

## May – June 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 now and plan to attend the AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Tallahassee on July 15 to 17, 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

**May 9 – 16, 2009 – THIRD ANNUAL AMERICORPS WEEK** IS almost here! 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. If you have not yet visited the website and/or listed your project for AmeriCorps Week, please see the link: [www.americorpsweek.gov](http://www.americorpsweek.gov). To volunteer at a 6 DAYS 6 RAMPS project during AmeriCorps Week, see the article below about 6 Days 6 Ramps 2009:

**ANNOUNCING 6 DAYS 6 RAMPS 2009!** Volunteer Florida is pleased to be a major sponsor of the **6 Days 6 Ramps** Community Service Project in conjunction with **The Volunteer Florida Foundation, AmeriCorps** and the **Corporation for National and Community Service**. 6 Days 6 Ramps seeks to exemplify and expand the role of persons with disabilities in improving their community; bring attention to the need for access for persons with disabilities through barrier removal; and help strengthen existing volunteer efforts to remove barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in their community. **The 2009 project grants have been awarded to Ability1st in Tallahassee, Osceola Council on Aging in Kissimmee, Center for Independent Living in Central Florida in Winter Park, Suncoast Center for Independent Living in Sarasota, Woodbine United Methodist Church in Pace, and HandsOn Jacksonville in Jacksonville.** Ramp-building for persons with disabilities during 6 Days 6 Ramps 2009 will be held on **May 8-10 and May 15-17, 2009**, in conjunction with National AmeriCorps Week. Site dates for ramp builds may vary. Please visit [www.6days6ramps.org](http://www.6days6ramps.org) for more information about the project sites and TO REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER, contact the persons below:

- **Winter Park:** contact Doug Davis at 407-623-1070 or [ddavis@cilorlando.org](mailto:ddavis@cilorlando.org)
- **Tallahassee:** contact Kevin Ogden at 850-575-9621, ext. 106, or [kevinogden@ability1st.info](mailto:kevinogden@ability1st.info)
- **Pace:** contact Jon Twitchell at 850-995-0007 or [programs@excitingwoodbine.org](mailto:programs@excitingwoodbine.org)
- **Sarasota:** contact Alexis Martin at 941-351-9545 or [alexis@scil4u.org](mailto:alexis@scil4u.org)
- **Jacksonville:** contact Sue Nelson at 904-332-6767, ext 102, or [sue@handsonjacksonville.org](mailto:sue@handsonjacksonville.org)
- **Kissimmee:** contact Larry Belisle at 407-846-8532 ext 242, or [belislel@osceola-coa.com](mailto:belislel@osceola-coa.com) OR Connie Bellanceau at 407-933-3585 or [bellancc@osceola-coa.com](mailto:bellancc@osceola-coa.com).

#### UPCOMING TRAININGS:

**May 6 – 8, 2009 Florida Literacy Conference** – to be held at the Belleview Biltmore Resort in Clearwater, Florida. For more information, click on the link: <http://www.floridaliteracy.org/con2009.html>

**June 22-24, 2009** - National Conference on Volunteering and Service - San Francisco, California; <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org>, at the Moscone Center – West, in the heart of San Francisco, is

the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government and corporate sectors. This year's theme - "*Civic. Energy. Generation.*" - reflects the tremendous excitement in our nation today as people of all ages and backgrounds unify in a powerful movement to bring about social change. **REGISTER BY MAY 15, 2009, AT THE WEBSITE ABOVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE OF \$325.**

**July 15 – 17, 2009 – AmeriCorps Program Directors Meeting in Tallahassee** at the Doubletree Hotel. Designed for AmeriCorps programs to experience Florida's capital city, online registration opens May 18, 2009. Watch the Volunteer Florida website for information at [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org).

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN 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. 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 is civic reflection. Volunteer Florida launched its new Civic Reflection Initiative (Civic Sense) in Florida at the March 2009 AmeriCorps Program Directors meeting in Orlando. Twelve individuals received a day and a half training to become Civic Reflection Facilitators and to help 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 your AmeriCorps Team having a civic reflection discussion, please contact Ericka Zdenek at [ericka@volunteerflorida.org](mailto: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 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.

