



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | September, 2015

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Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

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Countdown to the Volunteerism Conference

Space Still Available for Conference

It's not too late to register for the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference, September 30-October 1, in Roanoke! This exciting two-day event features workshops and training opportunities providing invaluable information on everything from volunteer recruitment to the latest technology trends. This year's theme, "Volunteers are Everyday Heroes," will be carried throughout our workshop sessions. The deadline for [online registration](#) is September 21, however, on-site registration will be available. **Time is running out to make hotel reservations for the conference at the special discounted group rate! [Hurry, make your reservations by September 2!](#)**



Another Exciting Speaker Announced for Conference

Community resilience expert [Anita Chandra](#) has just been added to this year's line-up of dynamic speakers. Chandra is Director of Justice, Infrastructure, and Environment at the RAND Corporation. Prior to this position, she served as Director of RAND's Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department. ([Read full bio.](#)) Anita will lead an in-depth discussion on community resiliency in the face of disasters and other emergency situations. She joins nationally-known humorist and author [Ron Culberson](#) and volunteer management expert [Katherine Campbell](#), along with a host of compelling workshop leaders.



Conference is Your Opportunity to Make Global Impact

In addition to several service projects taking place around the Roanoke area as part of the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to join a special global service initiative in India through [Global Student Connect](#). Individuals attending the conference will be able to sign up to be a part of an innovative demonstration of [Microsoft](#) tools to connect organizations on a global level. Don't miss it!



Kick Off Fall with Service in September

Virginia Communities Plan Major Day to Serve Efforts

Governor McAuliffe has proclaimed that Virginia will once again join community organizations in West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, for [Day to Serve](#) 2015! [Download the Proclamation](#). Service projects will take place September 11-October 10, uniting people of all faiths, races, cultures, and backgrounds. In Richmond, the Alumni Charity Challenge is a massive effort involving 27 schools with a goal to raise 15,000 pounds of canned goods within three hours on September 30. Spread the word by inviting your family, friends, and co-workers on [Facebook](#) or [download the brochure](#) and pass it on! It's not too late to plan a service project or join one already underway! Visit daytoserve.org for more information.



Day to Serve Mini Grants Available: The Virginia Service Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2015 Day to Serve Mini-Grants. Qualifying organizations may be eligible for an award of up to \$250 to use towards hosting a Day to Serve project. A limited number of grants are available and applications will be scored based on project scope and community benefits. [More](#).

Honoring 9/11 Day Through Acts of Service

The anniversary of September 11 is a day of history, emotion, and reflection for most Americans. Over the last 13 years, this day has also come to symbolize the resilience, kindness, and unity of the American people. Throughout the Commonwealth, Virginians will take part in 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance by feeding the hungry, mentoring a



[archives.](#)

Contribute

Have a news item or calendar event you want to see on *Virginia Volunteer*? Send comments to info@vaservice.org

child, checking in on the elderly, collecting supplies for children in need, and supporting and honoring veterans, soldiers, military families, and first responders. Plan today by visiting [Serve.gov](#) and [911day.org](#) for toolkits, FAQ's, and a place to share your stories and register your project nationally.

National Service News

Welcome Virginia 2015-16 AmeriCorps Programs!

The Office on Volunteerism and Community Service is thrilled to announce the grantees for 2015-16 AmeriCorps State programs. The grants will assist organizations with recruiting, training and placing AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs. Virginia's programs are located in every corner of the Commonwealth serving in a variety of ways, including tutoring, environmental conservation, hunger relief, homelessness prevention, jobs skills training, and more. The 2015-16 Virginia AmeriCorps programs will be sworn in at a special ceremony at the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism Conference, in Roanoke, on October 1. [See the complete list of AmeriCorps programs in Virginia.](#)



AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Grants Available

The Corporation for National and Community Service has announced the release of the [2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity for AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Grants](#). A Notification of Intent to Apply is required to be eligible for this competition and is due December 9. Applications are due Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 5 p.m. ET. Applications are submitted online via [eGrants](#). Please submit questions about this funding opportunity to americorpsgrants@cns.gov. Responses will be included in a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Tackles Virginia Homelessness

NCCC team, Delta 7, was stationed in the Virginia Peninsula from July 17 to August 27. Based out of the H.E.L.P. Day Center, Delta 7 made a critical impact in the area's efforts to end homelessness for veterans. "Working with H.E.L.P., Inc. and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness has allowed me to gain critical skills and has challenged me to quickly learn about permanent housing focused solutions to homelessness," explains team member Danielle O'Leary. [More.](#)



AmeriCorps Alums Virtual Grad School Fair

AmeriCorps Alums will be hosting a Virtual Grad School Fair on September 30. More than 30 graduate schools have recruited Alums at past fairs including the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Many of these schools offer exclusive scholarships and financial incentives for Alums -- and all of them want AmeriCorps Alums on their campus! Sign up today and find the right graduate program for you! [Click here](#) to sign up.



