

May – June 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 Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference 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

NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK IS COMING TO FLORIDA! By now most of you are registered to attend the 2008 AmeriCorps and National Service Conference on May 17 and the **Closing Ceremony of National AmeriCorps Week on Sunday, May 18!** Seven dynamic trainers are prepared to stimulate you and your members with training in preparation for Life After AmeriCorps. Congratulations to AmeriCorps programs who have signed up to attend these trainings! Following an afternoon of training opportunities for AmeriCorps and other National Service programs, there will be an evening of motivational speakers and opportunities for networking with members from around Florida. **On Sunday morning, May 18, the National AmeriCorps Week Finale' begins at 7:30 a.m. with a Service Project, starting in Bayfront Park** (adjacent to the InterContinental) **where breakfast will be served.** Following the service project, Members will return to the hotel to enjoy a high energy rally with local, state, and national figures to cheer on the great work of AmeriCorps and National Service! Volunteer Florida is excited that most Florida AmeriCorps programs will be attending this exciting Closing Ceremony!

May 11- 18, 2008 - AMERICORPS PROGRAMS SHOULD be CONDUCTING 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>.

June 1 – 3, 2008 - National Conference on Service and Volunteering in Atlanta, Georgia. 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 SATURDAY, May 31, 2008, FROM 2:00 TO 4:30 P.M., at the Marriott Hotel, Room M202.** Registration for this meeting will be outside the meeting room starting at 1:00 p.m. Please bring the names and contact information for FIVE community partners who you have identified to participate in the REQUIRED 2008 Statewide Evaluation of AmeriCorps programs to be conducted by Dr. Jim Hinterlong at Florida State University. If you are not attending the conference, please e-mail or send your list of community partners for promoting sustainability to your Volunteer Florida Program Consultant by Friday, June 6, 2008.

2008 Volunteer Management Training Series to be 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.

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. Learn essential skills needed to plan, recruit, place, retain, supervise, and evaluate volunteer programs. Register by downloading the registration form at: http://www.flghc.org/docs/GHC_2008_REG.pdf

Volunteer Jacksonville will be conducting trainings on September 18th (Module 1 & 2), September 25th (Module 3 & 4), and October 2nd (Module 5 & 6). Classes will be held at the University of Phoenix from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The cost for Volunteer Jacksonville members is \$175.00 and non-members \$265.00. Contact Nancy Davis Knight at 904-332-6767, or see the application form at www.volunteerjacksonville.org.

Volunteer LAKE, Lake County's Address for Volunteering at www.lakecountyfl.gov. - October 29, 2008 (Modules 1-3) - Understanding Volunteers/Unpaid Interns; Planning Your Volunteer Program; and Recruiting, Placing, Retaining Volunteers; October 30, 2008 (Modules 4-6) - Orienting & Training Volunteers; Supervising Volunteers; Evaluating Your Volunteer Program. AmeriCorps Registration Fee is \$125, including breakfast, lunch, materials, and Florida Volunteer Management Certificate. Training series will take place in Lake County from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily. To register, contact Helena Osborne-Ponsi at hosborne@lakecountyfl.gov or 352-742-6590.

USF offers new Nonprofit Management Training Program - NOW offered at The University of South Florida Lakeland’s new Division of Continuing Education. To register for this continuing education program or learn more, visit the website at <http://lakeland.usf.edu/continuinged/nonprofit.html>.

DD

Disaster Training News!

COOP TIP #9 – Planning for Disasters with Your AmeriCorps program was the topic of a recent training offered to AmeriCorps Program Directors in attendance at the Spring 2008 AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Orlando on March 3-5, 2008. Program Directors were encouraged to require AmeriCorps Members to share their personal/family disaster plans and to devote part of an upcoming Corps meeting to talking with each other about disaster plans. All programs were encouraged to compile their own personal “disaster kits,” including contact information for the nearest American Red Cross chapter, Members’ emergency contact numbers, their anticipated evacuation destinations if they should have to leave the area, and names of their out-of-state family contacts and how to reach them. This information will enable programs to reconnect with AmeriCorps teams quickly after a disaster and may help them to reconnect with families out of state. If you missed this important training and would like to have an electronic copy of the training outline, please contact me at dee@volunteerflorida.org.

DD

Service Days and Events:

*Seasons of Service, are national opportunities for people to volunteer for service projects throughout the year to turn people on to service so they will become life-long volunteers. Participate in the activities below and be part of the Seasons of Service year-round action plan to illustrate how a single day of service can grow into an ongoing habit of helping communities. **Upcoming Service Days include:***

May (month) - National Family Month; <http://www.familymonth.net/>

May 3 - Join Hands Day; <http://www.joinhandsday.org/>

May 4-10 - Be Kind to Animals Week; <http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer>

May 6-12 – Reading is Fundamental Week; http://www.rif.org/rif_week.msp

May 11-18 - AmeriCorps Week; <http://www.americorps.org/about/ameriCorpsweek/index.asp>

May 21 – World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development; <http://days.takingitglobal.org/11>

June

June 1-3 – National Conference on Volunteering and Service/National Senior Corps Conference – Atlanta, GA; <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org>

June 5 - World Environment Day; <http://www.unep.org/wed>

June 7 – 14 - National NeighborWorks Week; <http://www.nw.org/network/home.asp>

June 11 – World Population Day; <http://days.takingitglobal.org/43>

June 12 – World Day Against Child Labor; <http://days.takingitglobal.org/4>

June 20 – World Refugee Day; <http://days.takingitglobal.org/17>

July

July (month) - Recreation and Parks Month; <http://www.nrpa.org/>

Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:

May 31 – Deadline to apply for the Lorax Challenge! Do you have an Idea to Save the Earth!? - Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Youth Venture, in partnership with the Earth Island Institute, are collaborating to bring you the Lorax Challenge, a unique opportunity for youth ages 12-20 to turn their planet-saving dreams into reality. Youth Venture will grant up to \$1,000 of start-up funding to teams who complete the application process. In addition, five high-school Grand Prize winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the University of Florida for a weekend of activities, learning and fun! For more information and to apply, follow this link: <http://www.genv.net/en-us/lorax>.

May 15 – Deadline to apply for Brower Youth Awards - The Brower Youth Awards just launched the 2008 prize search for outstanding youth leaders. We're looking for individuals ages 13-22 with the power and persistence to create environmental change. The Brower Youth Awards honors six young people annually with a \$3000 cash award and weeklong trip to the San Francisco Bay Area. During that week, award recipients will participate in a week of media and public outreach and be recognized at an awards ceremony attended by 900 members of the public. For more information, visit <http://www.broweryouthawards.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:

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.

Organized Communities, Stronger Schools, a Preview of Research Findings - The Community Involvement Program, housed at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, has released a report highlighting the impact of community organizing for school reform on student outcomes. Interviews, surveys, and data analyses suggest that organizing supports, expands and contributes to the following: “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 read the report and learn more about the outcomes of community organizing on schools and 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.

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](#)

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.