

Living It Up On an AmeriCorps Living Allowance

That's Entertainment?

Movie Theaters

Crest Cinema 206.363.6338 \$3.00
165th and 5th Avenues NE in Shoreline

Admiral Theaters 206.938.3456 \$3.00
2343 California Ave. SW in West Seattle

Alderwood Cinemas 425.776.3535 \$3.00
3501 184th SW in Lynnwood

Video Rentals

Broadway Video

813 E. Republican 206.328.5023
They have lots of classics for \$2,
documentaries for \$2, new movies for \$3.25
and the largest selection of gay/lesbian
movies in Seattle (\$3). One hour before
closing all rentals are \$1.75.

Scarecrow Video

5030 Roosevelt Way NE 206.524.8554
Movie watcher paradise—they have
everything you can imagine...and more!
Prices vary, some rare films may require
substantial down-payments.

Public Libraries

Remember: check your local libraries for
free videos.

Museums

Seattle Art Museum (SAM)

1st and University Downtown 206.654.3100

Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM)

Volunteer Park at 21400 E. Prospect
206.654.3100

SAM-1st Thursday of every month is FREE!
SAAM-1st Saturday of every month is
FREE!

These museums are “pay what you can”
everyday, so if you show up with a dollar,
they won't turn you away (unless there is a
special exhibit with an extra charge).

HOURS: 10 to 5 Tuesday through Sunday
except on Thursday when they are open
until 9 PM.

Frye Art Museum

First Hill at 704 Terry and Cherry
206.622.9250 They have a great European
collection and innovative exhibits. FREE!
Open Tues. – Sat. 10 AM to 5PM and Thur.
Until 9 PM; Sun. Noon until 5 PM.

Maritime Museum

Southend of Lake Union at 901 Fairview
Avenue N. 206.624.3028

They have ship models, paintings, artifacts
and historical photos. FREE! Open Mon.-
Sat. 11 AM to 7 PM; Sun. noon –5 PM.

History House

One block east of Fremont retail area at 790
N. 34th Street 206.675.8875

Huge mural display of photos from Seattle's
history. \$1 suggested donation. Open
Wed.-Sun. from noon –5 PM.

Museum of Flight

9404 E. Marginal Way S. (Exit 158 on I5)
206.764.5720

Incredible collection of planes
Open daily 10 AM-5 PM; Thur. Open until
9 PM. \$9.50 for adults, \$5 ages 5 to 17,

\$8.50 seniors. FREE the first Thur. evening of each month from 5-9 PM.

Theater

Volunteer as an usher at some of the playhouses and see plays for free! Contact: A Contemporary Theater, New Bathhouse Theatre and the Intiman. If you want to see a production at a theater, give them a call and check it out.

Seattle Repertory Theater (The Rep)
155 Mercer at Seattle Center 206.443.2222
If you are under 25, all tickets are \$10. The Rep also has Monday preview performances at reduced prices—call to find out when they are.

The New Bathhouse Theatre
7312 W. Greenlake Dr. N. (on the west shore of Greenlake) 206.328.4848
They will rush tickets for half price ten minutes before show time.

A Contemporary Theatre
7th and Union 206.292.7676
If you are under 25, all tickets are \$10.

Theater Schmeater
1500 Summit 206.729.4839

Northwest Actors Studio
1100 E. Pike St. 206.324.6328

Ethnic Cultural Theater
3940 Brooklyn Ave. 425.746.6604

TICKET/TICKET—Seattle's only Half Price Day of Show Ticket Outlet
206.324.2744

Tickets for theater, music, dance, comedy, and clubs sold half price with a small service fee. Matinee tickets available a day in advance, evening show tickets same day only. Must purchase them with cash, in person at the following locations:

Broadway Market
2nd Floor 401 Broadway E., Harrison and Republican

Parking validated for half hour with purchase under the market in garage Hours: Tues-Sat. 10 AM-7 PM and Sun. noon-6 PM
Pike Place Market, Information Booth 1st and Pike-downtown. Parking free for first half hour in market lot Mon.-Fri. Hours: Tues.-Sun. Noon-6 PM.