Letting Your AmeriCorps Flag Fly: Branding & Marketing Tips

Whether you are starting as a new program or have been around awhile, there are always new and more effective ways to communicate the AmeriCorps story to the world. Stamping your program with the AmeriCorps "A" is about more than a logo or a bullet point. The "A" is a symbol of our nation's tradition of citizens from all walks of life coming together to solve their community's greatest challenges. That's why it's vitally important to adhere to AmeriCorps branding and public engagement practices throughout your program year. [Download the AmeriCorps Branding and Messaging Guide](#) for more information.



Resource for AmeriCorps Alums with Disabilities

The Corporation for National and Community Service has created an [online collection of resources](#) regarding pre-employment and employment issues for people with disabilities, special programs, government services, and mentorship and networking opportunities. The resource page features information on understanding disability laws in the workplace, resources for finding a job, services that can assist with pre-employment training and more.



New Report Shows National Service on the Rise

The Panetta Institute periodically commissions a nationwide survey of college students to gauge their level of interest in politics and civic involvement. The latest report finds 63 percent of U.S. college students say they would be interested in a program of two years of national service in exchange for grants or financial assistance to help pay for college. The study also shows that one in three students have considered a service-oriented experience, such as Teach for America, VISTA or AmeriCorps. This is an increase from a year ago when just one in four students expressed an interest in national service. [Read the full report.](#)



Governor McAuliffe Announces Appointments to Advisory Board

Governor Terry McAuliffe has announced the latest appointments to the [Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism](#). The Advisory Board communicates with the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries on national and community service programs in Virginia and on fulfilling the responsibilities and duties prescribed by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service related to the AmeriCorps program. [See the complete list of Advisory Board members.](#)



National Preparedness Month

5 Steps to Preparedness

FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is presenting [National Preparedness Month](#) in September for the 11th year. Throughout the month, activities across the country will promote emergency preparedness. Check out the [CDC's 5 Steps to Preparedness](#) along with valuable resources for making your community safer, more resilient, and better prepared. Be sure to [add your project](#) to the America's PrepareAthon! website so members of your team can be counted.



What's In Your Emergency Kit?

The CDC has prepared a helpful list of what you'll need if a disaster strikes your community.

- **Food & Water:** remember a manual can opener
- **Electronics & Tools:** flashlight; battery-powered, solar, or hand crank radio ([NOAA Weather Radio](#), if possible); cell phone & chargers; batteries; multi-purpose tool
- **Health and safety supplies:** first aid kit; medicine (7-day supply); other medical supplies; paperwork about medical conditions; copies of documents like insurance cards, immunization records, etc.; blanket; soap; toothbrush; personal care items
- **Family and emergency contact information**
- **Extra cash**
- **Map(s) of the area**
- **Extra set of car keys and house keys**



New Preparedness Tools Available

The redesigned [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) is now available, featuring easier-to-find disaster preparedness resources, options to add preparedness activities, and information on how to prepare your community for hazards. Bookmark it now!

[Emergency](#) is the American Red Cross' new mobile app. Download the new app on [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) for real-time severe weather alerts and safety information for various hazards. Users can customize the app by choosing to receive alerts for hazards that impact your community the most.

Back to School Opportunities

September is Attendance Awareness Month

Research shows that poor attendance early in the school year can predict chronic absence later on. Spread the word about the importance of recognizing Attendance Awareness Month in September. Attendance Works offers some new materials to help communities mobilize:

- **Toolkit** detailing strategies for intervening with chronically absent students and communicating effectively about attendance
- **Video** on engaging parents to fight chronic absence
- **Promotional Materials**, including social media posts, banners and flyers to display in schools and offices, decals, infographics and more

- [Attendance Awareness "House Party" Planning Kit](#) with handouts and a sample agenda.

Preparing Students & Parents for Emergencies

As a new school year begins, it's important for students, parents, and caregivers to be aware of how their school handles emergencies. If a particular school doesn't have an emergency plan, consider volunteering to help create one. The [Ready Campaign](#) has created a list of questions to ask about your child's school emergency plan.

