



AmeriCorps Week 2008: We Got it Done!

AmeriCorps Week Highlights *May 11-18, 2008*

The second-annual National AmeriCorps Week was a major success! A big thank you goes to the tens of thousands of AmeriCorps members, alums, staff, partners, and friends who joined us in shining the spotlight on the extraordinary service and accomplishments of AmeriCorps and in helping recruit more Americans into service.

Members and alums celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best – service. Projects varied from building homes and helping communities recover from disasters to restoring parks and signing up volunteers - members also took time to thank their community partners and to recruit more Americans into service. Millions of Americans learned about AmeriCorps through school presentations, recruitment fairs, service projects, and media coverage during the week. AmeriCorps Week was also a time to say “Thank You” to AmeriCorps members and alums. The President, Congress, governors, Mayors, and people who’ve benefited from the helping hands of an AmeriCorps member all took time to salute the men and women of AmeriCorps for their dedication and accomplishments.

FAST FACTS!

- More than 250 events occurred across the country, from Alabama to Alaska, and Savannah to Saipan.
- An AmeriCorps Week resolution was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Proclamations were issued by 25 Governors throughout the country.
- Widespread media coverage included *Good Morning America*, Fox News, and 80+ print and broadcast stories.
- An AmeriCorps longitudinal study showing 60% of AmeriCorps alums work in nonprofits or government was released.
- In the past year, AmeriCorps’ 540,000 members have provided more than 705 million hours of service.
- AmeriCorps members last year mobilized 1.7 million community volunteers for the organizations they serve.





AmeriCorps Week in Michigan

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm officially declared the week of May 11, 2008 as Michigan's AmeriCorps week. All across Michigan, AmeriCorps Week activities and events showcased the power of AmeriCorps members and alumni and educated people about the role, impact, and importance of AmeriCorps in our communities. AmeriCorps Week events took place in Midland, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Wolverine, Petoskey, Detroit, Holland, Kalamazoo, St.

Joseph, Lansing, Monroe, Traverse City, Williamston, and Sault St. Marie. Projects ranged in scope from a college visit for youth in foster care to city clean-ups to a pet food drive to a book and bottle donation day. AmeriCorps Week projects engaged Michigan's AmeriCorps*State and National Direct members, VISTA, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps Alums, and other community partners.

In addition to the projects planned by Michigan's AmeriCorps programs, several other initiatives took place:

- MCSC Commissioners, Lloyd Jackson and Larry Williamson, presented Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's AmeriCorps Week proclamation at events in Detroit and Grand Rapids.
- The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) released a special edition e-newsletter highlighting AmeriCorps Week activities.



MCSC Commissioner Lloyd Jackson reads Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's AmeriCorps Week proclamation in Detroit.

Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference

The 2008 Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference took place on May 13-14 and featured AmeriCorps Week as one of the conference highlights. The SuperConference has become a major celebration for community volunteers throughout the state. Over 600 nonprofit executive staff, development professionals, board members, volunteer program managers, national service participants, and leaders from the government, corporate, and faith communities gathered for two days of learning, networking, and renewal.



In honor of AmeriCorps Week, the Michigan Community Service Commission hosted an AmeriCorps Week service project appropriately titled: *Heroes Wanted*. Conference participants were asked to spend a few minutes during the conference to help make 150 fleece blankets, which were donated to the Department of Human Services, Wayne County Central Operations. AmeriCorps members wearing their "grays" (the standard AmeriCorps uniform) were stationed at the project tables to speak with participants about AmeriCorps and national service. The opening plenary featured AmeriCorps members conducting a Reader's Theatre - style performance and an AmeriCorps video.

Many thanks to Michigan's AmeriCorps members and alums, AmeriCorps Program Directors, and the MCSC Commissioners for taking part in the week's activities!

See below for additional information about regional projects and activities.

Highlights of Activities Across Michigan

West Michigan



Beautification of Downtown Muskegon is underway thanks to this Michigan's AmeriCorps member.

Muskegon

Members of *Volunteer Muskegon's AmeriCorps* got their hands dirty for their AmeriCorps Week event! On Friday, May 16th, over 120 volunteers arrived to move shrubs and spread mulch on the flower beds throughout downtown Muskegon.