Parks and Recreation

Alki Beach
West Seattle Metro #37
Long stretch of beach great for biking, roller blading, walking, etc. with a great view of Seattle skyline across Elliot Bay. Coffee shops and restaurants nearby.

Discovery Park
3801 W. Government Magnolia
206.386-4236 Metro#33 or 19
Huge 500+ acre park with over 150 species of wildlife. The sunsets are free and it is a nice escape from the city. Also in the park is Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, the headquarters of United Indians of All Tribes with an art gallery and store. Hours Mon.-Fri 8:30 AM-5 PM/Sat. 10-5/Sun. noon-5 PM

Gas Works Park
On Lake Union just south of Wallingford. A perfect place to fly kites, have a picnic, play Frisbee, or just run around the 20 acres of green grass. Not directly accessible, by bus, but Metro's #26 will get you within a few blocks north of the park. The Burke-Gilman Trail goes directly to the entrance.

Golden Gardens
West of Ballard on Puget Sound. Beautiful sandy beach with an amazing view of the sunset and the Olympic Mountains. They also have fire pits, fishing pier and marina. Bus access only in summer.

Greenlake
North of Wallingford Metro buses #16, 27 or 48

Serene lake in the middle of the city with a 3 mile jogging/biking/roller blading loop all the way around. There is also a community center with a pool, basketball hoops, baseball diamond, tennis courts, playground and boat rentals. Close to Woodland Park which has soccer fields, tennis courts and tons of picnic places.

Volunteer Park

Capitol Hill in the Heart of Seattle Metro #7, 9 or 10. The home of the Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM), the Conservatory and 520 foot tall Water Tower with 106 steps to the top (the Space Needle is 725 feet). The 45 acre park also has a children's play space, tennis courts and various historical monuments.

While there, check out . . .

Lake View Cemetery

(1554 15th Avenue East—Open daily 9-6 PM). The graves of Seattle pioneers and Bruce Lee with his son, Brandon Lee. To find the Lee graves look for the 20 foot monument (looks like Washington Monument) and walk east from there.

WA Park Arboretum and Japanese Garden

206.543.8800 Metro #11
More than 200 acres of lush green trees, both native to the Pacific Northwest and exotic species. There are free guided tours departing from the Visitor Center at 1 PM on the weekends and tons of short trails throughout the Park. The Japanese Garden is on the west side of the park and costs \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for 6-18 year olds.

More FUN stuff—not so cheap

Woodland Park Zoo

5500 Phinney Ave. N. 206.684.4800 Metro #44, 5

The Seattle Zoo is a pioneer in open environment exhibits where animals live in natural settings with a minimum of fences.

FREE magnificent rose garden on the south side. Admission is \$9 for adults/\$8.25 for seniors/\$6.50 ages 6-17/\$4.25 ages 3-5. Hours (10-6 PM daily including holidays). Parking \$3.50.

Seattle Aquarium

1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59 just below Pike Place Market 206.386.4320

Over 366 species of fish, otters, seals, an underwater dome tank and diving birds. Visitors can watch diving birds being fed at 11 AM, fish at 1:30 PM and otters and seals at 11:30, 2 and 5 PM daily. Admission is \$8.50 for adults/\$7.50 for seniors/\$5.75 ages 6-18/\$3.75 ages 3-5. Discounts for King County residents and groups of 10 or more. Hours are 10 AM-7 PM daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. 10 AM to 5 PM daily during winter months.

Pioneer Square Underground Tours

1st Avenue and Yesler Way 206.682.4646.
Preserved beneath Pioneer Square is "Old Seattle." After the fire of 1889, the city was reconstructed above the ruins. The un-restored portion, called the "underground city" may be toured. Tour hours are 10 AM to 6 PM. Cost is \$8 for adults and payable by cash only at the box office in Pioneer Square.

