



KEY MESSAGES

- **GETTING THINGS DONE:** Every day in communities across America, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers address the most pressing challenges facing our counties and nation, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to preserving the environment and helping communities recover from natural disasters.
- **SERVICE AS A SOLUTION:** Given the many social needs facing our communities – and the fiscal constraints facing government at all levels – county executives are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective solution to meet county needs.
- **COUNTY DAY:** The County Day of Recognition for National Service is a nationwide bipartisan effort to recognize the positive impact of national service in our counties, to thank those who serve, and to encourage citizens to give back to their communities.
- **GET INVOLVED:** National service shows the best of the American spirit – people turning toward problems instead of away, working together to find community solutions. Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen our county through service and volunteering.



TALKING POINTS

Background: How National Service Gets Things Done

- Service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges.
- Given the many social needs facing our communities – and the fiscal constraints facing government at all levels – county executives are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism to help meet local needs. County executives know that engaging citizens and nonprofit partners is a smart strategy to address on county challenges.
- A key partner in our efforts is the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other programs that engage more than five million citizens in service each year.
- This agency works hand-in-hand with counties, nonprofits, and other local partners to support high-impact national service at more than 60,000 sites across the country.
- AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers address the most pressing challenges facing our counties and nation. 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.
- National service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers.

County Day of Recognition for National Service

- That's why I am pleased to join my fellow county executives today in the County Day of Recognition for National Service. County executives across the country are taking time to recognize the impact of national service in their counties and thank those who serve.
- This effort is being led by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the National Association of Counties and is part of National County Government Month. Hundreds of Mayors are also taking part in this day.



- Across the country, county executives are participating in a variety of activities, including visiting national service programs, hosting roundtable discussions, issuing proclamations, and communicating about national service through social media.
- I am proud to join in this nationwide salute that will highlight the importance of citizen engagement, recognize the dedication of national service members, and inspire more residents to get involved in their communities.

Localize Impact of National Service in Our County:

- More than *[NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS]* AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers serve in our county, providing vital support to county residents and improving the quality of life in our county.
- You don't hear their stories on the nightly news, but every day they head out, quietly and without fanfare, to improve lives and strengthen communities.
- *[GIVE EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT]*
- As a county executive, I am grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these citizens, who are helping make our great county stronger, safer, and healthier. I have seen their impact first-hand, and know that national service is a cost-effective strategy to meet critical county needs.

Get Involved!

- National service shows the best of the American spirit – people turning toward problems instead of away, working together to find community solutions.
- Strengthening that spirit is one of my goals as a county executive. Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen our county through service and volunteering.
- Go to *[COUNTY WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTEERING]* or Serve.gov to find a volunteer opportunity that matches your skills and interests.