



## SAMPLE OP-ED

### **National Service Strengthens [COUNTY NAME]**

*[LEAD OFF WITH ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES OF AMERICORPS OR SENIOR CORPS MEMBERS IN YOUR COUNTY]*

*[As one of the only members of his family to graduate from college, John Smith always wanted to do something to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds make the most of their education. Through AmeriCorps, John now serves as a full-time mentor and tutor at a [COUNTY] high school, giving extra attention to help students stay on track to graduate.]*

*[At age XX, Mary Smith could be expected to live a quiet life of retirement. Instead, she volunteers 20 hours a week as a Foster Grandparent, helping kids develop early literacy skills. Mary is using her lifetime of experience to put young people on a path to success.]*

John and Mary are just two examples of how [COUNTY] citizens making a difference through national service. Altogether, more than [NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS] AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers are serving in [COUNTY], tackling tough challenges including adult literacy, disaster preparedness, neighborhood revitalization, and bridging the education gap.

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.

As County Executive of [COUNTY NAME], 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.

That's why I am pleased to join county executives and mayors across the country today in the Mayors and County Day of Recognition for National Service. We are taking time to recognize the impact of national service and thank those who serve.

Given the many social needs facing our communities – and the fiscal constraints facing government at all levels – local leaders are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism to help meet local needs. We know that engaging citizens is a smart strategy to make progress on county challenges.



A key partner in our efforts is the Corporation for National and Service, a 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, cities, nonprofits, and other local partners to support high-impact national service at more than 60,000 locations across the country.

Here in [COUNTY NAME], more than [NUMBER] AmeriCorps members [INSERT SERVICE ACTIVITIES - TUTOR, RESPOND TO DISASTERS, ETC]. More than [NUMBER] Senior Corps volunteers [INSERT SERVICE ACTIVITIES - MENTOR, PROVIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, ETC].

[ADD PARAGRAPH ABOUT EXAMPLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE IMPACT OR HOW NATIONAL SERVICE HAS HELPED CARRY OUT COUNTY-WIDE SERVICE PLAN OR OTHER COUNTY EXECUTIVE PRIORITY].

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 county executive. Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen [COUNTY NAME] through service and volunteering.

[COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAME] is County Executive of [COUNTY NAME]. To find a volunteer opportunity, visit [WEBSITE WITH LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES] or [serve.gov](http://serve.gov). To learn more about AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other national service programs, visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov)