

March -April 2007 Training News



Greetings National Service Partners!

This bi-monthly training newsletter provides information you will need for planning ahead to attend upcoming trainings and conferences to support your professional development. Selected training resources and grant deadlines are also listed. This issue features several opportunities for obtaining trainings for the Florida Volunteer Administration Certification.

Please note: If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any Volunteer Florida-sponsored training, please contact Dee Wilder with your request at 850-410-3452 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

Training News and Upcoming Events

VOLUNTEER CENTER NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES for Florida Volunteer Administration Certification training:

- **United Way of Palm Beach County Volunteer Center** begins the series in March as follows:
 1. 3/30/07 – Understanding Volunteering
 2. 4/20/07 – Planning Your Volunteer Program
 3. 5/18/07 – Recruiting & Placing Volunteers
 4. 6/22/07 – Orienting & Training Volunteers
 5. 7/27/07 – Supervising Volunteers
 6. 8/24/07 – Evaluating Your Volunteer Program

Visit the Volunteer Center website at www.unitedwaypbc.org for more information.

- **Friendship Volunteer Center in Sarasota** is offering the Volunteer Administration training series all day on 3/8/07 and 3/15/07. To register, contact Dennis Stover at 941-556-3224.
- **Event: VolunteerWay of Charlotte County** is hosting its Kick-Off on April 18 at Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Center, 1734 Cedarwood Street, Port Charlotte, FL, from 5:00 – 6:30p.m. For information, contact Director Linda Dobson at 766-8400 or linda@unitedwayccfl.org.

Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - TOPICAL CALL for AmeriCorps Program Directors to discuss National AmeriCorps Week, provide policy updates, and follow up on the Leadership in Action Training (provided in February). The call will be offered twice: from 11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon and again from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact your Volunteer Florida Program Consultant for details and **PLEASE Mark Your Calendars and plan to join this call!**

March 13-14, 2007 - Columbia, SC - Midlands Technical College will host a PK-16 Educators and Administrators Conference on, "Improving Student Retention through Civic Engagement and Economic Development." Included is a Grant Writing Seminar where attendees will learn strategies for writing successful grant proposals. Also find out about the next Learn and Serve (2006-2009) funding cycle and apply for conference mini-grants. To learn more, see earglen@midlandstech.edu

March 15, 2007- Proposals are due for the International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Community Engagement on October 7-9 at USF in Tampa, FL. The conference will showcase current exemplary research on service-learning and engaged scholarship. The University of South Florida, Florida State University, Miami Dade College, the University of Central Florida, and the University of Miami, in conjunction with Florida Campus Compact will host the conference focusing on "Sustainability and Scholarship: Research and the K-12 Continuum." <http://ga1.blue/ct/D12--AS11aBF/>

March 14-17, 2007 Hands on Network Leadership Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana; visit <http://ga1.org/ct/1p2--AS1RjSS/>

March 28-31, 2007 The National Service-Learning Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico - the largest gathering of youth and practitioners from the service-learning movement that will focus on service-learning as a way of teaching and learning that builds academic skills and citizenship while addressing community needs in a genuine way. To learn more, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/nd2--AS18qC3/>.

April 11-13, 2007 NATIONAL MENTOR RECRUITMENT TRAINING in Nashville, Tennessee, as a part of "Mobilizing New Mentors through Faith- and Community-Based Collaborations." This training will assist and challenge mentoring programs to explore avenues for recruiting new mentors, particularly through faith- and community-based collaborations. Visit <http://ga1.org/ct/t12--AS1jQ3y/>

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Disaster Training News!

March 17, 2007 *Help Thy Neighbors Volunteer Center* in Milton, Florida, is offering a free workshop to provide hands-on training to prepare citizens to set up and operate a disaster volunteer center in their community. The Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) training will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, at the Bagdad Community Center on Pooley Street in Bagdad. Lunch will be provided by the Bagdad Waterfronts Partnership. **To attend, you MUST REGISTER** by e-mailing srcvolunteercenterdirector@mchsi.com, or call Denise Garner at (850) 983-5223.

April 21, 2007 Volunteer Reception Center Training and "Exercise" in Navarre at the Navarre Senior Center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register by e-mailing srcvolunteercenterdirector@mchsi.com, or call Denise Garner at (850) 983-5223.

