MAYORS DAY of Recognition for National Service

KEY MESSAGES

- **GETTING THINGS DONE:** Every day in communities across America, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers address the most pressing challenges facing our cities 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 - mayors are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective solution to meet city needs.

- **MAYORS DAY:** 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.

- **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 city through service and volunteering.

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE
NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES
CITIES OF SERVICE CITIESOFSERVICE.ORG

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 - mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism to help meet local needs. Mayors know that engaging citizens and nonprofit partners is a smart strategy to address on city 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 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.

- AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation. Whether strengthening education, fighting poverty, rebuilding after disasters, providing health services, preserving the environment, or supporting veterans and military families, national service gets things done.

- 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.

Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service

- That's why I am pleased to join hundreds of Mayors today in the second annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. Mayors across the country are taking time to recognize the impact of national service in their cities and thank those who serve.

- This effort is being led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National League of Cities, Cities of Service, and Mesa, Ariz., Mayor Scott Smith, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

- Across the country, more than 1,000 mayors are participating in a variety of activities, including visiting national service programs, hosting roundtables at city hall, 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 City:

- More than *[NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS]* AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers serve in our city, providing vital support to city residents and improving the quality of life in our city.

- 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.

- *[GIVE EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT]*

- As mayor, 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.

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 mayor. Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen our city through service and volunteering.

- Go to *[CITY WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTEERING]* or Serve.gov to find a volunteer opportunity that matches your skills and interests.