**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 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).

**Disaster Training News!**

**COOP TIP # 13** - *Is your AmeriCorps team taking the lead in preparing the community for a disaster?* The first step in preparing a **Continuity of Operations Plan** for your program should be to ensure that every Member has a family disaster plan. When a tornado strikes or a river overflows or a wildfire threatens your community, AmeriCorps Members need to be ready with a plan for keeping their families safe, communicating when/if they get separated, and letting program leaders know they are O.K. See the link below to find easy-to-use tools to help you and your Members create plans now – before the next disaster strikes. "Get a FAMILY Plan" and "Get a BUSINESS Plan" are available at <http://floridadisaster.org/>

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

AmeriCorps members are required to have American Red Cross or comparable CPR/First Aid training. 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:***

**"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)

**GROWING AmeriCorps with The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act!** This legislation puts AmeriCorps on the path to grow from its current level of 75,000 to 250,000 members over the next eight years. It focuses on our country's toughest challenges – including clean energy, health care, and education - and creates service opportunities for veterans. The expansion of AmeriCorps includes a Clean Energy Corps, a program that was supported by a broad coalition of energy conservation, youth service, and environmental justice organizations. It gives students, seniors, and everyone in between the resources to serve, and it strengthens nonprofit organizations to expand opportunities for everyone to pitch in. If you would like to take the next step and help your members to do the same, join President Obama's official White House initiative to renew America by going to the official Whitehouse website at: <http://www.usaservice.org/whitehouse>.

### ***National Service Days***

**May 2009 (month)** - National Foster Care Month ([www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org)) and National Preservation Month - <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month/>

**May 2** - **Join Hands Day** - <http://www.joinhandsday.org>

**May 3-9** - Be Kind to Animals Week - [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

**May 9-16** - **National AmeriCorps Week** - <http://www.americorpsweek.gov/>

**May 10 - June 21** (Mother's Day - Father's Day) National Family Month - [www.familymonth.net](http://www.familymonth.net)

### ***June 2009***

**June 5** - World Environment Day - [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)

**June 12** - World Day against Child Labor -

<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/WDAACL/lang--en/index.htm>

**June 14** - World Blood Donor Day - <http://www.who.int/worldblooddonorday/en/index.html>

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**October 21, 2009** – Disability Mentoring Day

**January 18, 2010** - **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service** – What will your Corps do to help your community during 2010 MLK DAY? [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org)

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

**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:

**DID YOU KNOW?** Colleges that match the national service Education Award can be found at [www.lifetimeofservice.org](http://www.lifetimeofservice.org).

**Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) is coming this Fall!** In August, 2009, the Florida Department of Education will make the new Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) available to K- 12 public schools free of charge. Developed by the Florida Center for Reading Research in collaboration with Just Read, Florida!, this new assessment system will provide teachers screening and progress monitoring information that is essential to guiding instruction. For more information, see [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org) or contact your Volunteer Florida program consultant.

**The Corporation for National and Community Service Webpage is now Dedicated to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** - CNCS has created a webpage where individuals can hear recordings of calls and access other information about the stimulus funding that will engage citizens through service to address unmet needs and strengthen communities. Please go to: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/recovery/index.asp>

**Incorporating Fun into Service!** - It is a volunteer's experience on a project that keeps them coming back for more, and many times this is because they had a good time. You want your volunteers to leave the project with a feeling that they worked hard, made a difference, and had fun! To see "Fun Factor " ideas: [http://nationalserviceresources.org/filemanager/download/HON/incorporating\\_fun.doc](http://nationalserviceresources.org/filemanager/download/HON/incorporating_fun.doc).

**NEED HELP WITH PERFORMANCE MEASURES?** Project STAR, technical assistance provider sponsored by CNCS, is pleased to announce the **Performance Measurement Builder**, an online interactive 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. The PM Builder lets you 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. Many sample instruments are available with detailed instructions for administration and analysis; download and modify them 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).

**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.

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.