Reminder: All Florida AmeriCorps Members are required to complete American Red Cross "Introduction to Disaster Services." This training is available online at: <http://www.redcross.org/>. Click on the gold "Volunteer" button at the left. Find the section called "Get Started Now!" and click the blue "Introduction to Disaster Services" link.

Are you recruiting AmeriCorps members? Have you contacted your local Volunteer Center to assist you with recruitment? Consult a previous AmeriCorps Program Directors Handbook for a list of Volunteer Centers or contact your Volunteer Florida Program Consultant for information!

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Service Days and Events:

May 13-20, 2007: MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for the first-ever **National AmeriCorps Week**. AmeriCorps members, alums, programs, partners and friends will come together to highlight the impact made by corps members in communities throughout our nation, to mark the historic milestone of the 500,000th AmeriCorps member, and to ask Americans to make a commitment to service. The goals are to: 1) Demonstrate the impact and scope of AmeriCorps across America, 2) Motivate Americans to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities, 3) Unite AmeriCorps members, alums, and programs in a national celebration of service, 4) Thank AmeriCorps members and alums for their service, and 5) Salute the community partners that make AmeriCorps possible. Watch for a comprehensive toolkit to be posted on the Volunteer Florida and the AmeriCorps website with project ideas, promotional items and media materials, or contact scott@volunteerflorida.org.

NATIONAL SERVICE CALENDAR, SEASONS of SERVICE and UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 31, 2007 Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning - www.chavezfoundation.org

April 2007 (month) – **FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH** – Watch for updates at www.volunteerflorida.org

April 15-21, 2007 National Volunteer Week - www.pointsoflight.org

April 20-22, 2007 National & Global Youth Service Day - www.YSA.org, www.gysd.org

April 22, 2007 Earth Day - www.earthday.org

May (month) - National Family Month; <http://ga1.org/ct/Zd2--AS1RBAG/>

May 1 - 7 - Be Kind to Animals Week; <http://ga1.org/--ct/Fp2AS1RBAU/>

May 8 - National Teacher Day; http://ga1.org/ct/_72--AS1RjSb/

May 5 - Join Hands Day; www.joinhandsday.org

June 3 - 10 - National Neighbor Works Week; <http://ga1.org/ct/Ap2--AS1RjS7/>

June 5 - World Environment Day; <http://ga1.org/ct/x72--AS1RjSG/>

October 17 – Disability Mentoring Day; www.abletrust.org/ndmd

Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:

January 1 through August 1, annually – **Applications accepted for Grants for Disabled Youth Programs** The Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations for new ideas and approaches to providing services and for equipment. Preference is given to small organizations that might not otherwise be helped. <http://www.iwpcf.org/>

April 1, 2007 Deadline for **CRIME PREVENTION GRANTS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL & GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY PROJECTS** The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will award grants of up to \$500 each to support youth-led service-learning projects that address or prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse in schools and communities for National & Global Youth Service Day 2007 (April 20-22). These grants are intended to encourage and promote crime prevention, community service, and civic responsibility. To learn more, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/d12--AS17QfM/>

May 14, 2007 **Deadline for applications for YSA YOUTH VENTURE** The Youth Service America/Youth Venture Program is a unique partnership between Youth Service America and Youth Venture that helps youth engage in community service and develop as young social entrepreneurs. YSA Youth Venture provides funding and support to young people (ages 12-20) who want to create new, sustainable, civic-minded organizations, clubs or businesses called Ventures. For an application or more information, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/i72--AS1pBBT/>

Ongoing - Volunteer Florida can help if you need **FUNDING FOR A MEMBER WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION** to successfully complete his or her term of service. Contact Paul Martell at 850-414-0093 or paul@volunteerflorida.org to discuss funding for reasonable accommodations.

Resources:

REGISTER FOR ACT! SPEAK! BUILD! WEEK - April 16-22,2007 Act! Speak! Build! Week is Habitat for Humanity's international, student-initiated week of advocacy. Act! Speak! Build! Week empowers young people to educate themselves and their communities and move people to social action. Young people, ages 5 to 25, work in partnership with local affiliates to plan and host events. To learn more, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/112--AS1RjSq/>

DID YOU KNOW? Colleges that match the national service Education Award can be found at www.lifetimeofservice.org.