On the Cheaper Side of Fun

Sunset Bowl 1420 NW Market in Ballard 206.782.7310 Metro #44 Only \$1.74 a game on Monday nights Rent a lane for \$8 an hour Sunday nights.

Lighthouse at Alki Point 206.217.6124
Open Sat., Sun. and holidays from Noon to 4 PM. Call for tour info.

Arcade at Seattle Center

Cheap and fun, pinball will do that for ya!
Pier 66 (Bell Street Pier). Good views

Ballard Locks

300 NW 54 and Market Way. Free with adjacent English Gardens. You can watch sailboats and ships in the locks and fish ladder and no cost. Free concerts on Sunday.

Archie McPhee's 2428 Market NW
206.297.0240 www.mcphee.com Crazy, silly things and dirt cheap. Open 7 days a week. It is FREE to look!

Washington Ferries-Pier 52/Colman Dock
206.464.6400. Costs less if you walk on. Ride through the San Juan Islands, take a bike to explore an island.

Smith Tower
506 2nd Ave Downtown 206.622.4004
\$4 adults to go up what used to be the tallest Seattle building. Hours 10Am to 6 PM

Specifically Summer Fun

Seattle Peace Concerts
206.729.5232 www.seapeace.org These FREE concerts feature an eclectic range of music by local artists throughout Seattle.

Woodland Park Zoo Tunes
206.615.0076
Wednesday night outdoor concert series July and August. Call for admission prices and times.

Shakespeare in the Park
206.748.1551 www.greenstage.com The play's not the only thing when you attend a performance of Shakespeare in the park. There's the sun, grass, fresh air, your blanket, your basket of cheese and fruit... FREE performances July – September.

Jetty Island

10th Street and Marine Park, Everett
425.257.8300 FREE ride to a constructed island ¼ mile off the Everett waterfront. Take a class or have a camp fire. Only available in the summer months.

GETTING ACTIVE

Bicycle and Running/Jogging Routes

Burke-Gilman Trail:

25 miles from Fremont to Redmond, smooth pavement, beautiful scenery, very few hills. FREE bike map 206.684.7583 Cascade Bicycle Club 206.522.2453 or <http://cascade.org/cbc.html>

Cheap bike stores:

Recycled Cycles 1007 N. Boat St.
Second Bounce 513 N. 36th St.

Seattle Parks Information

www.metrokc.gov/park.

Seward Park

in SE Seattle

Myrtle Edwards Park

between Pier 70-90

Greenlake 2.8 miles

Northwest Running Community

www.ontherun.com

Fitness Clubs/Gyms

YMCA

206.382.5010 Reduced membership at the downtown YMCA based on your AmeriCorps income, you will qualify for a membership at \$12 a month. Reduced fees for adults living together or married.

Seattle Central Community College

A terrific gym that you can join for very little if you are taking a class there (many computer classes that VISTAs might need are offered there), plus they have community memberships for \$90 for two months.

Hiking and Boating

REI

222 Yale Avenue N. 206.470.4020

Go to the second floor for hiking information on the many trails within a short drive from Seattle. You can also get hiking passes here.

U of W Canoeing

Waterfront dock below the Husky Stadium. Rent canoes at the U of W for \$4-6 per hour. If you have a friend with a UW Student ID, it's even cheaper.

Agua Verde Paddle Club

1303 NE Boat Street 206.545-8570. Cheap kayak rentals.

Greenlake Boat Rentals

7351 E. Green Lake Drive N. 206.527.0171
Paddle boats, kayaks, row boats and canoes.
Hours 10 AM-6PM daily.

Swimming Pools

A cheap, sustainable way to work out, soak in a hot tub and meet new people. Check your local white pages for public schools.

BOOKS AND LITERATURE

Libraries

Check your phone book or look on the web for your local libraries. Seattle has it's own library system, the rest of King County is served by the King County Library System.

