

# July – August 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. I look forward to seeing you at the AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Tallahassee on July 15-17, 2009!

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

#### UPCOMING TRAININGS:

**July 15 – 17, 2009 – AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Tallahassee** at the Doubletree Hotel at 101 S. Adams Street. Designed for AmeriCorps programs to experience Florida's capital city, this training will provide an opportunity for you to learn about managing the new recovery funding, and Program Director Leader Guides will gather for a special training and national conference de-briefing. Please dress casually on Wednesday, and be prepared to travel to off-site trainings on each day of the meeting. Your photo Identification will be required, so don't leave home without it! By now you should have plans to arrive in Tallahassee by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2009. Since Volunteer Florida is providing transportation to an off-site retreat, ALL participants will need to gather in the Doubletree Lobby on Wednesday afternoon between 5:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. for this special activity. Volunteer Florida staff members look forward to seeing all of you at this fun and informative training!

**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 to build skills and knowledge for recruiting, orienting, training, supervising and evaluating volunteers. 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](mailto:dee@volunteerflorida.org).

- **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. To register see [www.martinvolunteers.org](http://www.martinvolunteers.org), or call Dianne Young, Associate Director, at 772-220-4472, Ext. 228.

#### **HAVE YOU SCHEDULED CIVIC SENSE TRAINING FOR YOUR AMERICORPS MEMBERS? –**

Volunteer Florida's Civic Reflection Initiative involves participants by asking them to step back from the pressures of daily life and thinking about not *how* but *why* you do what you do. Twelve Civic Reflection Facilitators can help your AmeriCorps Team become part of an infrastructure across the state to promote civic dialogue to discuss themes around our common service experience and community work in AmeriCorps. If you are interested, please contact Ericka Zdenek at [ericka@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:ericka@volunteerflorida.org).

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## **Disaster Training News!**

**COOP TIP # 14** Many AmeriCorps programs are a part of organizations that already have a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan. Have you considered making an appointment to chat with your host agency's COOP Planner, Safety Officer or other personnel responsible for their disaster plan? To get the most out of your conversation, jot down your questions and leave space to record responses. The conversation might go like this:

"Our AmeriCorps Program is encouraged to have a Continuity of Operations Plan. It would be helpful to see the overall (host organization) plan, to help us know where we need to focus our attention."

Sample questions might include:

1. Does the plan provide for an alternate place for AmeriCorps Members to report or for service?
2. Is the AmeriCorps team included in the overall agency/organization's emergency communications plan? Do you have/need Members' contact information?
3. Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the part of the overall plan that pertains to AmeriCorps and/or the sites where members serve?

Finally, discuss action steps needed to refine/update the plan and set a date for a follow-up meeting.

## **SAVE THE DATE for Disability Mentoring Day 2009: Wednesday October 21, 2009!**

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) is a national program that promotes career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration. DMD provides the opportunity for employers to play an important role in the career path of a young adult with a disability; for community liaisons to facilitate job mentoring/shadowing opportunities for students and young adults with disabilities; and for students and young adults with disabilities to network with individuals who have already succeeded in their career track of interest. To learn more, visit [www.floridadmd.org](http://www.floridadmd.org), or learn about DMD on a national level by going to [www.dmd-aapd.org](http://www.dmd-aapd.org). For information on how to involve your AmeriCorps or National Service Program in Disability Mentoring Day, please contact Paul Martell, Accessibility Program Manager, at 850-414-0093 or [paul@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:paul@volunteerflorida.org).

## **VOLUNTEER FLORIDA Training Vouchers are still available for required CPR/First Aid**

**Trainings!** Volunteer Florida can 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, [erin@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:erin@volunteerflorida.org), or see the Volunteer Florida website at [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org). A list of required trainings for members is available from your Volunteer Florida program consultant.

## ***Other Service News and Events:***

### **National Service Days - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**August 2, 2009 – Community Build Day**

**September 11, 2009 – National Day of Service and Remembrance** - see [info@911day.org](mailto:info@911day.org).

**October 21, 2009 – Disability Mentoring Day** – <http://www.dmd-aapd.org>

**January 18, 2010 - Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service** – What will your Corps do to help your community during 2010 MLK DAY? Watch for MLK Day Planning Grants to be announced by Volunteer Florida in the coming months. Meanwhile, see [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org).

**June 22 to September 11, 2009 - United We Serve' Summer Service Initiative** - see [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov)

From June 22 to September 11, **UNITED WE SERVE** will engage citizens from coast to coast in addressing community needs in education, health, energy and the environment, and community and economic renewal. Instilled with energy and enthusiasm from this year's successful National Conference on Volunteering and Service, citizens nationwide are renewing their commitment to service — or trying their hands at it for the first time! Civic engagement can take many forms — from individual

volunteerism, to organizational involvement, to electoral participation. And when service is directly connected to civic issues, knowledge, and skills, it helps individuals build a commitment to civic action, a concern for the common good, and a sense of effectiveness as a citizen. Officially announced on June 22 at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in San Francisco, it will run through the new National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11, which was created through the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009. United We Serve calls on Americans to take a leadership role in recruiting and organizing their friends, family, and neighbors to develop their own service projects that address pressing community needs in areas such as education, health, energy and the environment, and community renewal. The Corporation's online service resource site, [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov), has a variety of tools to assist people participating in this initiative.

