

January - February 2009 Training News



Greetings National Service Partners!

This bi-monthly training newsletter provides information you will need for planning ahead to attend upcoming trainings to support your professional development. Selected training resources and grant deadlines are also listed. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND** the next AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Orlando on March 11-13, 2009. See you there!

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

Florida AmeriCorps State & National programs to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service! Over 150 different organizations in Florida will serve their communities next week, including the following four Volunteer Florida – sponsored AmeriCorps service projects that will commemorate **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., DAY – January 19, 2009!** If you wish to join these or another project, please contact the AmeriCorps Program Director or visit www.mlkday.gov.

AmeriCorps Tallahassee: “Children’s Hygiene Kits” --- AmeriCorps Tallahassee members will meet a need for children in crisis to have personal hygiene kits through partnerships with the local Foster Grandparents program, Ability1st High School High Tech, and Children’s Home Society. Donated gift bags will be decorated by High School High Tech students with disabilities and Foster Grandparents will assemble and help deliver kits to 125 children. Contact Kathy Hood, Program Director, at 850-487-7804.

AmeriCorps Putnam Reads: “Weed & Seed Complete Makeover, Backyard Edition” -- Members will make improvements to the local Weed and Seed Center that offers a safe place after school for 150 neighborhood children. Partnering with the Palatka Police Dept. on MLK Day, twenty AmeriCorps Putnam Reads members will join with ten Foster Grandparents and VISTA members to clean up the play area, secure media coverage and obtain community donations for the “Extreme Makeover.” Contact Cindy Hice, Program Director, at 386-328-2413.

Literacy AmeriCorps: “Awareness Mural” – AmeriCorps Members will encourage critical thinking while promoting disability and literacy awareness to reduce poverty among members of the Riviera Beach community. Partnering with 15 FAU Community Conversation Corps members, 55 Teen Time participants, and seven Stand Among Friends volunteers with disabilities, the 27-member Literacy AmeriCorps team will complete a mural on January 10, 2009, to be unveiled on MLK Day 2009, followed by a Book Bash and awareness fair. Volunteers will create children’s book give-away bags to be distributed at the unveiling event. Contact Audrey McDonough, Program Director, at 561-279-9103.

AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads: “LOVE FOR SENIORS DAY” -- AmeriCorps Gadsden members will prepare meals for isolated seniors no longer served by Meals on Wheels. The seniors will be transported to West Gadsden High on MLK Day and served a hot meal by AmeriCorps and VISTA members, Foster Grandparents and community volunteers. Partner organizations are Gadsden ARC and Ability 1st. The ceremony will end with a non-violence pledge and dedication of food donations to the local food bank. Contact Bea Hopkins, Program Director, at 850-627-9409.

There are now only 10 days until MLK Day 2009! The aim is to make the holiday a day ON, where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned. With thousands of projects planned across the country, the 2009 King Day of Service on January 19, 2009, promises to be the biggest and best ever! To insure you are inclusively reaching out to both traditional and non-traditional volunteers to serve on MLK Day and throughout the year, see the following Inclusive Volunteer Recruitment resources available at <http://www.mlkmobilization.org/resources.html#inclusive>

INTERESTED IN BEING AN E-REPORTER On MLK Day? On MLK Day (January 19, 2009), using your own mobile phone or digital camera, send hourly text messages (Tweets) and/or take photos of MLK Day of Service actions and email them to FLICKr. You must send a minimum of 5 Tweets. All volunteers must sign a photo release form. To offset the cost of sending text messages or emailing photographs, each e-Reporter and e-Photo Journalist will receive a one-time \$50.00 stipend. Contact Stephanie Grocott for a form to complete at Grocott@CampaignConsultation.com **as soon as possible**. With consideration to geographic diversity, requests will be accepted for e-reporters/photo journalists on a first reply basis.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING TRAININGS:

