



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Scott VanDeman

Director of Communications

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism
and Community Service, Volunteer Florida

Phone: (850) 251-2834

E-mail: scott@volunteerflorida.org

NORTH FLORIDA AMERICORPS REGIONAL LAUNCH KICKS OFF A YEAR OF INTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

More than 220 North Florida's AmeriCorps members to be sworn in at special ceremony. ...

- WHO:** The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida).
- WHAT:** North Florida AmeriCorps Regional Launch.
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 22, 2009. The program starts at 11:30 a.m. **The Honorable Eleni Derke, Judge of Duval County Court, will conduct the Swearing-in Ceremony at approximately 1:15 p.m.**
- WHERE:** Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 E. Coastline Drive, Jacksonville.
- WHY:** To celebrate the commencement of a year of intensive service for North Florida's new and returning AmeriCorps members.

Please join Volunteer Florida for the North Florida AmeriCorps launch ceremony, hosted by Communities in Schools of Jacksonville. This event includes a motivational keynote speech by Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer, and an official swearing-in Ceremony, to be conducted by The Honorable Eleni Derke, Judge of Duval County Court.

AmeriCorps, sometimes called the "Domestic Peace Corps," is a national service program providing opportunities for members to dedicate a year or two of their lives to intensive public service to meet critical needs in their communities. AmeriCorps member activities include:

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

(more)



401 South Monroe Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (850) 921-5172 voice/tty • (850) 921-5146 fax

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More than **220** new and returning AmeriCorps members will attend the North Florida Swearing-in Ceremony, representing the following programs:

- AmeriCorps Duval READS!
- AmeriCorps English Coaches
- AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads
- AmeriCorps Florida State Parks (Duval, Columbia, Leon, St. Augustine)
- AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville
- AmeriCorps North Florida Health Corps
- AmeriCorps Putnam Reads
- AmeriCorps St. Johns Reads

“Governor Crist is a great supporter of volunteerism and service to others, and there’s an excellent reason for that,” said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. “Because of the yearlong commitment to serve, every AmeriCorps member is making a great sacrifice to help improve Florida’s communities.”

The North Florida regional launch is sponsored by AIG Retirement, Citibank, Curves, Enterprise, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, The Let Us Play! Foundation, NAVY College Office — NAS Jacksonville, Navy Federal Credit Union, NAVY Lodge — Mayport, Southern Illinois University, St. Leo University, USO Naval Station Mayport, Walmart, and Webster University.

The Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youth to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism for disaster preparedness and response; and supports the Governor’s priorities through the creation of innovative volunteer programs.

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