Visitors can post their own service projects within a volunteer-matching platform called "All For Good" that allows people to search for volunteer opportunities based on location and interests. The site also includes social-media tools compatible with a variety of social-networking sites in order to share volunteer opportunities with friends and to see in what activities they are participating.

"United We Serve" is designed to help meet growing social needs resulting from the economic downturn. With the knowledge that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things when given the proper tools, President Obama is asking us to come together to help lay a new foundation for growth. This initiative aims to both expand the impact of existing organizations by engaging new volunteers in their work and encourage volunteers to develop their own "do-it-yourself" projects. "United We Serve" is an initial 81 days of service but will grow into a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to promote service as a way of life for all Americans. **What can you do?**

- [Create Your Own Project](#)
- [Register Your Project / Recruit Volunteers](#)
- [Find a Volunteer Opportunity](#)
- [Share Your Story](#)
- Visit [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) to find out more.

**First Lady Michelle Obama Issues Call to Service to Nation's Volunteer Leaders** - Speaking to a record-breaking 5,000 attendees, First Lady Michelle Obama called on all Americans to participate in our nation's renewal and recovery in a keynote address at the opening session of the National Conference on Volunteering and Service at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, CA. "This, more than anything, is the key point I want to make today - that this new Administration doesn't view service as separate from our national priorities, or in addition to our national priorities - we see it as the key to achieving our national priorities. We believe that the only way to build that new foundation for our economy is to establish a new role for service in this country," she said. [Read more about her address here.](#)

**"Nation Needs Youthful Idealism More Than Ever"** - First Lady Michelle Obama writes about the importance of service and reflects on her experiences as the director of an AmeriCorps program. See [http://www.usatoday.com/news/sharing/2009-04-13-michelle-obama\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/sharing/2009-04-13-michelle-obama_N.htm)

### ***Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:***

**September 30, 2009** – Deadline for [Share Our Strength to Offer Great American Bake Sale Grants to Help Fight Childhood Hunger](#) - Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to nonprofits, schools, and local government agencies working to ensure children have access to after-school and summer meal programs. See <http://gabs.strength.org/> for the complete application.

**Ongoing - Best Buy Recycling Grant Program** - The Best Buy Recycling Grant Program provides support to help increase the consumer electronics recycling opportunities available in communities across the country. Grants, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, can be taken in cash, Best Buy Gift Cards, or a combination of both. These grants are designed to defray costs for events already planned and allow groups to do more with their budgets. All organizations and groups are eligible to apply, including nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, and public-private partnerships, with priority given to nonprofit organizations. Applications may be submitted at any time. For more information, see the link: <http://www.bbycommunications.com/crnew/recycling.asp>

**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](mailto:paul@volunteerflorida.org).

## **RESOURCES:**

### **ABOUT THE RESOURCE ALERT**

The Resource Alert is an e-alert service from the Resource Center, the Corporation for National and Community Service's one-stop website for tools, training, and information for volunteer and service programs. These periodic e-alerts promote new tools and information. CLICK THIS LINK TO [subscribe to this training and technical assistance alert](#) or [view past issues of the Resource Alert](#). To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to [lyris@lists.etr.org](mailto:lyris@lists.etr.org) with *unsubscribe resource\_alert* in the body of the message.

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH PERFORMANCE MEASURES?** Project STAR, technical assistance provider sponsored by CNCS, is pleased to announce the **Performance Measurement Builder**, an online tool to help AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs develop performance measures. If you are having trouble getting your performance measures started, the PM Builder "jump starts" the process; it helps you develop your performance measurement plan and instruments quickly, and allows you to focus on data collection, analyzing data, and reporting results. You can build your performance measurement plan ("PM Plan") by selecting from drop-down menus with examples of activities, outputs, and outcomes. Once you create your PM Plan, you can save the Word document to your computer and customize it for your particular program activities. Sample instruments are available for you to download and modify to fit your needs. The PM Builder is easy to access and available 24 hours a day. To go directly to the PM Builder, click on <http://nationalserviceresources.org/star/pm-builder-welcome>. If you need assistance or have questions, contact Project STAR at 800-548-3656 or [star@jbsinternational.com](mailto:star@jbsinternational.com), or ask your Volunteer Florida Program Consultant for assistance.

**EnCorps is a set of online resources for AmeriCorps and VISTA program staff targeting** AmeriCorps member recruitment, placement, orientation, ongoing training, and transitioning beyond the year of service. **View this collection at The Resource Center, [www.nationalservice.gov/resources](http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources), or contact EnCorps at [encorps@nwrel.org](mailto:encorps@nwrel.org) or 1-877-250-1615 for more information.** Currently featured on Encorps is, **"3 Steps to Success on Facebook."** Check it out!

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 [dee@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:dee@volunteerflorida.org) or 850-410-3452.

This training newsletter is available in alternative formats, i.e., Braille, audio, large print, and computerized formats. Contact Paul Martell at 850-414-0093 or [paul@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:paul@volunteerflorida.org) with your request.