

March – April 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. This issue contains timely information on the upcoming 2008 Statewide Conference on National Service and the National AmeriCorps Week Closing Ceremony on May 17-18 in Miami! . I look forward to seeing you there!

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 one week prior to the event.

Training News and Upcoming Deadlines & Events

April 9 - 12, 2008 – 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis, MN; The National Service-Learning Conference is the largest gathering of youths and practitioners from the service-learning field. Don't miss keynote addresses by Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa; urban educator Pedro Noguera, author of *Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation's Schools*; and Peace Corps Director Ronald A Tschetter. Visit <http://www.nylc.org> <https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/index.cfm>

NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK IS COMING TO FLORIDA! Miami has been chosen as the site for the **Closing Ceremony of National AmeriCorps Week on Sunday, May 18!** Please save the date to participate in this very special event. Volunteer Florida will host a Statewide Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference on Saturday afternoon, May 17, with special plenary speakers and motivational events. The Conference will begin with an afternoon of professional development opportunities for AmeriCorps and other National Service programs, followed by an evening of motivational speakers and opportunities for networking with members from around Florida. Sunday will be a full day as we set Miami "on fire" for the National AmeriCorps Week Finale. There will be an exciting service project that everyone will enjoy and a high energy rally with local, state, and national figures to cheer on the great work of AmeriCorps and National Service! Volunteer Florida will sponsor lodging, meals and training costs for its grantees. To request assistance with travel expenses, please contact Dee Wilder at dee@volunteerflorida.org. ALL Florida AmeriCorps programs are encouraged to attend this exciting Closing Ceremony!

May 11- 18, 2008 - AMERICORPS PROGRAMS SHOULD PLAN TO CONDUCT National AmeriCorps Week Service Projects to engage the local media in your communities to celebrate service to America! If you need assistance with service project planning, please contact your AmeriCorps Program Consultant or see the Corporation for National and Community Service website at <http://www.americorpsweek.gov>. Watch the Volunteer Florida website at www.volunteerflorida.org for more information.

AmeriCorps Kicks Off 2nd Annual Video Contest; Lights, Camera, AmeriCorps!

Grand Prize is \$5,000 Travelocity Volunteer Vacation -- AmeriCorps is recruiting the next class of AmeriCorps members by hosting its second YouTube-style video contest. The contest, which runs through May 2, asks participants to create a 60 second spot answering the question, "Why AmeriCorps?" Entries can address topics such as how AmeriCorps tackles some of America's biggest challenges; what AmeriCorps means to you; and why someone should join AmeriCorps. The grand prize is a volunteer vacation worth up to \$5,000 courtesy of Travelocity through its Travel for Good Change Ambassadors program. Second prize is an iPod Shuffle, and third

prize is an AmeriCorps Alums Prize Pack, both courtesy of AmeriCorps Alums. The five semifinalists will receive a free one-year membership from AmeriCorps Alums.

The video contest is part of AmeriCorps Week, a national recognition and recruitment event taking place May 11-18, 2008, aimed at engaging more Americans in service, saluting AmeriCorps members and alums for their impact, and thanking the partners that make AmeriCorps possible. Information on this year's AmeriCorps Week is at <http://www.americorpsweek.gov>.

June 1 – 3, 2008 - National Conference on Service and Volunteering in Atlanta, Georgia.

Registration is scheduled to open on Friday, March 14, 2008. See www.volunteeringandservice.org for conference details. This year's conference will offer opportunities to enhance professional skills, explore new technologies, share best practices, and get the latest news from AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteer Florida will conduct a Business Meeting for AmeriCorps Program Directors on Sunday, May 31, 2008. Scholarships are available to assist AmeriCorps Program Directors with the registration fee ONLY. **Early Bird Registration Fees (until April 30) for the National Conference on Volunteering and Service are \$300 for National Service Programs.** Regular Registration Fees, from May 1 through May 27, are \$400 per person for National Service Programs. AmeriCorps Program Directors interested in attending may request a scholarship by completing the form below and Faxing it to Dee Wilder at 850-921-5146:

http://www.volunteerflorida.org/ameriCorps/docs/national_conference_scholarship_2008.pdf

2008 Volunteer Management Training Series offered at VOLUNTEER CENTERS: AmeriCorps Program Directors are encouraged to participate in the trainings listed below and learn to build essential skills and knowledge. If you wish to participate in any of these trainings and need assistance with registration fees, please contact Dee Wilder at 850-410-3452 or e-mail dee@volunteerflorida.org.

