



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | July, 2015

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Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

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Exciting News About the Volunteerism Conference

Ready, Get Set, Register!

Early bird registration for the [Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference, September 30-October 1, in Roanoke, is now open!](#) Discount registration is \$95 for attendees registering by August 14. Registration will increase to \$115 on August 15. This is the Commonwealth's leading conference for organizations and individuals making a difference in their communities! The two-day event will feature invaluable training and workshops, networking events, opportunities for service, and the 2015 Virginia AmeriCorps Launch Event. Group rates are available, so [make your reservations](#) at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel.



The dynamic line-up of speakers will include nationally-recognized speaker, author, and humorist Ron Culberson; Executive Director of the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration Katherine Campbell; and Roanoke Mayor David Bowers.

- **Check out the new Official Conference Website vavolunteerconference.com and Register Today!**

Exhibitor Space Still Available!

Exhibitor space is still available for the conference! This is your opportunity to access the volunteer and human service sector from across Virginia. Specific time has been blocked off during the conference for exhibitors. Participants will also be encouraged to visit exhibit tables between sessions and during breakfast, noon luncheon and throughout the day until the end of the conference. Register online through [Black Tie America](#). Additional information for exhibitors can be found on vavolunteerconference.com.



Opportunities to Serve

Start Planning Now for Day to Serve

Now is the time to begin planning how you will join the thousands of other community organizations throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, for [Day to Serve 2015!](#) Service projects will take place September 11-October 10, uniting people of all faiths, races, cultures, and backgrounds. It's easy for you, your organization, or your group to participate. Follow this simple three-step process:



1. Examine your neighborhood and invite a new group of friends to work with you - different religious group, an area business, a government or civic organization, a youth or senior's group, for example.
2. Find and meet a need in your community. You might, for example, consider First Lady McAuliffe's goal to have no child go hungry and conduct a food drive. You may find that there are already events planned during this time period. If so, jump on board and add your energy!
3. Go to daytoserve.org and add your event and all the details to our growing map of service events. This lets local volunteers know what's going on so they can join in for their DAY TO SERVE. After your event, report back and tell us about your success!

Contact Cathy Walker at catherine.walker@dss.virginia.gov if you have any questions.

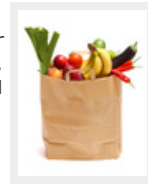
Sign up for AARP Food Drive

Volunteer? View the [archives](#).

Contribute

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

AARP will again hold its annual Community Food Drive, September 11-20 -- mobilizing volunteers, staff and partner organizations to collect food to help feed hungry Virginians. Last year more than 160,000 pounds of food were donated to numerous regional food banks, local pantries and assistance programs. Volunteers will work in teams inside local grocery stores and encourage shoppers to donate by purchasing individual non-perishable food items. Sign up to volunteer for the 2015 Food Drive by July 30. For more information, contact Stephanie Gossett at sgossett@aarp.org, 804-344-3063, 1-866-542-8164.

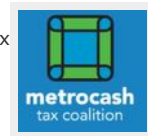


Volunteer in Rural Communities

The White House Rural Council's "Rural Impact" initiative is an effort to help address the challenge of rural child poverty by bringing together federal agencies and public and private resources. As part of this initiative, they have launched "Serve Rural," a national effort to enlist volunteers and local organizations to help build thriving rural communities. Volunteers will be able to visit Serve.gov to search for volunteer opportunities in rural communities.

Training Sessions Available for Tax Volunteers

Are you in the Richmond/Petersburg area and interested in serving as a tax preparer through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program? Metrocash promotes financial independence for working individuals and families by providing free tax preparation. They are currently looking for community service groups that may be interested in participating in the program next year. Free training sessions will begin in the fall. For more information, contact Mckenna Saady at 804-225-7915.



Get to Know Leslie Van Horn

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Leslie Van Horn is the executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, with a 30-year career in management. For the past 14 years, Ms. Van Horn has worked with nonprofit organizations in the Hampton Roads area. As executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, she has worked with the Virginia Department of Social Services to increase participation in Food Stamps (SNAP). She has also joined efforts with the State Attorney General's office and the Virginia Bar Association on the yearly Legal Food Frenzy Campaign, which has brought in the equivalent of more than 11.4 million pounds of food for the state's food banks since 2007. Ms. Van Horn also created the "Fresh Food for Virginians" program in 2010 to help food banks acquire and distribute fresh produce to their clientele. [More](#).



National Service in Virginia

Funding Opportunity: AmeriCorps Partnership Challenge

The Corporation for National and Community Service has issued a Notice of Funding Availability/Opportunity related to provision of education awards. Through the [AmeriCorps Partnerships Challenge](#), applicants will develop proposals to address community needs by engaging AmeriCorps members. Applicants apply as an Education Award Program and request no operating funds. Program utilizing this avenue need to clearly present the funding source to cover the full cost of operating the program, the management plan to support this effort, and the staffing overview to insure compliance with all AmeriCorps grant requirements. If your organization has funding available (such as unused match) for operating costs, and can effectively manage and utilize additional members, this opportunity may be just what you've been looking for! The deadline is July 23. Successful applicants will be notified no later than August 17.



Welcome New Virginia NCCC Teams!

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) Southern Region has deployed teams in five locations in Virginia, for their second round of service projects across the Southeast. NCCC is a 10-month full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Members respond to disasters, construct homes, develop trails in state and national parks, mentor youth, oversee emergency shelters, organize donations, lead volunteers and meet other needs



identified by communities. Virginia AmeriCorps NCCC Teams include: Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (Front Royal), Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (Richmond), Infinity Acres Ranch (Ridgeway), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (Wise), and Camp Easter Seals (Salem). To learn more about AmeriCorps NCCC in Virginia, visit vaservice.org.

White House Welcomes Virginia Service & Conservation Corps

The DCR Division of State Parks - Virginia Service and Conservation Corps AmeriCorps program members and Virginia State Parks staff attended a White House Community Leaders Briefing with The Corps Network on June 18. The event featured discussions with senior administration officials on the Task Force on Expanding National Service and how Corps programs provide education, job training, and environmental and community service opportunities for young Americans. The next day, members and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis participated in The Corps Network's 2nd Annual Day of Service in Washington, DC. Service and Conservation Corps from all over the country gathered to work on service projects at four National Park sites. [More](#).



New Program Start-up Webinars

This summer, there will be two webinars designed to help orient new AmeriCorps programs and their staff to CNCS and the AmeriWorld: **July 23 and August 20, 3-4:30pm**. The webinars will include a combination of program information, financial guidance, and details on the National Service Criminal History Checks. These sessions are targeted to the new staff of direct CNCS grantees (i.e., tribal programs and multi-state/national programs). The presentations and recordings of both orientations will be posted on the Knowledge Network. Save the date and registration information will be available soon.

AmeriCorps Symposium in September

The 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, September 15-18. The Symposium is the required grantee meeting for staff of Corporation for National and Community Service prime grantees in the 2015-2016 AmeriCorps State and National portfolio (i.e., directors of State Service Commissions, multi-state programs, tribal programs, national and tribal planning grantees, and programs operating in a state or territory without a commission). The Symposium is not open to the general public. Subgrantees and AmeriCorps members do not attend this event. [Register now](#). A briefing call will be held for grantee staff before the event, August 31, 3-4pm (call 888-906-7802, passcode 9649906).

Connecting AmeriCorps Class of 2015 Graduates with Resources

The more than 80,000 graduating AmeriCorps members are encouraged to transition to the alumni network which will connect them to invaluable resources which will help them grow as engaged citizens and civic leaders:



Members & Alums

- [Register with AmeriCorps Alums](#) and help build the alumni network and movement of civic leaders.
- [Tweet to your fellow members and alums](#) that you've just joined and invite them too as well!
- Take advantage of [free professional development resources](#).
- Browse the [Alum calendar](#) and sign up for one of the next events or trainings.