Bookstores

Barnes and Noble Booksellers/Borders Books and Music

(check phone book for sites) They both have some cheap books (even hardbacks) on their clearance tables. Hardbacks can be as little as \$3 for classics titles. Both stores also have a calendar of free readings by authors and live music. These stores are also great places to browse—comfy chairs, aisles and aisles of books on everything you could imagine. Some have cafes too.

Independent Book Stores

Elliott Bay Bookstore

1st Avenue S. and S. Main St. Pioneer Square, downtown 206.624.6600 High-brow and middle-brow stuff. Free readings by some authors promoting their books. You may have to go in ahead of time to reserve/pick up tickets. The bookstore publishes its monthly listing of events which includes lots of book readings by well-known authors. They also have a nice café downstairs.

Bailey-Coy

414 Broadway East (Capitol Hill) 206.323.8842 Large collection of gay/lesbian fiction. Check for special events and readings.

University Bookstore

4326 University Way NE, on the "Ave" 206.634.3400 Several locations, the main branch and the biggest in the University District. They have good deals on their bargain tables, readings by authors, huge gift

shop, art and writing supplies, large children's book section and music.

Used Bookstores-they're the best and they're all over the place!

Usually not as organized as regular book stores, but they have character and they're cheap. A few of them are listed below. You can sell your used books to them, however, don't expect to get very much for them.

Check out

<http://www.eskimo.com/~recall/seattle.html>
for ALL used bookstores in Seattle

Half Price Books Records Magazines

4709 Roosevelt Way NE 206.547.7859
There are six other stores around greater Seattle. They have software and CDs too.

Left Bank Books

92 Pike Street at the Market 206.622.0195
Excellent selection of new and used radical titles. Good bulletin boards for community events.

Twice Sold Tales

905 E. John (Capitol Hill), 1311 NE 45th (U District) and 3504 Fremont N. Small stores, but cozy atmosphere...some even have cats roaming among the books.

AmeriCorps Book Club

Okay, so this doesn't exist yet, but wouldn't it be a great idea? If you want to start one, your program director will have a listing of other AmeriCorps members in your city or county. This is a great way to meet new people and even create some unique networking possibilities. The libraries also have book clubs as well as ideas for group discussions on books. Check it out!

PAINT THE TOWN RED

Happy Hour and Yummy Eats

This is a great way to get out in the city and see new places while eating a cheap meal – you can always call and ask about their Happy Hour prices and times.

Art Bar

1516 Second Ave. 206.622.4344 They boast the longest happy hour in town with well drinks and microbrews. 4-9PM Monday thru Friday 6 to 9 PM Saturday and all day Sunday.

Dragonfish Asian Café

722 Pine St. 206.467.7777 Dim sum and two happy hour specialty drinks created each week. 3-6 PM daily and 10 PM to 1 AM nightly.

Flowers Bar and Restaurant

4247 Univ. Way. Pasta, meats, vegan, everything at a good price in a casual atmosphere...

Racha's Noodles & Thai Cuisine

537 1st Ave Priced right Thai food for both carnivores and vegetarians.

Broadway New American Grill

314 Broadway E. Happy hour held in back of bar. Beverages \$1.50-\$3 2-6PM Sun-Thurs

Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery

1333 5th (in downtown). 206.623.3070 Happy hour is from 4-6 PM Monday-Friday. There is a huge outdoor patio and EVERYTHING is \$2 (drinks, food, everything)!

Tia Lou's

2218 1st (Belltown). 206.733.8226 Happy hour is Tuesday-Saturday from 5-7 PM in the Lico Lounge. You can get

Margarita's and some appetizers for \$3/ea. There is a huge rooftop deck.

Hiram's At Lock's

5300 34th NW (in Ballard). 206.784.1733 Half-price bar menu and \$1 off draft beers from 4-6 and 9-11 PM daily!

McCormick and Schmick's

(3 different locations-look in the phone book). Everyday 4-6 and 10-12PM extensive \$1.95 bar menu (drinks are regular price).