September is Hunger Action Month

Feeding America annually presents [Hunger Action Month](#) -- a major effort in which food banks encourage Americans to fight hunger in their community. Whether it's by advocating and raising awareness, making donations, or volunteering, you can find the way that's right for you to make a difference. September 3, Feeding America is asking everyone to take at least one action for Hunger Action Day®. You can participate by volunteering at your local food bank, wearing orange to show your support or sharing hunger stats with your social networks.



2-1-1 Virginia Has a New Look

The [2-1-1 Virginia website](#) has been redesigned with a new look and improved features. The updated website is easier to navigate making finding information on services in Virginia a breeze! Check it out today and share with everyone you know! If you have comments or suggestions on the new website, feedback is welcome!



Nonprofit Resources

Grants, Recognition and Awards

- More than \$50 million in [Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\) funds](#) have been awarded to Virginia from the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). Funds will support and improve services for crime victims. VOCA Listening Sessions about this opportunity have been scheduled for Friday, September 18, in [Richmond](#); Tuesday, September 29 in [Roanoke](#); and Thursday, October 8, in [Norfolk](#).
- The [Mary Morton Parsons Foundation](#) is accepting applications until September 15, to support the capital needs of Virginia charitable organizations.
- The [Jobs Plus Pilot Initiative Grants](#) provide job training services for residents of designated public housing developments.
- [Youth Conservation Services Grants](#) from the Department of Defense Army Corps of Engineers provide young adults and veterans with real life work experiences in stewardship of the environment by offering opportunities for education, leadership and personal development.
- [More Funding and Grant Opportunities](#)

Training and Events

- [Points of Light's Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), October 19-21, in Houston, is the largest convening of volunteer, national service and civic leaders in the world. This year's speakers will include Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Pastor Joel Osteen, Girl Scouts of America CEO Anna Maria Chávez, and more.
- [2015 Falls Prevention Awareness Day](#), September 23, will feature webinars, media toolkits, awareness day activities, press releases, awareness pamphlets, and other initiatives. Download the [2015 Falls Free® National Falls Prevention Action Plan](#).
- [Grandparents Day](#), September 13, encourages youth to start, expand and lead intergenerational programs in their communities.
- The [Virginia Independent Living Conference](#), October 8-9, in Richmond, will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Virginians with Disabilities Act.
- [More Special Events and Training Opportunities](#)

Resources and Data

- [Fostering Inclusive Volunteering and Service Learning](#) provides

information useful to youth service professionals and others interested in facilitating youth engagement in volunteer activities.

- The [Center for Changing Our Campus Culture](#) is a new resource from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The website features the latest information, materials and resources on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus.
- [Understanding Your Taxes for Teachers and Students](#) is a great resource for middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and the general public for learning about taxes in the United States.

Feedback Needed

- The [ABLE National Resource Center](#) is conducting an informal survey to gauge the level of enthusiasm in creating ABLE accounts, and how potential beneficiaries will utilize such accounts for the purposes of maintaining and increasing their financial health, independence and quality of life. Responses will be accepted until the end of September.
- [America Saves](#) is inviting individuals to complete a short survey to help better understand the current savings environment. Three lucky respondents will be chosen at random to receive a \$50 gift card for completing the survey!
- The [Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](#) is seeking comments regarding [Executive Order 13559](#), which would provide beneficiaries of social service programs supported by department grants with religious liberty protections.

Upcoming Events

September

[National Preparedness Month](#)

[National Hunger Action Month](#)

11 - [National Day of Service and Remembrance](#)

11-Oct 10 - [Day to Serve](#)

13 - [Grandparents Day](#)

21 - [Deadline to Register for VA Volunteerism & Service Conference](#)

23 - [Falls Prevention Awareness Day](#)

30-Oct 1 - [Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference](#)

October

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

8-9 - [Virginia Independent Living Conference](#)

18-24 - [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#)

18-24 - [America Safe Schools Week](#)

19-21 - [National Conference on Volunteering & Service](#)

24 - [National Food Day](#)

24 - [Make a Difference Day](#)

November

[National Runaway Prevention Month](#)

11 - Veterans Day

14-22 - [National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#)

15 - [America Recycles Day](#)

16-20 - [American Education Week](#)

18-20 - [Virginia Governor's Housing Conference](#)

21 - [National Family Volunteer Day](#)

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