

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Symposium – Tips for First Time Attendees

**Location:** Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

**Dates:** September 15-18, 2015

### ***Before you travel to the Symposium:***

- ✓ Check out the list of 2015 AmeriCorps State Competitive grantees to see who is in your area, who you may want to meet at the Symposium, etc.:  
<http://www.nationalservice.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/national-service-agency-announces-218-million-amerikorps-funding>
- ✓ Be sure to pack an AmeriCorps shirt to wear on Gear Day, Thursday, September 17
- ✓ Take a look at the event website; you'll see the agenda, last year's Symposium information, and a link to the mobile app: <http://americorps.hb-co.com/index.htm>

### ***When you arrive at the Symposium:***

- ✓ Check in at the Symposium registration table on the lower ballroom level of the Hyatt Regency
- ✓ The registration packet will include a flashdrive with presenter materials for the workshops, a printed agenda with presenter bios and organizational summaries, a map of the local area, and more

### ***Symposium agenda:***

- ✓ Workshop blocks include financial management, criminal history checks, research and evaluation, and AmeriCorps program management
- ✓ Plenaries include two CNCS leadership panels
- ✓ Business meetings include School Turnaround grantees, Disaster Services Unit, and more
- ✓ Happy hour/social time on Tuesday, September 15, 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Hyatt Lobby Bar
- ✓ Awards luncheon at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, September 16, in the Regency Ballroom
- ✓ There is no pre-registration for workshops; seating will be limited, and sessions fill up early

### ***What to do with all your Symposium wisdom:***

- ✓ Take it home and make it your own! Use the materials, concepts, and examples you receive to train your subgrantees, service sites, or AmeriCorps members to implement or improve your program, enhance your commission operations, and more

### ***Final tips:***

- ✓ There will be limited food and beverage provided by CNCS during the Symposium; coffee and tea will be provided at no cost in the mornings, and there will be a lunch buffet on September 16. Beyond that, participants are required to pay for their own meals (and the DC metro area is expensive)
- ✓ Be sure to plan some face time with your CNCS Program Officer or other CNCS colleagues

### ***Questions?***

- ✓ Contact the Symposium CNCS staff lead, Barbara Ellen Reynolds, at [breynolds@cns.gov](mailto:breynolds@cns.gov). You may also access a recording of the Symposium Orientation held on August 31, under Featured Resources at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/amerikorps>

***See you on September 15!***