



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service?

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

Why a Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service?

Given the many social needs facing our communities – and the fiscal constraints facing government at all levels - mayors are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective solution to meet city needs. A coordinated day of recognition presents a unique opportunity to spotlight the impact of national service, thank those who serve, and encourage more citizens to get involved.

What is CNCS and how does it help cities?

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 sites in 8,500 cities across the country through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, 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. A significant portion of this investment is focused on cities. National service helps mayors tackle problems in the following ways:

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

What happened on Mayors Day last year?

On April 9, 2013, the first-ever 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, [832 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 mayors represent nearly 100 million citizens, or nearly one-third of all Americans. You can learn more about what happened last year in our [Mayors Day Participation Guide](#) or this [recap of media coverage](#).



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 Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. Mayor Nutter [announced the initiative](#) at the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual winter meeting on January 17, 2013.

Who is participating?

Mayors, city or county managers, or other chief executives of cities of any size. Mayors from all parts of the country have signed on, including large metropolitan areas, mid-size cities, small towns. This year, several Tribal leaders have also joined in the effort.

What are mayors doing on the day?

Mayors are participating in a range of activities including:

- Hosting recognition events for national service members
- Issuing a mayoral proclamation
- Visiting national service programs
- Inviting national service participants to City Hall for a public roundtable
- Issuing a press release on the impact of service
- Using social media to thank national service members
- Writing op-eds about the unique contributions of national service their cities
- Taking photos and videos

To learn more about the creative ways mayors were involved last year, check out our [Mayors Day Participation Guide](#).

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 mayors are participating in service activities on April 1, most are using Mayors 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 mayors 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 to the nation's cities.
- Inspire more residents to get involved in their communities.



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

CNCS offers a variety of resources that can help mayors learn about national service and volunteering in their cities:

- Each year, CNCS produces [National Service State Profiles](#) that list funding, projects, and participants in every state. CNCS has also produced City Profiles with similar information for cities. To get your City Profile, contact the CNCS Director in your state. A list of CNCS state offices is here: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>.
- The annual [Volunteering and Civic Life in America](#) report is the most comprehensive data on volunteering ever assembled, providing detailed information on volunteering trends and demographics in the U.S., all 50 states, and more than 150 major cities. Visit [VolunteeringInAmerica.gov](#)

Who can I contact for more information?

- For information on Mayors 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.
- For press or communications questions, contact the CNCS Office of External Affairs at pressoffice@cns.gov.

Who are the other sponsors of the 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](#).
- The **National League of Cities** (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. Working in partnership with the 49 state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents. For more information, visit www.nlc.org.
- **Cities of Service** is a bipartisan coalition of mayors that aims to create a vibrant and growing network of municipal governments effectively leveraging citizen service as a reliable, viable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenge. The coalition includes more than 100 mayors representing nearly 50 million people. For more information, visit CitiesofService.org.
- **Mayor Scott Smith**, Mayor of Mesa, Ariz., is President of the United States Conference of Mayors, the official non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more.