

March - April 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. The Volunteer Florida staff look forward to seeing you at the 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

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

March 11-13, 2009 - AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn UCF in Orlando. Registration is now closed for this meeting. The theme for this meeting is **AmeriCorps Marketplace: Sharing Ideas, Resources, and Practices**. This meeting is designed to give you an opportunity to share your best practices with your colleagues in service, and to “shop” for ideas, best practices, and resources that will enable you to keep your program moving forward in our ever-changing local, state and national climate. Volunteer Florida will also unveil its new Civic Reflection Initiative, “Civic Sense.” 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. If you are interested in finding out more about civic reflection, contact Ericka Zdenek at ericka@volunteerflorida.org.

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

May 6 – 8, 2009 Florida Literacy Conference at the Belleview Biltmore Resort, Clearwater, FL. Hotel reservations must be made by April 15 to qualify for the group rate. For information, see <http://www.floridaliteracy.org/con2009.html>

June 22-24, 2009 - National Conference on Volunteering and Service - San Francisco, CA;
<http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/index.html>

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.

- **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. 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 Dennis Stover, Volunteer Center Director, at 941-953-5965 or dstover@seniorfriendship.com.
- **April 16 – 17, 2009** – University of South Florida Polytechnic in Lakeland, FL, is offering a Non-Profit Management series in 4 sessions. Early registration deadline is April 1, 2009. Participants will receive a Non-Profit Management certificate of completion. For information or to register, contact Dr. Jan Lloyd at 863-667-7049 or jlloyd@poly.usf.edu.
- **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, or call Dianne Young, Associate Director, at 772-220-4472, Ext. 228.

Florida AmeriCorps State & National Service programs celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service! Over 150 different organizations in Florida served their communities, including the following Volunteer Florida – sponsored AmeriCorps service projects that commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on January 19, 2009:

AmeriCorps Tallahassee: “Children’s Hygiene Kits” -- AmeriCorps Tallahassee members partnered with the local Foster Grandparent program, Ability1st High School High Tech, and Children’s Home Society to donate gift bags and deliver kits to 125 children. Contact Kathy Hood, Program Director, at 850-487-7804.

AmeriCorps Putnam Reads: “Weed & Seed Complete Makeover, Backyard Edition” – Members made improvements to the local Weed and Seed Center that offers a safe place after school for 150 neighborhood children by partnering with the Palatka Police Department, Foster Grandparents and VISTA members to clean up the play area. Contact Cindy Hice, Program Director, at 386-328-2413.

Literacy AmeriCorps: “Awareness Mural” – AmeriCorps Members partnered with FAU Community Conversation Corps members, Teen Time participants, and Stand Among Friends volunteers with disabilities to complete a mural and conduct a Book Bash. Contact Audrey McDonough, Program Director, at 561-279-9103.

AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads: “LOVE FOR SENIORS DAY” -- AmeriCorps Gadsden members partnered with VISTA, Foster Grandparents, Gadsden ARC and Ability 1st to prepare meals for isolated seniors no longer served by Meals on Wheels. Contact Bea Hopkins, Program Director, at 850-627-9409.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR 2010 MLK DAY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010.

Disaster Training News!

COOP Tip #13 - -. GET READY!

It's 10 p.m. Hurricane force winds have returned to balmy breezes. Do you know where your members are? To be sure, ask all members to bring in their individual or family disaster plans to your next corps meeting. Review them together to be sure all members have a solid plan for what they will do in advance of and immediately after a disaster. Teach them to *survive* and make a plan now for how your corps will serve the post-disaster community. Visit www.floridadisaster.org NOW to "Get a Plan!"

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 Days and Events:

April 24 – 26, 2009 - Global Youth Service Day -- Youth Service America's **Semester of Service** and **Global Youth Service Day** provide opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to answer President Obama's call to responsibility and service. Each April, millions of young people participate in and lead service projects, working with their families, schools, community organizations, faith-based communities, and businesses, to improve their communities by addressing critical issues such as global climate change, education & illiteracy, poverty, health, hunger, and homelessness. Visit GYSO.org to get the latest updates! Don't miss this opportunity for youth to join with millions of their peers around the world to improve communities and raise awareness of service and the role of youth as community leaders.

Semester of Service provides the framework and tools for children and youth from schools, colleges and universities, youth centers, and faith-based organizations to continue service started on MLK Day and sustain it over the course of the spring semester, providing time for youth to delve deeply into an issue and improve their communities. Below are some key dates when your members may want to get involved:

March 2 - Read Across America Day - www.nea.org/readacross/index.html

March 23-27 - National Youth Violence Prevention Week - <http://www.nationalsave.org/main/YVPC.php>

March 30 - April 5 - Act! Speak! Build! Week - www.habitat.org/ccyp/act_speak_build

March 31 - Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning - www.chavezfoundation.org

April 2009 – FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH - (Watch www.volunteerflorida.org for updates and a toolkit to help you plan your events!)

April 7 - World Health Day - http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_health_day/en/index.html

April 12 - National Drop Everything and Read Day - www.dropeverythingandread.com

April 12-18 - National Library Week - <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>

April 19-25 – NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - <http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

April 22 - Earth Day - www.earthday.net

April 24-26 - **Global Youth Service Day** - www.YSA.org/gysd

May 9 – 16, 2009 – THIRD ANNUAL AMERICORPS WEEK IS COMING! AmeriCorps Week provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members—and to motivate more Americans to serve their communities. For information, see www.americorpsweek.gov

Grant Opportunities, Contests and Announcements:

March 15, 2009 – Deadline for Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program - Through the Kohl's Kids Who Care scholarship program, the Kohl's Corporation will award over \$350,000 in scholarships and prizes to more than two thousand kids (ages 6 to 18) whose volunteer efforts have made a positive impact on their communities.

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/communityrelations/scholarship/index.asp>

March 20, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. EST – 2009 Six Days Six Ramps application deadline - Partner with a 6 Days 6 Ramps Project to celebrate AmeriCorps Week! Since 6 Days 6 Ramps encourages persons with disabilities to serve and learn about AmeriCorps, it is a funding priority to award projects to applicants who partner with a nearby AmeriCorps program. A minimum of two ramps must be completed during AmeriCorps Week, May 9-16. For more information go to www.6days6ramps.org or contact Paul Martell at 850-414-0093, paul@volunteerflorida.org.

April 17, 2009 5:00 p.m EST – Deadline for responses to Volunteer Florida funding Request for Proposals (RFP) to operate an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps programs support local community efforts to address education, environmental, homeland security, public safety or other human needs. AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides opportunities for citizens to serve their community. Participants provide intensive community services such as tutoring students who need extra help, assisting in after-school programs, and other services that strengthen communities. AmeriCorps members are not staff but can assist in capacity building efforts such as volunteer recruitment and management. A full grant application is posted on the Volunteer Florida website www.volunteerflorida.org. Proposals are due in the federal eGrants system by April 17, 2009 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time.

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:

CITIZENSHIP TRAINING FOR AMERICORPS MEMBERS – To help you develop citizenship training for members, you may want to use the toolkit provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service as a resource for expanding the meaning of citizenship and civic engagement among AmeriCorps members. The toolkit has four main sections. Click the links below to view and print each section:

- Section One: [The Corporation's Goals for Citizenship](#)
- Section Two: [Member Development](#)
- Section Three: [Citizenship Curriculum](#)
- Section Four: [Resource Directory](#)

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, or 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.