



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the County Day of Recognition for National Service?

The County Day of Recognition for National Service is a nationwide bipartisan effort to recognize the positive impact of national service, to thank those who serve, and to encourage citizens to give back to their communities.

Why a County Day of Recognition for National Service?

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 is CNCS and how does it help counties?

As the federal agency for service and volunteering, the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS) annually engages more than five million citizens in service at more than 60,000 locations across the country through AmeriCorps (including VISTA and NCCC), Senior Corps (including Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP), and other programs. CNCS also supports innovative community-based solutions improving the lives of low-income people through the Social Innovation Fund.

CNCS leverages federal and private funds to support organizations that achieve measurable results where the need is greatest. National service helps county executives tackle problems in the following areas:

- tutoring and mentoring students
- supporting food banks and homeless shelters
- strengthening public safety and juvenile justice services
- restoring parks and public lands
- removing blight and creating safer neighborhoods
- supporting veterans and military families
- responding to disasters and emergencies
- providing health services
- managing community volunteers

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. You can learn more about what happened last year in our [2014 Mayors Day on Storify](#) and you can view photos from events around the country on our [2014 Mayors Day photo gallery](#).

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.

Where did the idea come from?

Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter, former president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, is a strong supporter of national service, having seen first-hand the key role service plays in tackling local problems. In 2012, he came up with the idea of setting aside a day when mayors across the country could recognize and thank those who make a difference through national service. He shared the idea with Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Together, they began planning the first Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, which took place on April 7, 2013, and engaged 832 Mayors across the country.

In both 2013 and 2014, a number of county officials also participated in Mayors Day. As CNCS began planning the 2015 effort, representatives of CNCS met with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to expand the 2015 initiative to formally include county executives. NACo is partnering with CNCS on County Day of Recognition for National Service, and has included it as a suggested activity in National County Government Month. Click [here to learn more about National County Government Month](#).

Who is participating?

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

What are county executives doing on the day?

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 vital 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



Is it a day of service?

There are multiple service days throughout the year, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. While some county executives are participating in service activities on April 7, most are using County Day as an opportunity to recognize the impact of national service and thank those who serve.

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
- 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

Where can I learn more about national service and volunteering in my county?

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 County Day. 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

Who can I contact for more information?

- For information on County Day or CNCS programs, contact CNCS State Director in your state. A list is available at www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp.
- For government relations questions, contact PJ Andrews, Office of Government Relations, 202-606-6613 or [pandrews@cns.gov](mailto: pandrews@cns.gov).
- For communications questions, contact the Office of External Affairs at [pressoffice@cns.gov](mailto: pressoffice@cns.gov).

Who are the sponsors of County Day?

- The **Corporation for National and Community Service** (CNCS) engages more than five million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other programs, and leads President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.
- **National Association of Counties (NACo)** promotes sound public policies, foster county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information, visit www.naco.org.
- CNCS also partners the **National League of Cities** and **Cities of Service** on Mayors Day.