Volunteer Services of Manatee County

Friday, March 28, 2008, **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Volunteer Management Training Series in One Day!** Join this intensive, one day course to learn essentials in understanding, recruiting, supervising, training and evaluating volunteer programs. Hosted by Adraine LaRoza, Volunteer Manatee at Synovus Bank Community Room, 2520 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton FL - \$275 registration fee includes lunch, materials, and Certificate of Completion. Contact: adraine@volunteermanatee.org or 941-761-3207.

Volunteer LAKE. Lake County's Address for Volunteering at www.lakecountyfl.gov.

April 16, 2008: Modules 1, 2 and 3 - Understanding Volunteers/Unpaid Interns; Planning Your Volunteer Program; and Recruiting, Placing, Retaining Volunteers.

April 17, 2008: Modules 4, 5 and 6 - Orienting and Training Volunteers/Unpaid Interns; Supervising Volunteers/Unpaid Interns; Evaluating Your Volunteer Program.

AmeriCorps Registration Fee is \$125, including breakfast, lunch, materials, and the Florida Volunteer Management Certificate. Participants who complete the training will be invited to attend two (2) follow-up sessions in September 2008 and January 2009. Training series will take place in Lake County at Lake Receptions, 4425 N. Highway 19A, Mt. Dora, FL 32757, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily. Contact Helena Osborne-Ponsi at 352-742-6590 or hosborne@lakecountyfl.gov for information or to register.

United Way of Palm Beach County

Wednesday, April 2 through Friday, April 9, 2008 from 8:30 am to Noon The Volunteer Management Certificate Program (VMTS) will be offered at United Way of Palm Beach County, 2600 Quantum Blvd., Boynton Beach, Florida, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., starting Wednesday, April 2, and continuing through Friday, May 9, 2008. For more information, contact Daryl Houston, Director, at 561-375-6621, or to register contact: Tamara Worley @ 561-375-6630 or e-mail tamaraworley@unitedwaypbc.org.

May 12 – 14, 2008 - **Florida Association of Volunteer Centers will present Florida Volunteer Administration Certificate Program at 2008 The Governor's Hurricane Conference** in 2.5 days during the Pre-Event Training Monday – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Wed. 8:30 a.m.- Noon.

Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:

May 1, 2008 – Deadline for Youth Venture Go Overboard Challenge - Commit to a cause you are passionate about - saving the environment, hunger, poverty, literacy, health - launch your own organization! The best ideas submitted by a team for a new sustainable organization are eligible to win a grant of up to \$1000.00. For all the rules, prizes, deadlines, judging criteria and action plan go to <http://genv.net/en-us/burton>

March 31, 2008 - Deadline for "Be the Change! Program Grants for Youth-Led Projects" - Peace Child International empowers young people to take responsibility for peace, human rights and the environment through education, leadership development, and direct participation in the events that shape our world community. Be the Change! Program provides small scale grants for youth-led projects. Visit <http://www.peacechild.org>

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.

RESOURCES:

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," making it easier to order publications and provide concise, accurate shipping information. The capabilities of "your account" have been extended to realize a more user-friendly environment tailored to your preferences. Please visit them at <http://www.edpubs.ed.gov>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Earth Day Every Day - Spread the word that a healthy, sustainable planet benefits everyone — use The National Service Resource Center to support environmental awareness and find everything you need for Earth Day. Click on the following resources from the Lending Library:

1. [Greening School Grounds](#)
2. [Creating Habitats for Learning](#)
3. [Helping Nature Heal: An Introduction to Environmental Restoration](#)
4. [Growing Hope: The Homeless Garden Project](#)

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**. EnCorps is a collection of The Resource Center at www.nationalservice.gov/resources. Contact EnCorps at encorps@nwrel.org or 1-877-250-1615 for more information.

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.

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.