

July - August 2008 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. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** to attend the upcoming Volunteer Florida – sponsored AmeriCorps and National Service trainings in September and November.

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

Training News and Upcoming Deadlines & Events

SAVE THE DATES:

September 10, 2008 - FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR ALL AMERICORPS PROGRAMS at the University of Phoenix in Jacksonville. The CNCS National Training and Technical Assistance provider, Walker & Co., will provide all-day training for AmeriCorps program directors and lead agency Financial Officers from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Topics are “Financial Reports,” “Match and In-Kind Contributions,” Grants Management (general),” and “Common Audit Findings.” Volunteer Florida will provide lunch to registered participants, while AmeriCorps programs are required to pay their own travel expenses. If you desire to participate and your program is further than 150 miles from Jacksonville, you may request lodging by contacting me at dee@volunteerflorida.org. Watch for online registration information for this training in August.

September 11, 2008 – DISABILITY INCLUSION TRAINING for AmeriCorps Program Directors AmeriCorps State programs who have not participated in the contractually-required disability trainings can attend this half-day workshop and receive two of the three required trainings. Trainings will begin at 8:30 am and end by 12:30 pm. ADVANCE REGISTRATION is required and lunch will be provided. Watch for online registration information for this training in August.

September 24-26, 2008 – New AmeriCorps Program Director Orientation at location to be determined. Volunteer Florida will provide training, lodging and meals for new AmeriCorps programs and their financial staff. Programs are responsible for their own travel expenses and should **arrive at the meeting by 2:00 pm on Wednesday, September 24**. Breakfast and lunch will be provided each day of the training, and the meeting will conclude after lunch on Friday, September 26. The Online registration site will be available August 4, 2008.

November 10-12, 2008 – **SAVE THE DATE** for the final required quarterly 2008 AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting to be held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando. The theme of this meeting is “Building Communities from the Inside-Out,” with a focus on planning for sustainability through community partnerships with Disability Organizations and other key partners. This contractually-required meeting *begins at 6:00 pm on November 10 with a joint AmeriCorps and Volunteer Florida Inclusion Council dinner meeting. Registration tentatively opens at 4:00 p.m. at the Rosen Centre. PLAN TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. ON MONDAY.* Watch for online registration in early September.

LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS trainers will want to see **the new tool, "What's Next?"** an online tutorial to help members plan their transition to work. See <http://nationalserviceresources.org/ac-next>.

CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES are available from the USA Freedom Corps Task Force on New Americans to help Immigrant-serving organizations or volunteers find volunteer opportunities, locate ESL classes and embrace American civic culture. Visit www.usafreedomcorps.gov/newamericans, and type in your zip code to locate assistance and/or trainings near you. To find courses offered online by the Center for Applied Linguistics, see <http://www.elciviconline.org/>

EnCorps is a set of online resources for AmeriCorps and VISTA program staff targeting **member recruitment, placement, orientation, ongoing training, and transitioning beyond their year of service**. To view this collection of The Resource Center, www.nationalservice.gov/resources, contact EnCorps at encorps@nwrel.org or 1-877-250-1615 for more information.

Organized Communities AND Stronger Schools, a Preview of Research Findings - The Community Involvement Program has released a report highlighting the impact of community organizing for school reform on student outcomes. Data suggest that COMMUNITY ORGANIZING (page 21) supports, expands and contributes to: "**meaningful parent, youth, and community engagement focused on improved student learning,**" "**school-community relationships,**" "**teacher morale,**" "**higher graduation rates,**" "**increasing civic engagement,**" "**investment in education issues,**" and much, much more. To learn more about the outcomes of community organizing on schools & youth, visit: <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/OrganizedCommunities.pdf>.

Effective Practices for Engaging At-Risk Youth in Service: Youth Service America announces a new effective practices publication, *Effective Practices for Engaging At-Risk Youth in Service*, designed to provide an overview of the underlying theory and effective practices for engaging at-risk youth in service by examining the roles young people can play in serving their communities. The audiences for this publication are persons whose mission is to plan and implement community service programs for youth with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Visit: http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/Engaging_At-Risk_Youth_in_Service.pdf.

ATTENTION AmeriCorps Reading/Tutoring Programs: U.S. Department of Education's **ED Pubs** (Education Publications) web site has undergone an extensive redesign. The shopping process has been improved by adopting the latest in eCommerce "shopping carts." It is easier to order publications and the capabilities of "your account" have been extended for a more user-friendly environment tailored to your preferences. Please visit them at <http://www.edpubs.ed.gov>.

EASY TEAM-BUILDERS are available in the book, "Great Group Games: 175 Boredom-Busting, Zero-Prep Team-Builders for All Ages." Created by two Tennessee long-time service-learning professionals, this book offers 175 enjoyable games and activities that will gently disband group-busting cliques, help newcomers feel welcome, and turn participants into friends who can count on each other. Games will make members think and work together. See <http://www.searchinstitute.org/product.php?productid=16488> or your favorite bookstore

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 innovative resources to Dee Wilder at 850-410-3452, or contact me at dee@volunteerflorida.org.

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