



2011 AmeriCorps Week Recap

National AmeriCorps Week

2011: Another Successful AmeriCorps Week!

The 2011 AmeriCorps Week, Saturday, May 14 through Saturday, May 21, was a tremendous success with thousands of individuals participating in hundreds of events throughout the country. Multiple Governors and state legislatures officially declared AmeriCorps Week across the U.S. and AmeriCorps members were featured in news articles and other media coverage.

Members and alums celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best – service! Projects varied from community beautification to a service rally and everything in between. Members also took the time to thank their community partners and recruit more Americans into service. Millions of Americans learned about AmeriCorps through school presentations, recruitment fairs, service projects, and media coverage during the week.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is commonly described as the domestic Peace Corps. Individuals, called members, commit to a specific term of service (usually one year) and are housed in nonprofit organizations, schools, or other agencies. Members range in age from 17 to 70+ years and represent a wide spectrum of other demographics. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn an education award to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members may also be eligible to receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, childcare, and student loan deferment. More than 620,000 AmeriCorps members have helped recruit, train, and supervise community volunteers, tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, respond to disasters, and build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations since 1994. Together with the federal initiatives Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America, AmeriCorps is meeting critical needs in communities and promoting civic participation.



Michigan's AmeriCorps Week

2011 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project Impacted the City of Grand Rapids

On Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 more than 350 Michigan's AmeriCorps members from across the state gathered together in Grand Rapids for the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project. AmeriCorps

members assisted with various community projects and served with several organizations to make a significant impact on the Grand Rapids community.

Each year, the Russ Mawby Signature Service Project brings hundreds of AmeriCorps members to one Michigan community for two days of training, teambuilding, and service. By the end of the second day, several projects are completed, visibly demonstrating the power of Michigan's AmeriCorps members in action. The 2011 project was a partnership with the Michigan Community Service Commission, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids, and Elemental Media.



A special guest of the project included Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell who visited to thank members for their efforts.

Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Service Projects

Governor Rick Snyder declared the week of May 14, 2011, as Michigan's AmeriCorps Week. AmeriCorps members from all across Michigan engaged in various service projects as they aimed to "Get Things Done" for their local communities and throughout America.

2011 AmeriCorps Week activities were planned for Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Manistique, and other locations throughout Michigan. Examples of specific projects included:



Fifth Annual Metro Detroit AmeriCorps Celebration – Detroit

All Detroit-based Michigan's AmeriCorps programs united to celebrate the 5th Annual AmeriCorps Week. More than 300 members visited the Brightmore community on Monday, May 16 to tear down a home, clean up three parks, install new playground equipment, board up abandoned homes, and install a senior community garden. Detroit Mayor Dave Bing was on hand to thank members for their service and recognize their efforts.

Disaster Awareness Peoples Symposium – Lansing

Members from the Together We Prepare AmeriCorps Program who serve in Lansing coordinated the Disaster Awareness Peoples Symposium for Saturday, May 14. The Symposium was a way for community members of the Lansing and surrounding areas to not only realize, but utilize the many wonderful resources that are already available to them.

Inclusion Service Project – Cedar Springs

Camp Fire USA hosted a service project for students with special needs who are part of the Region 1 Transition Services program, which provides support and training for students who are not quite ready to meet the demands of life after high school. AmeriCorps members and students worked side-by-side at the school's Resale Store to paint, landscape, sort donations, repair bricks, and build book shelves for their program.

Step Up Greater Lansing – Lansing

AmeriCorps members challenged Greater Lansing residents to step up on Saturday, May 14 and show their pride in the area on this community-wide day of service. Various projects occurred across the city.

U.P. AmeriCorps Signature Service Project – Manistique

AmeriCorps members located in the Upper Peninsula gathered together on May 13 and 14 to conduct service in Manistique for Habitat for Humanity HiawathaLand, the Community Youth Center, and the Manistique City Hall.



About the MCSC

The Michigan Community Service Commission builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. In 2010-2011, the MCSC is granting nearly \$10 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC is funding 26 AmeriCorps programs, 25 Learn and Serve programs, and seven Volunteer Michigan grantees. The Governor's Service Awards and Mentor Michigan are also premier programs of the MCSC.