Programs

- [Explore the professional development program](#) and share resources with members/alums.
- [Check out the Membership Guide](#) to help share information about Alums. The guide includes a registration link for your website, newsletter/email templates, a one-page flyer, an introductory PowerPoint, and additional graduation message templates.
- [Peruse the event guide](#) which includes event ideas, an event checklist, and more.
- [Download and customize a graduation certificate](#) to celebrate your AmeriCorps graduation.

Getting Ready for Hurricane Season

Governor McAuliffe recently urged all Virginians to be prepared for Hurricane Season which extends through November 30. "Just as public safety and emergency officials prepare for hurricane season," Governor McAuliffe stated, "it's equally important for Virginians to take hurricane preparedness seriously."



- **Know your risk:** Check the weather forecast regularly, sign up for local alerts from emergency management officials, and obtain a [NOAA Weather Radio](#).
- **Take action:** Develop an emergency plan and practice how and where you will evacuate if instructed to do so by emergency officials. Download the free [Ready Virginia mobile app](#).
- **Be an Example:** Once you know your risk and take action, be an example by talking to your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors on what you have done to prepare.

More great resources:

- Learn more about preparing for hurricanes and other emergencies at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](#). (Spanish language version [www.ListoVirginia.gov](#))
- Download America's PrepareAthon's [How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#).
- Check out [Home Depot's Hurricane Preparedness Virtual Workshop](#).

Park Service Conservation Projects

The National Park Service is now accepting applications for 2016 projects supporting community-led conservation and recreation projects. The National Park Service's [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program](#) is accepting applications through August 1, for help with a wide range of community-led projects. National Park Service staff can help local leaders:



- Develop close-to-home parks and greenways
- Manage community-led visioning, planning, and design
- Facilitate public involvement
- Build sustainable partnerships
- Engage youth through outdoor recreation skill-building and conservation stewardship
- Plan for trails, landscape conservation, water trails, river restoration, green transportation, and tourism

Can we help your community? Find out by first reviewing the [application process](#) and exploring [current projects in Virginia](#). Then contact a [National Park Service staff member near you](#) to discuss your idea, and let them know by July 15 if you intend to submit an application by the August 1 due date. [Watch video for more information](#).

Celebrating Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26, 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Celebrations of the signing of the ADA by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, are taking place across the nation. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The act also assures equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications. To celebrate this 25th milestone, the ADA National Network offers an [Anniversary Tool Kit](#) which includes proclamations, publications, videos, social media information, and more.



Improvements to Virginia's CommonHelp

[CommonHelp](#) is the Commonwealth of Virginia's fast and easy way to apply online for multiple Department of Social Services (DSS) programs. In support of this platform and the new updates to better serve citizens, a support document has been created to help navigate CommonHelp, understand the changes/updates, and aid customers in the process of applying for programs. More support documents like this will be shared as more updates are implemented. DSS is committed to promote the well-being of Virginia's citizens through the delivery of essential services and benefits to ensure families are strengthened, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. With your help, we continue to change lives around the Commonwealth. [Download the flyer now!](#)

I'm Determined Youth & Parent Summits

The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) reports that the employment rate of youth with disabilities ages 16-22 is approximately half that of the same age of typically-developing peers. One way Virginia is addressing this disparity is through the Virginia Department of Education's [I'm Determined](#) project and its annual [Youth and Parent Summits](#) for school students with disabilities ages 13-21. Held at James Madison University, June 17-19, Get to Work (the theme of the 9th annual Summit) recognized that there are many pathways to a job and career -- including volunteerism and service. [More](#).