Grand Rapids

Neighborhood revitalization was the game plan for Camp Fire USA AmeriCorps' service project. Teams of AmeriCorps members were sent to the Boston Square and Franklin neighborhoods to conduct clean-ups and share their goals of service. A youth fair and basketball tournament were also held in those respective communities between children and local teachers.



Members of the Cherry Street Community HealthCorps Team putting their gardening gloves on for service.

On Friday, May 17th, Cherry Street's Community HealthCorps team hosted a Community Garden in the Creston Plaza Apartments located in Northeast Grand Rapids. Over 50 volunteers were on hand to work in the 320 square foot garden. The project included planting vegetables in an effort to provide items of need to the residents of the area.

Members serving with AmeriCorps Together We Prepare spent four days of AmeriCorps Week at Indian Trails Camp. Every year, Indian Trails opens its doors to campers of varying ages who have disabilities. Campers come from all over the state to participate in adaptive recreation through fun activities. During the four days of service ATWP members helped modify the campground to better suit wheelchair-bound campers, planted sod, cleaned and painted cabins, organized storage materials, spread mulch, planted flowers, and assembled adaptive tricycles called AmTrykes.



An ATWP member helps prep Indian Trails for this summer's campers.



Faith in Youth AmeriCorps members rallied the community to support troops overseas.

Holland

The Faith in Youth AmeriCorps program supported the local Sons of American Legion for their 2008 AmeriCorps Week service project. This project gave the local community the chance to write letters and drop off care packages to support our troops over seas. The project was held on Wednesday, May 14th at JP's Coffee and Espresso.

Northern Michigan

Cheboygan County

Garry Carr, an AmeriCorps member with the *4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative* in Cheboygan, worked on a service project benefiting the Cheboygan County Humane Society. The project consisted of a week-long “needs drive” that included dog and cat food, pet treats, blankets, carriers, cleaning supplies, and more. Both Inland Lakes Schools in Indian River and the Michigan State University Extension Office in Cheboygan served as collection sites.

Charlevoix

Members of the *Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps* program devoted their service time on May 17th. The day's projects included trash pick-up, trail creation, existing trail clean-up, fence building, and tree planting. The eight Michigan's AmeriCorps members helped create a ½ mile trail on a 40-acre parcel.



Members of the Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps program learn the art of planting trees during their 2008 AmeriCorps Week service project.



Grayling

Members from Huron Pines AmeriCorps saw great success during their first service project. Over 60 volunteers removed nearly three truckloads of trash along the Sturgeon River. The project also featured a guest speaker from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, a lunch, and giveaways.

Volunteers fill their bag as they clean up the Sturgeon River.

Southeast Michigan



Detroit-area Michigan's AmeriCorps members make their presence felt during the 2008 AmeriCorps Week.

Detroit Area

Several Michigan's AmeriCorps programs banded together during AmeriCorps Week to conduct multiple service projects throughout the Detroit area. On May 12th *City Year Detroit, Communities in Schools of Detroit, The Guidance Center, Jumpstart Dearborn, Michigan AIDS Fund AmeriCorps, Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership, and CLEARCorps/Detroit* held the "Detroit Kick-off Celebration" at Romanowski Farm Park.

The day's activities began with a brief program that included the presentation of the AmeriCorps Outstanding Community Partner Award to *The Greening of Detroit*. Following the program, 134 Michigan's AmeriCorps members served in seven teams in various activities in the park and a neighborhood elementary school.

Central Michigan

Midland

On Saturday, May 10th, AmeriCorps members from Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) held a "College Experience Day" for foster youth on the campus of Northwood University. This unique opportunity allowed foster youth to gain some exposure to post-secondary educational prospects. Also held that day was a Northern Regional meeting for MCC, which allowed some foster youth to speak about the needs of their peers.

Lansing

On Saturday, May 17th, Books, Bottles, and Barbecue was held at the Foster Community Center in Lansing. AmeriCorps members coordinated this service project in partnership with Ingham County 4-H Mentoring, Steppin' Up Teen Peer Mentoring, and Eaton County T.E.E.N.S. The project raised \$194 through bottle and can donations, collected 217 children's books, and entertained close to 90 participants.



Young AmeriCorps Week visitors partake in the Books, Bottles, & BBQ drive.

Upper Peninsula

Houghton

Superior AmeriCorps devoted their service efforts to a local food drive. The district schools served as collection points and overall they collected 2,824 canned or non-perishable food items to donate to the local food bank in Houghton and the St. Vincent de Paul located in L'anse.