of DFW corps members putting students on a different academic path. See you soon.

Sincerely,

Cary Wright
Why DFW?
Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the fastest growing regions in the country for a reason. After growing up on the East Coast and attending school in the Midwest, I sought a change of pace, lifestyle, and weather. DFW attracted me to its vibrant community full of diverse groups committed to making positive change. The region is also home to innovations across all types of fields and offers endless opportunities to grow as an educator both inside and outside of the classroom.

How are your leadership skills developing through your classroom experience?
I’ve learned to wear many hats as a leader in the classroom and in my school. Part of being a leader involves working together as a team, which strengthens my students’ autonomy and allows them to take ownership of their learning. Leading a classroom also means adapting to the ways in which my students learn best. We’re reading culturally relevant memoirs and using them to model our own personal narratives, which allows my students an engaging opportunity to focus on their reading and writing skills.
Whitney Holman
2013 DFW Corps
Human Capital Analyst at Deloitte

Why DFW?
Although I didn’t know at the time of my application, Dallas-Fort Worth was the perfect place to kick-start my work toward One Day. The scope and breadth of education initiatives across both Dallas and Tarrant County have attracted individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life to support efforts aligned to TFA’s mission. I’ve been excited by the DFW Metroplex’s diverse and robust community of advocates since moving to Dallas in 2013.

How has Teach For America impacted your career trajectory?
Teach for America has given me the tools and confidence to pursue an eclectic career path while continuing to support children and families impacted by the opportunity gap. In addition to tactical hands-on professional development trainings offered by the region, TFA has provided exposure to countless opportunities to learn about and get involved in various initiatives in our area. With the support of TFA, I was able to transition to a role outside of the classroom with confidence in my ability to make continued impact in our communities.

Ryan Buchanan
2011 Chicago Corps
Broker, Advisory and Transaction Services, CBRE

Why DFW?
Dallas-Fort Worth is a bustling metropole of economic growth, great weather, and leaders who care deeply about educational equity. Here, when you say you are a corps member, people show you appreciation. When you become a TFA alum in Dallas-Fort Worth, you can undoubtedly be a lifelong leader and advocate for educational change no matter what life path you take.

How has Teach For America impacted your career trajectory?
On my first day in real estate, my current boss told me, “If you can sell learning to students as a Teach For America teacher, you can sell anything.” Beyond being the keystone reason I have my current job, my TFA experience turned my career goals from being “me-focused” to being “we-focused”.

Joining our diverse network 1 Alums in the DFW region
What to expect during summer training.

- **What Is It?** Teach For America hosts training that takes place for 5-7 weeks during the summer and includes learning experiences and summer school teaching.

- **Where Is It?** Depending on your assignment, your training may be held in your placement region or in another city with corps members from multiple regions.

- **Am I paid?** Teach For America provides corps members' housing and meals, as well as some transportation. Corps members do not receive a salary during this time.

- **Where do I live?** During training, corps members typically share a dormitory with one or more of their fellow corps members.

- **Should my family come?** Family accommodations are available at each of our sites for dependents and caregivers. Teach For America covers some lodging costs for dependents and a single caregiver. Corps members are responsible for all other expenses, including family members' travel, meals, and childcare. Corps members are responsible for securing reliable childcare for dependents during all programming.

What Onboarding means to us.

Onboarding spans from when you accept your spot in the corps until you arrive in Houston for Institute. During this time, you will be working towards earning your Texas Intern Teaching Certificate. Your transition is important and we want you to feel supported every step of the way, but you are the driver of your own experience. You will be in contact with Teach For America staff during Onboarding who will assist you in creating a personalized plan to meet all requirements and feel prepared to arrive!

Please refer to the Teach For America Corps Member Handbook for information on the policies and expectations for all corps members. Please note that additional information about your specific institute’s policies and procedures will be released and communicated throughout the year leading up to institute.
Onboarding action items and timeline.

There are three major chunks of time during your Onboarding into the corps. While you won’t begin teaching your students until the fall, your commitment to them begins over the next few months as you prepare for the corps.

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<tr>
<th>Within 2 Weeks of Accepting Your Offer</th>
<th>Estimated Time Commitment: 6 hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Onboarding Expectations webinar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Diagnostic exam to prepare for TExES certification exam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Join Slack, Canvas, and Facebook group</td>
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<tr>
<th>Months Leading up to Pre-Service</th>
<th>Estimated Time Commitment: 1-2 hours per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enroll in one of DFW’s certification programs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Meet testing requirements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Attend Preview Weekend in DFW to meet certification requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Watch all onboarding webinars</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Complete Institute logistics action items</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>1 Month Before Pre-Service</th>
<th>Estimated Time Commitment: 15 hours</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Request degree conferred transcripts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Finish all testing requirements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Begin Institute pre-work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Get TB test &amp; physical</td>
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<td>• Complete fingerprinting &amp; background checks</td>
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• $119 TExES Test Fee (per exam - many corps members will need to take multiple exams)