Luigi's Grotto

102 Cherry (downtown) 206.343.9517 M-F 4-7 PM...everything is cheap.

Liquid Lounge

325 Fifth N (at EMP). 206.770.2777 M-F, from 4-7 PM, well drinks and appetizers are \$3 and draft beers are \$2.50.

Brewery and Winery Tours

St. Michelle Winery Tour

Woodinville 425.488.1133 Free tour with taste test. The grounds and buildings there are beautiful, and the grape pickers have their own union, so it's finally politically okay to go there. Call for clear automated driving directions. Hours: 10 AM to 4:30 PM daily. Tours every half hour and last 45 minutes.

Pyramid Breweries Alehouse

1010 1st Ave. S. 206.682.3377 Free tours Monday through Friday 2 to 4 PM, Sat. and Sun. 1, 2, and 4 PM. Tour lasts 45 minutes.

Red Hook Tour

Woodinville 14300 NE 145th 425.483.3232 Tour includes four samples, glass and a walking tour with history. \$1 charge. Hours: Mon-Fri. at 1, 3 and 5 PM., Sat. and Sun. Noon until 5 PM.

NECESSITIES IN LIFE

Health

Although AmeriCorps members receive some health care coverage, it may not cover everything you need. The following are just a sample of the resources available to you. As with all bargain searching, it takes time. Be patient and ask lots of questions. You may also call the Crisis Clinic at 206.461.3222 for more ideas or for places closer to you.

Mental Health

Bastyr University Natural Health Clinic
206.632.0354 or 206.364.1046
Senior students at this teaching clinic provide counseling and naturopathic services. Sliding scale.

Lutheran Counseling Network
NOT a religious counseling service. They contract out to providers around the area. Sliding scale.

Presbyterian Counseling
206.527.2266 NOT a religious counseling service. They contract out. Sliding scale

Washington Women in Need
425.451.8838 1412 112th NE, Bellevue.
Although located on the Eastside, they have contracts with physicians and counselors throughout the Seattle area. They have dental, vision, counseling and annual exams covered under various grants. Applications take 8-10 weeks to process. When access to one program is granted, women can access all of the available services

Vision

Having a hard time reading this #12 font? You may need to have your eyes checked—not an easy feat on an AmeriCorps living allowance.

Eyes Rite Vision Clinic

206.622.9598 Call for an appointment.
\$45 for an exam, glasses start at \$5

Optometric Center of Seattle

206.325.1100 172 20th ,Seattle 98122
Sliding scale. On an AmeriCorps monthly allowance it will be approximately \$35 for an eye exam with glasses starting at \$50.

Haircuts and Salons

If you don't mind students working on you, there are some good choices. Don't worry, hair grows back soon.

Greenwood Academy of Hair

206.782.0220 85th and Greenwood

Gene Juarez Academy of Beauty

1.800.230.3636 North Seattle

Seattle Central Community College School of Cosmetology

206 587.5477 Pike & Harvard Metro #7, 9 or 10. Haircuts are \$8.50 and there are cheap pedicures and manicures.

Grocery Stores

As you may imagine, there are tons of stores in a city as large as Seattle. Listed below are some of the stores that more commonly have good deals. Remember creativity is important when finding bargains. This may also be a good opportunity to explore new neighborhoods.

Chains—these stores are the major chains you will probably have in your 'hood. They all have their own brands.

QFC—known for good produce and a “higher quality” (and price) of groceries.

Safeway—cheapest of the big chains.

Albertson's—great bakery.

PCC Puget Sound Consumer Co-op, which you can join. You can find many organic foods and vitamins and supplements under one roof. If you pay with food stamps they will give you member prices.

