



County Day of Recognition for National Service: April 7, 2015

Every day, in counties across America, national service is tackling tough problems and strengthening communities. On April 7, 2015, county executives across the country will thank those who serve and recognize their impact on the County Day of Recognition for National Service.

The nation's counties are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective strategy to address local challenges. By unleashing the power of citizens, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs have a positive and lasting impact, making our counties better places to live. To spotlight the impact of national service and thank those who serve, county executives across the country will participate in **County Day of Recognition for National Service** on April 7, 2015. The initiative, part of National County Government Month, is being led by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

National Service: A Resource for Counties

As the federal agency for national service and volunteering, CNCS annually engages five million citizens in service at more than 60,000 sites across the country. Through AmeriCorps (including VISTA and NCCC), Senior Corps (including Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP), the Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, CNCS leverages federal and private funds to support organizations that achieve measurable results where the need is greatest. Whether supporting food banks and homeless shelters, restoring parks, providing health services, strengthening public safety and juvenile justice services, tutoring and mentoring students, and managing community volunteers, national service members help county executives tackle tough problems.

Why a County Day of Recognition?

County governments have a broad range of responsibilities to their residents, which matches CNCS's mission to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement. A coordinated day of recognition presents a unique opportunity to spotlight the key role that national service plays in helping counties solve problems. Participating in the day will highlight the impact of citizen service, show support for nonprofit and national service groups, and inspire more residents to serve in their communities.

What Happened Last Year?

On April 1, 2014, the second annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service united mayors across the country to spotlight the impact of national service and honor those who serve. Altogether, 1,760 mayors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico officially recognized the work that AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers are doing to make cities better and stronger. Together, these elected officials represent more than 110 million citizens, or one-third of all Americans. In 2015, CNCS is expanding this initiative so that county executives and tribal leaders also have the opportunity to highlight the contributions of national service members in their communities.

What are the Goals of the Day?

- Highlight how county executives use national service to solve their local challenges
- Thank national service members for their commitment and impact



- Build public awareness about the value and impact of national service to the nation's cities and counties
- Highlight the role that national service plays in managing volunteers to focus and amplify their impact
- Provide opportunities for county executives to communicate about the impact of national service to national policymakers
- Generate press coverage and online discussion about county executives supporting service

Who Can Participate?

County executives, county board chairs, mayors, tribal leaders, or other chief executives of counties and cities of any size.

How We Can Help

CNCS offers a variety of resources that can help county executives learn about national service and volunteering in their counties and expand the impact of volunteering by their residents:

- Each year, CNCS produces [State Profiles](#) that list all national service funding, projects, and participants in every state. CNCS also will produce county profiles on demand for counties participating in the County Day of Recognition for National Service. To receive your county profile, contact the CNCS Director in your state. A list is here: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>.
- CNCS also produces the annual Volunteering and Civic Life in America report, the most comprehensive data on volunteering ever assembled. Visit: www.volunteeringinamerica.gov

How Can County Executives Get Involved?

County executives are encouraged to hold a public event, issue a proclamation, and use media to highlight the impact of national service. Here are several ways county executives can participate:

- Announce your county is becoming an [Employer of National Service](#)
- Issue a proclamation naming April 7 as National Service Recognition Day
- Visit national service programs or projects in order to highlight their value to the county
- Invite national service programs to a public roundtable to discuss how they address county problems
- Issue a press release or report on the scope and impact of national service in your county
- Serve with a national service program as a "member" for a day to highlight their important work
- Use Twitter, Facebook, and other social media to thank national service members in your community
- Write an op-ed about the unique contributions of national service your county
- Take a group photo with all national service members in your county

Where Can I Learn More?

To learn more or register to participate, go to www.nationalservice.gov/countiesforservice or contact PJ Andrews, Office of Government Relations, 202-606-6613 or pandrews@cns.gov. You can also contact the CNCS Director in your state. A list is here: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>.

About CNCS

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, and leads President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.