FBI Background Check/Fingerprinting: $51
Intern certificate: $80

Moving Costs: $300
Furniture: $500
Setting up your classroom: $200

OUT OF STATE CREDENTIAL REVIEW (CERTIFIED CMs ONLY): $165
Transcripts (3 copies): $0-$75
Book Travel to Institute: ~$350

Housing Costs: $2500 (First & Last Month's Rent and Security Deposit)
Supplemental Food: $300

EDUCATOR PREP PROGRAM TUITION: $4,000-6,000***

*(covered primarily by AmeriCorps award if eligible, most corps members have under $1,000 out of pocket costs)

Standard Teaching Certificate: $80

Financial transition | Overview of costs

ESTIMATED TOTAL: $119
ESTIMATED TOTAL: $131
ESTIMATED TOTAL: $2,800
ESTIMATED TOTAL: $4,000-6,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL UP-FRONT CREDENTIALING COSTS: $325
ESTIMATED TOTAL HOUSING/TRANSITIONAL COST: $3,200
ESTIMATED TOTAL EPP COSTS: $4,000-6,000***
Transitional Funding

In addition to testing and certification, one of the most important pieces of your transition is planning for the financial transition of joining the corps. While Teach For America is not able to provide financial advice, as we are not financial advisers, we have pulled together resources and alumni tips that will assist you in planning for your transition.

Teach For America covers many of your major expenses during summer training (e.g. food, housing) for all corps members. We also offer a Need-Based program to help you with some of your transition expenses. Packages are granted based on a corps member’s demonstrated need and the cost of transitioning to your assigned region.

Please check your Applicant Center under the Transitional Funding tab to learn more about Need-Based Transitional Funding and how to apply. The deadlines for applying and other helpful information related to your transition can be found at the following link. Please copy/paste this link into your browser.
Can Teach for America - DFW be a financially viable option for me?
Yes. First-year teachers in Dallas-Fort Worth earn a salary starting of $50,000-54,000 which is among the top starting salaries across Teach For America regions. Additionally, DFW has become one of the fastest growing cities in the US in part due to a lower cost of living compared to most major cities. Please note that the salary has not yet been finalized for the 2020-21 school year, but typically only increases, if there is any change at all.

When should I find housing?
Most corps members find housing during Institute, as we strongly recommend getting to know the area as well as your school placement before finding housing. Corps members may explore housing options on the weekends during Institute. Some corps members prefer getting recommendations from current corps members and alumni, while others may begin their housing searches through DFW apartment locators. If landlords require proof of employment before the school year begins, our staff can provide you with a letter stating that you will be employed as a teacher.

Will I need a car? If I need to buy one, when and should I do this?
Yes. You will need a car to get around the DFW area. We suggest that you purchase/lease a vehicle prior to, or during, Institute, as it is helpful in getting around the DFW Metroplex.

Frequently asked questions

TEACHFORAMERICA
What are some ways I can get involved with the DFW community?

Dallas is one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, drawing in young professionals from across the country. Known as the number one visitor destination in Texas, Dallas is speckled with a vast array of shops, restaurants, historic buildings and museums. Whether on field trips with their students or unwinding on the weekend, corps members can explore the range of activities and sights that Dallas has to offer.

Fort Worth is known for its Texas hospitality, historic architecture, and western heritage. It is the 17th largest city in the nation, and was recently named one of the friendliest cities in America by readers of Conde Nast Traveler. The city offers great shopping, dining, family fun, outdoor attractions, and much more. Despite being known for its western feel, Fort Worth has a diverse range of activities for everyone.

What If I cannot attend Institute?

Institute is mandatory. Our summer training provides corps members with the tools necessary to be effective in the classroom on the first day of school. Additionally, the hours acquired in training will be required for certification. We understand that you may have pre-arranged, once-in-a-lifetime events that require you to miss a small amount of time during training, and you will submit this through an Institute Leave Request form that you will receive in the spring. All absences must be pre-approved by the Houston Institute team. If you would need to miss more than 48 hours during Institute, please let us know, as you may need to request a transfer to another summer institute training.
Will I have time off during the summer??

You should not expect to have any breaks in training once you arrive in Houston for Institute. Over the summer, you will be receiving essential professional development and the opportunity to teach your first group of students. These hours you acquire will go toward attaining your certification. You should expect to be in Texas from the start of institute throughout the entire summer.

Based on your district placement, you may have a short window of time off, but you should not plan for that. Many of our corps members go directly from summer Institute into their teaching position.
Thank You!

We believe your potential for impact is great and look forward to your leadership here in the Dallas Fort Worth region!