Connecting with Kids: Communication Strategies for Volunteers Do your volunteer mentors and tutors sometimes struggle to communicate effectively with youth? Do they need advice for handling delicate situations or responding to inappropriate behavior? Check out the latest issue of The Tutor newsletter: [Connecting with Kids: Communication Strategies for Volunteers](#). Created by **LEARNS** and housed at The Resource Center, The Tutor provides volunteers with concrete communication strategies that can enhance their relationships with youth, build young people's critical thinking skills, and boost cognitive and literacy skills. LEARNS provides training and technical assistance to Corporation-funded programs that focus on education, tutoring, mentoring, literacy, and out-of-school time. Find more LEARNS resources and information at [The Resource Center](#).

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES from the Hands on Network to assist with planning and implementing service projects are now available at the Corporation for National and Community Service Resource Center. Two new effective practices are: "Mapping Your Volunteer Project" and "Deciding On the 'Right' Volunteer Project for Your Program." To learn more, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/z72--AS11aXq/>

BE THE CHANGE! CHANGE THE WORLD. CHANGE YOURSELF. In this book hundreds of people reveal how they find meaning and transform their lives by helping others. Edited by Hands On Network co-founder and CEO Michelle Nunn, *Be The Change!* reveals how service can change not only the world, but also an individual's life. To learn more, visit <http://ga1.org/ct/172--AS1RjSz/>

Youth Service: A Strategy for Youth and National Development, published by Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP) and the Children & Youth Unit of the World Bank, examines how youth can envision themselves as agents of change and assets for their countries' futures. Also discussed is how youth service programs can transcend social divides and build bonds of trust. Go to: <http://www.iccp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=9&gr=Y&path=&file=CY+youth+notes+is+sue+2+with+ICP+logo.pdf>

BEST PRACTICES CD RELEASED! LEARN & SERVE AMERICA, "YOUTH ORGANIZED FOR DISASTER ACTION (Y.O.D.A.)" - - The Institute for Global Education & Service-Learning has released a Y.O.D.A. Best Practices CD that contains a Best Practices Guide with activities and information for beginning a service-learning program; Interdisciplinary Webs; Service Learning Checklists and Evaluation Tools. For a free copy of the CD, e-mail YODA@igesl.org.

Free Guide on How to Recruit and Engage Spanish Speaking Volunteers - From the Points of Light Foundation & the Volunteer Center National Network. 1-800-Volunteer.org has developed a free guide on how to outreach to and engage Spanish-speaking volunteers, including translated letters to local clergy, and a listing of where to find local Spanish media outlets. Download the guide at: http://www.1-800-volunteer.org/ma/Resources/1800Vol_Recruiting_Latino_rev1.pdf.

Tried-and-True Resources for Member Development - EnCorps, a new Web collection of tools and strategies for member development, is now available at www.nationalservice.gov/resources under "Featured National Service Resources." The easy-to-use collection offers program directors a way to build their organizational capacity using materials and methods that have worked for a variety of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA programs in rural and urban locations. For a sample, click on the links below:

[Member recruitment](#)

[Member orientation](#)

[Member training and development](#)

[Preparing members for the transition from service](#)

EVALUATION RESOURCES for AmeriCorps State & National programs are now available at The Resource Center. These materials are designed to assist AmeriCorps programs with planning and conducting an evaluation that meets the criteria described in the AmeriCorps Rule. If your AmeriCorps program is planning to re-compete in program year 2007, it's not too soon to begin the planning process. Discover how to become a consumer of evaluation - learn to plan for an evaluation, to monitor its progress and, ultimately, to benefit from meaningful evaluation results. Also included is a link to the Corporation's web page of frequently asked questions on the topic of evaluation. You may **contact Project STAR toll-free at 1-800-548-3656.**

The **Corporation for National and Community Service** is working hard to build stronger working relationships with State Commissions and local AmeriCorps programs. To support this effort, they **are seeking "Stories of Service" to feature that are authored by AmeriCorps members.** Please consider adding a story and check out their website at www.americorps.org. Spread the word: Potential AmeriCorps members can apply online and AmeriCorps programs can post opportunities at www.americorps.org.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF.....

Volunteer Florida wants your help identifying **Best Practices** in national service programs that can be shared to help other programs learn from your experiences. Please submit best practices along with articles, web sites, or other innovative resources to me or contact me at dee@volunteerflorida.org. Thank you!

Dee Wilder
Program Development and Training Manager
www.volunteerflorida.org

This training newsletter is available in alternative formats, i.e., Braille, large print and audiocassette. Please contact Paul Martell at 850-414-0093 with your request.