March 11-13, 2009 - AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn UCF in Orlando. Registration will be available at www.volunteerflorida.org on January 28 and will be available until February 23. Read the description below for information on the special pre-meeting training to be provided to program directors, AmeriCorps Alums and 2nd year AmeriCorps members who would like to be trained as a civic reflection facilitator:

***Civic Reflection Initiative** - Imagine stepping back from the pressures of daily life and thinking about not how but why you do what you do. Imagine getting together with other civically engaged people and talking about your values and the choices you make in serving your community. Now imagine beginning this conversation by discussing short readings that help you gather and articulate your thoughts. This, in a nutshell, is civic reflection.*

2009 will witness the launch of a new Civic Reflection Initiative in Florida. This initiative will build an infrastructure across the state to promote civic dialogue to discuss themes around our common service experience and community work in AmeriCorps. Volunteer Florida will be hosting a facilitator's training FOR AMERICORPS PROGRAM DIRECTORS to be conducted by the Project on Civic Reflection, March 10-11, 2009, in conjunction with the spring Program Director's Training. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator or finding out more about civic reflection, please contact Ericka Zdenek at ericka@volunteerflorida.org.

2009 Volunteer Management Training Series (VMTS) to be offered at Florida Volunteer Centers:

AmeriCorps Program Directors are encouraged to participate in the trainings listed below and learn to build essential skills and knowledge. If you would like to participate and need assistance with registration fees, please contact Dee Wilder at 850-410-3452 or e-mail dee@volunteerflorida.org.

- **January 21-22, 2009** - The Nature Coast Volunteer Center (NCVC) and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program announce the January Volunteer Management Training Series, to be offered through a joint venture with RSVP of Marion County and RSVP of Citrus County, to be available in two locations - either the Citrus County Resource Center or the Ocala CFCC Campus. Participants will be eligible for the Florida Volunteer Management Training Certificate. Citrus County trainings will be held January 21-22, 2009 8:30 am - 5 pm, and in Marion County on consecutive Wednesdays **January 7 through February 11, 2009**, 8:30 am – noon at the CFCC campus in Ocala. To register, see www.naturecoastvolunteercenter.org or for information please call 352-527-5950.
- **February 6, 2009** - HandsOn Manatee will offer the Volunteer Management Training Series on Friday, February 6, 2009, at Synovus Bank, 2600 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton. To register, call Adraine LaRoza, HandsOn Manatee Director, at 941-761-3207 or email at ManaTEENs@aol.com. Cost of the training is \$129.
- **March 5, 2009** - VolunteerLEON will offer the training for the Florida Volunteer Administration Certificate in a six week course beginning on Thursday, March 5, 2009, and consecutively each Thursday morning from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Tallahassee Community College. The Volunteer Administration Certificate Program course fee of \$150 covers all expenses. To register contact Jeri Bush, VolunteerLEON Director, at 850-606-1970.
- **March 18 – 20, 2009** - Friendship Volunteer Center will offer Volunteer Management Training on March 18 – 20, 2009, at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Register by contacting Pat Shields, Volunteer Center Director, at 941-953-5965 or director@seniorfriendship.com. Cost of the training is \$240 per person.
- **August 20, 27, and September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2009** - Martin Volunteers will offer the Volunteer Management Certificate Program at Barry University in Port St. Lucie on August 20, 27, and September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2009. Registration is online at www.martinvolunteers.org, or call Dianne Young, Associate Director, at 772-220-4472, Ext. 228. Cost of the training is \$275.

Disaster Training News!

COOP Tip #12 – [This tip is a repeat of Coop Tip #11 from the November-December 2008 Training newsletter.] Do you know what you would do if your worksite were to be damaged by a fire, lightning strike, tornado or other emergency? Do you have plans for communicating with your AmeriCorps team and continuing your Corps' operations? Have you determined if your host agency/organization has a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and whether it includes an emergency communications plan or provides an alternate worksite for your program? AND – have you spoken with your community partners about how you could assist one another by sharing resources in the event of a disaster? For details on COOP planning, download “COOP for Smaller Community-based Organizations” at www.volunteerflorida.org. Click on “Emergency Management,” then on “Publications.” The COOP forms in the back will help you “jump-start” your own Continuity of Operations Plan. **GET READY!**

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA Training Vouchers are still available for CPR/First Aid Trainings!