Nonprofit Resources

Grants, Recognition and Awards

- The [2015 Virginia Housing Awards](#) is accepting nominations until August 14. Contact Rhonda Spear at 804-371-7000 or rhonda.spear@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- [Workforce Innovation Grants](#) are available to expand innovation and accountability in workforce development programs. The Department of Labor has announced the availability of \$34 million for the third round of grants to support approximately 6-8 grants, ranging from \$3 million to \$6 million.
- Nominate someone for [Youth Service America's Everyday Young Heroes](#). They could be highlighted on YSA's national website, newsletter, and on social media!
- Need help understanding and navigating the grants process? Visit [Grants.gov Learn Grants webpage](#) for information on how grants work, terminology, how to search for funding, and much more!
- [More Funding and Grant Opportunities](#)

Training and Events

- July is the [50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act \(OAA\)](#). The observance theme, "Get into the Act: Aging Well Since 1965," celebrates the evolution of the Act. Available materials include infographics, articles, web badges and banners, sample social media, and more.
- An [IRS Nationwide Tax Forum](#) will be held in Washington, DC, July 7-9. The event will feature a full agenda of the latest tax law information, networking opportunities and exhibits of the latest products and services.
- [More Special Events and Training Opportunities](#)

Resources and Data

- The [Virginia Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#) is seeking public comment as it develops its next 5 year State Plan that will go into effect on October 1, 2016. The deadline for input is July 10.
- The [Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Family Services](#) has developed a survey for all foster, adoptive and kinship parents to gain insight about the training they provide as well as their ability to provide support. The deadline for input is July 25.
- The Kessler Foundation has released results from the [National Employment and Disability Survey](#) which explores the mechanisms by which individuals with disabilities strive to work and the challenges they face. Among the many findings, most notably, the survey found that more than two-thirds of all people with disabilities are "striving to work."
- The Virginia Department of Social Services is accepting applications for the [Cooling Component of the Energy Assistance Program](#) until August 17. There are three ways to apply for the Cooling Program: online at [CommonHelp](#); pick up an application at your [local Social Services office](#) during regular business hours (8am-4:30pm); or contact 703-787-3100 for questions or to request an application be mailed to the person interested in applying.
- President Clinton recently announced the launch of [Campaign for Every Kid's Future](#), a five-year effort to connect 1.4 million kids with savings accounts to help them go to college and secure a stronger future.
- Download the latest issue of the [American Saver](#), which details the latest information on how we're saving, changes in credit reporting,

and local initiatives.

- Check out the latest data from the CDC and Prevention's National Center for [Health Statistics on Teen Birth Rates](#). Teen births in the U.S. declined 9 percent in 2014 and have reached another record low.
- [Every Kid Needs a Family: Giving Children in the Child Welfare System the Best Chance for Success](#) shows how state and local government leaders and communities can work together to help the 57,000 children in foster care who are living in group placements on any given night.
- The [Resource Guide: Combating Violence Against Women](#) has been created by the Council on Combating Violence Against Women (CCVAW) which provides summaries and links to programs, initiatives, training, and services that can be leveraged by communities across the country to combat these types of crimes. [Check out additional resources.](#)
- In the latest issue of the [Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Report](#), practitioners can learn about different strategies for best serving their clients.
- [New institutional guidance on student eligibility for Pell Grants](#) and other student financial aid has been released by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Several versions of [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) forms will no longer be available after July because revised versions are now available.
- [The Future of Citizen Engagement: Five Trends Transforming Government](#) features the current state of citizen engagement and the five trends to look for in the future.
- [Nine Dangers at the Beach](#) details tips from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA).
- Kick off your summer meetings or youth events by playing the [Extreme Event Game](#). The game is a one-hour group simulation exercise that engages players in a virtual community that has been impacted by a disaster.
- Top Nonprofits offers up the [Top 150 Nonprofit Blogs](#).
- Consumer Reports details various types of [Tech Support for Long-Distance Caregivers](#).

Upcoming Events

July

[Parks and Recreation Month](#)

9 - [GRAVA Conference](#)

August

14 - [Deadline for Volunteerism Conference Early Bird Registration](#)

September

[National Preparedness Month](#)

[National Hunger Action Month](#)

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

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

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

30-October 1 - [2015 Virginia Volunteerism & Service Conference](#)



Virginia Volunteerism & Service Conference

September 30-October 1, 2015

Sheraton Roanoke Hotel, Roanoke, VA

Theme: Volunteers Are Everyday Heroes:

Serving Locally & Globally

vavolunteerconference.com

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