



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SISTER SLEDGE AND NATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKERS
TO HEADLINE VOLUNTEER FLORIDA'S
2006 FLORIDA AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

Orlando Hosts Second Annual Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference Dec. 1 – 2, featuring chart-topping musical group Sister Sledge, who will perform at the opening session. Speakers include Points of Light Foundation President Bob Goodwin, Retired Walt Disney World Executive Lee Cockerell and national service experts from across the nation ...

Who: The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Commonly called Volunteer Florida, and 1,000 AmeriCorps and National Service Members

What: The Second Annual Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference

When: Opening Session: Dec. 1, 2006, 1 p.m. Eastern time

Where: The Caribe-Royale Hotel, Orlando, Fla., 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, Fla., 32821

Why: To bring together approximately 1,000 National Service Members for two days of learning, sharing, motivation and inspiration.

OPENING SESSION SPEAKERS/PERFORMERS:

Kristin McSwain, National Director of AmeriCorps, will be speaking at 1:20 p.m. Eastern time Friday, Dec. 1

Sister Sledge, Chart-topping musical group, famous for their song, "We Are Family," will perform at 1:30 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. Sister Sledge's appearance is made possible by **Volunteer Florida Foundation**, a nonprofit organization devoted to strengthening volunteerism and community service (www.volunteerfloridafoundation.org) and the Points of Light Foundation (www.pointsoflight.org.)

(more)



Bob Goodwin, President of the Points of Light Foundation in Washington D.C., will be speaking at 1:55 p.m. Eastern time Friday, Dec. 1

OTHER SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

The Honorable Barbara J. Pariente, Florida Supreme Court Justice
Lee Cockerell, Executive Vice President of Operations, WALT DISNEY WORLD® (Ret.)
Lynn Manning, award-winning actor, poet and playwright.
La-Verna Fountain, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, Columbia University
And MORE!

AmeriCorps is a National Service program that provides opportunities for citizens to serve. Participants in AmeriCorps, known as "Members," join a local program and provide intensive services to their communities.

Nationally, 70,000 AmeriCorps Members serve with more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. Since 1994, nearly a half-million men and women have provided needed assistance to communities through their AmeriCorps service.

More than **92,000** people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through **177** national service projects across Florida.

In Florida alone, more than 1,500 Members are serving in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs.

Florida also boasts more than **27,000** volunteers in Senior Corps programs and **63,000** students engaged in community service through Learn and Serve programs throughout the state.

Through their service and the volunteers they mobilize, National Service Members address critical needs in communities in Florida, including:

- Tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth
- Fighting illiteracy
- Improving health services
- Building affordable housing
- Teaching computer skills
- Cleaning parks and streams
- Managing or operating after-school programs
- Helping communities respond to disasters
- Building organizational capacity

Joining AmeriCorps is easy! For details on how to become an AmeriCorps Member, please visit www.volunteerflorida.org, or www.nationalservice.gov.

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