Others:

- **Central Co-op** 1835 12th Ave. on Capitol Hill-12th and Denny
- **City Greens** 45th and 12th NE in the U-District, 2 blocks from the “Ave.” This store has lots of produce, organic foods, lots of specialty health foods and a walk-in wine and beer cold room.
- **McPherson’s** 12th and Beacon on Beacon Hill
- **Rising Sun Produce** 65th and 15th NE in Ravenna. Lots of fresh and seasonal fruits and veggies in this outside corner market.
- **Trader’s Joe’s** 100 West Galer on Queen Anne Hill. Also stores are in Burien, Kirkland and Bellevue. This is a California chain that sells specialty, gourmet and ethnic foods at very good prices. Lots of cheeses, pastas, sauces, crackers, frozen entrees, dressings, etc. Does not accept food stamps.
- **United Grocers** has cash and carry stores that will sell to the public. No checks or credit cards.
- **Bakery Thrift Stores**—Just baked goods, but lots of them and cheap.
- **Gai’s Northwest Bakery** runs a number of these throughout the city. 13102 Stone Way N,
1760 4th South and 21504 84th South.
- **Entenmann’s Orowheat Thrift Store** 9578 1st NE
- **Interstate Brands (mmm, Twinkies)** on 20th and Jackson. Call 322.4242 for other locations.

In general a good place to get cheaper produce is the International District (south of downtown). Some of the items may be foreign to you, but it could be a great opportunity to learn about a new culture through its cuisine. Explore new things!

Clothing/Retail

Living on a small AmeriCorps/Vista living allowance doesn’t leave a lot of left over spending money for clothes. This year branch out and seek out the incredible finds at thrift sores, consignment shops, clearance racks, and even garage sales in the spring and summer. Also think about these places when trying to furnish your house/apt. Please don’t consider this list as the only places to go—there are tons of places, explore, ask around, look in the Yellow Pages. Good Luck!

Downtown Retail—The Bon Marche often has clearance, discontinued, or out-of-season stuff in their basement. Try the Nordstrom Rack on 2nd and Pine for cheaper clothing and a large shoe selection. Otherwise, practice window shopping.

Second Hand Thrift Stores—yeah, a little picked over, and it takes a little more time, but have patience and you may find treasures and unique items. Buying from these stores also helps the organizations that run them.

- **Children’s Hospital Second Hand Store** 2026 3rd Ave. 206.448.7609
- **Chicken Soup Brigade** 2501 S. Jackson, 4542 University Way, 1508 11th

- **Value Village** (all over Puget Sound). Best time to go is during their 50% off sales-holiday weekends.
- **Goodwill** Rainier S. and Dearborn. Huge store with an outlet store next door selling \$1 per lb. Of clothing. They also have tons of electronics, household items, and even a museum.
- **Salvation Army** 110 4th S., 4th and Royal Brougham, near Safeco Field
- **Thriftko** 85th and Greenwood
- **Shop & Save** all over Puget Sound

Second Hand Sporting Goods—these are excellent places to get sporting equipment especially if you just want to try something new or you just need some boots for the weekend hiking trip.

- **Second Bounce** 513 N. 36th in Fremont 206.545.8810. New and used specialty outdoor equipment. They buy, trade and consign high quality gear.
- **2nd Base** 1101 E. Pine 206.325-BASE They buy, sell, and trade used sports equipment. They also have rentals.
- **Sports Replay** 5421 196th SW in Lynnwood 425.775.4088. New and used skis, boots, packs, tents and climbing gear.
- **Play It Again Sports** 901 E. Pike 206.329.8605. They buy, sell, trade and consign used and new sporting goods—tons of stuff for tons of different sporting activities.

Recommended Reading on Living Cheaply:

- Elaine St. James has written several books with tips on cutting your expenses.
- Ernest Callenback, Living Cheaply with Style
- Amy Dacyszyn, The Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle
- Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin, Your Money or Your Life
- Duanne Elgin, Voluntary Simplicity

End Note and Good Journey

This guide to living and having fun on an AmeriCorps living allowance was a joint project by many people involved in the AmeriCorps programs at the Fremont Public Association. Gretchen Bruce, Kari Serkland and Anastasia Diamond did the majority of researching and compiling of information. Please keep in mind that this guide is only a beginning so keep your eyes open for other great deals in the Seattle-King County area. Have a great AmeriCorps/VI STA year and good luck in your search for cheap living.

Updated 7/00 by Joe Hankins and Doris Katagiri