



SAMPLE OP-ED

National Service Strengthens [CITY]

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

[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 [CITY] 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 [CITY] citizens making a difference through national service. Altogether, more than [NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS] AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers are serving in [CITY], 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 everyday they head out, quietly and without fanfare, to improve lives and strengthen communities.

As Mayor of [CITY NAME], I am grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these citizens, who are helping make our great city stronger, safer, and healthier. I have seen their impact first-hand, and know that national service is a cost-effective strategy to meet critical city needs.

That's why I am pleased to join mayors across the country today in the Mayors 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 - mayors 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 city 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 cities, nonprofits, and other



local partners to support high-impact national service at more than 60,000 sites in 8,500 cities across the country.

Here in [CITY 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].

[ADD PARAGRAPH ABOUT HOW NATIONAL SERVICE HAS HELPED CARRY OUT CITY-WIDE SERVICE PLAN OR OTHER MAYOR 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 mayor. Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen [CITY NAME] through service and volunteering.

[MAYOR NAME] is Mayor of [CITY NAME]. To find a volunteer opportunity, visit [WEBSITE WITH LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES] or serve.gov. To learn more about AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other national service programs, visit NationalService.gov