Volunteer Florida continues to provide AmeriCorps programs with CPR/First Aid Training Vouchers to facilitate payment to participating American Red Cross chapters for this required training for AmeriCorps members. To request training vouchers (a \$25 credit towards the training fee), AmeriCorps program directors should complete a Voucher Request Form available from Erin Pantoja at Volunteer Florida, (850)-414-0095, or erin@volunteerflorida.org, or see the Volunteer Florida website at www.volunteerflorida.org.

Other Service and Training Events:

January

National Mentoring Month - http://www.mentoring.org/mentors/national_mentoring_month

January 19 - MLK Day of Service - <http://www.mlkday.gov>; or see the **Presidential Inaugural Committee web site at <http://pic2009.org/>**

January 18 - February 14 - Souper Bowl of Caring - <http://www.souperbowl.org>

January 26-30 - No Name-Calling Week - <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/>

February

January 18 - February 14 - Souper Bowl of Caring - <http://www.souperbowl.org>

February 15-18, 2009 - 21st Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum - School and Community: Working Together as a Comprehensive Approach to Dropout Prevention - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina;

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009_At-Risk_Youth

March

March 18-21, 2009 - National Service Learning Conference - Nashville, TN; <http://www.nylc.org/conference>

BUILD YOUR MISSION WORKSHOPS - The Volunteer Florida Foundation presents a day of learning and networking in Ft. Lauderdale (**January 23**), Orlando (**January 30**), Tampa (**February 6**) and Pensacola (**February 13**). The FREE one-day workshop is designed for the leaders of faith-based and community-based organizations, and is part of Volunteer Florida Foundation's Compassion Florida Initiative to strengthen the capacities of faith-based and community-based groups serving needy populations in the state. Sessions include fundraising strategies, grant writing, marketing and building your mission. Participants will learn of ongoing training opportunities and mini-grants available through the Volunteer Florida Foundation. Participants MUST register online at (www.iog.fsu.edu). Limit is two persons per organization.

February 12-13, 2009 - Grant Writing Workshop to be offered in Gainesville, FL - The Alachua County Sheriff's Office and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Gainesville, February 12-13, 2009. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 220MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Cathy Rittenhouse at 800-814-8191, or see <http://grantwritingusa.com/events/write/qaf10209.html>

February 15-18, 2009 - 21st Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum - School and Community: Working Together as a Comprehensive Approach to Dropout Prevention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2009> At-Risk Youth. This year's FORUM is designed to enhance the leadership skills of all adults who are seeking to strengthen interventions among school, community, and families, especially to assist those in at-risk situations.

Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:

On-going - Allstate Foundation Funds for National and Local Programs - The Allstate Foundation provides support to national programs as well as local programs in company communities throughout the United States. Proposals must address needs in Tolerance, Inclusion, and/or Diversity. Applications are accepted throughout the year. To review the funding guidelines and access local contact information, visit <http://www.allstate.com/foundation/>

February 17, 2009 – Due date for applications for Project Orange Thumb - Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb will award grants to twenty organizations in the United States and Canada. Grantees receive up to \$1,500 in Fiskars garden tools and up to \$800 in gardening-related materials. Gardens and/or gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture, and/or horticultural education are eligible. Community garden groups as well as schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, and treatment facilities are all encouraged to apply. See <http://projectorangethumb.com/pot/>

March 1, 2009 – Deadline for Just Do One Video Contest - JustDoOne.org, an online community for sustainable living, invites ideas for more sustainable living summarized in short YouTube-style videos. The organization will share the entries online, and the best video entry, as judged by an expert panel, will win \$5,000. Video entries may be up to three minutes in length. Winners will be announced April 1, 2009, in time for media coverage leading up to Earth Day. <http://www.justdoone.org/videocontest>

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.** 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.

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.