



AMERICORPS 20th ANNIVERSARY
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Senior Service

May 2014

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Overview

Every day, in communities across the country, Americans age 55 and older are getting things done through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

Senior volunteers bring a lifetime of skills and experience to service, using their extraordinary talents to make difference for others. Through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, hundreds of thousands of older Americans are improving lives and strengthening communities. They tackle some of the toughest challenges facing our nation: helping at-risk students graduate, responding to natural disasters, supporting veterans and military families, and helping other seniors live independently in their homes. As they serve others, they improve their own lives - gaining skills, connecting with their community, and experiencing the mental and physical health benefits of volunteering.

As part of the AmeriCorps 20th anniversary, the Corporation for National and Community Service is observing May as Senior Service month. Together with our partners, members, and alums, we will highlight the many ways that older Americans serving in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps are making a difference for America.

This toolkit provides background on the impact older AmeriCorps and Senior Corps volunteers are making, engagement ideas, stats, social media tips, and links for more information. Join us in celebrating the vital role our senior volunteers play in making a difference for generations.

Senior Service Key Messages

- May is Older Americans month. With decades of experience and unyielding enthusiasm, seniors continue to lift up our neighborhoods, offer perspective on pressing challenges, and serve as role models to our next generation -- proving Americans never stop making a difference or giving back.
- May 19-23, 2014, is Senior Corps Week. Each year, elected officials and community leaders spotlight the impact of Senior Corps volunteers during Senior Corps Week. Across the country, Senior Corps volunteers will be highlighted through service projects and recognition events with their elected

officials, many of whom issue proclamations that mark the benefits and vital contributions that Senior Corps volunteers provide their communities.

Senior Service Statistics

CNCS provides seniors with opportunities to serve through its AmeriCorps programs (AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA) and its Senior Corps programs: (RSVP, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companions).

In FY 2013, **Senior Corps RSVP volunteers:**

- Served 461,000 veterans in activities such as transportation and employment service referrals.
- Mentored more than 87,000 children.
- Provided independent living services to 610,000 adults, primarily frail seniors.
- Provided respite services to nearly 15,000 family or informal caregivers.
- Engaged 21,600 veterans who served as RSVP volunteers.

In FY 2013, **Senior Corps Foster Grandparent volunteers** served a total of 196,000 children, including mentoring more than 113,000 children, 3,400 of whom were children of military families, and 6,600 of whom were children of incarcerated parents.

In FY 2013, **Senior Corps Senior Companion volunteers** delivered 10.7 million hours of service to approximately 46,750 frail, older adults and others with physical or other limitations, of whom 3,480 were veterans.

Senior Service Talking Points

- Every day in communities across the country, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps volunteers, age 55+, are getting things done for America.
- **Senior Companions** volunteers, including approximately 600 veterans, transport clients to medical appointments, help shop for food and basic necessities, provide companionship to offset isolation, and offer respite to 6,900 family members and informal caregivers. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Senior Companion Program.
- **Foster Grandparent** volunteers serve as a caring and consistent adult presence in a child's life. Foster Grandparents teach job skills to economically disadvantaged youth; tutor and mentor in local schools and community based programs; and improve behavioral and educational outcomes of youth.

- **RSVP volunteers** engage in a diverse range of activities including tutoring children, renovating homes, teaching English to immigrants, assisting victims of natural disasters, providing independent living services, recruiting and managing other volunteers, and serving in many ways that help local nonprofits achieve their missions.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Here are a few ways for you to help salute older Americans who serve through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps this month:

- Connect with a Senior Corps program near you and ask if you can plan a site visit.
- Plan a joint service event with AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers.
- Thank a Senior Corps volunteer for their service.
- Attend a recognition event for Senior Corps volunteers.

Spreading the Word on Social Media

Below are some other ways you can highlight AmeriCorps and Senior Corps' vital role in strengthening communities across the country.

- Share photos of Senior Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers serving together on Facebook.com/AmeriCorps
- Send us your [photos](#)
- Thank Senior Corps volunteers.
 - Tweet your support. Use the hash tag #SeniorsGetThingsDone
 - Sample Tweet: *AmeriCorps & Senior Corps make a difference in (insert location) #SeniorsGetThingsDone*
- Share the [Senior Corps Impact videos](#).
- Submit your personal Senior Service success stories all month long to pressoffice@cns.gov (300-500 words).

CNCS Senior Service Resources

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps/senior-corps-impact-videos>

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps/senior-corps-week>

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps/sc-marketing-resources>