



The 2014 Michigan's AmeriCorps Week, which took place May 12–17, was a tremendous success with thousands of individuals participating in events throughout the state. To add to the excitement of the week, Governor Rick Snyder issued an official proclamation declaring it AmeriCorps Week in Michigan.

During the week-long celebration, members took the time to thank their community partners and recruit more Americans into service. Thousands of Michiganders learned about AmeriCorps through presentations, service projects, and media coverage during the week.

Members and alums also celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best – service! Projects varied from planting community gardens in Lansing to boarding up abandoned homes in Detroit to restoring a historic lighthouse in Mackinaw City.

Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects

Southeast MI (Detroit)

The AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program partnered with ACCESS, Healthy Detroit, and Clark Park Coalition to do multiple projects throughout the week, including the clean-up and beautification of Clark Park, trash pick-ups in surrounding neighborhoods, and the board-up and clean-up of seven abandoned homes. More than 400 volunteers filled three dumpsters with debris from abandoned homes, gathered more than 150 bags of trash, filled another dumpster with trash and yard clippings from Clark Park, and planted more than 300 flowers in the park's garden areas.



Northern MI (Mackinaw City)

In northern Michigan, more than 50 AmeriCorps members and volunteers gathered for a day of beautification and restoration on May 16 at the McGulpin Point Lighthouse and historic site in Mackinaw City. Participants helped build trails, plant flowers, trim trees, and did spring clean-up around Emmett County Park. In true northern Michigan fashion, participants enjoyed delicious pasties for lunch. One of the McGulpin Point staff members stated that members had accomplished more in one day than they could've accomplished all summer, and that they completed projects that had been on their to-do list for three years! This project was coordinated by the Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps program and Huron Pines AmeriCorps program.

Upper Peninsula (Marquette)

Although snow had fallen on the previous day in Marquette, the weather cleared up enough on May 17th for 54 AmeriCorps members and volunteers to take part in a river clean-up and the construction of a natural play space at Moosewood Nature Center. The play area was designed for young learners to engage in outdoor play and make connections with nature. Volunteers also filled 40 trash bags with debris from the river bank.



West MI (Grand Rapids & Holland)

On May 16, more than 100 AmeriCorps members and volunteers kicked off the day with inspirational words from Grand Rapids' Mayor Heartwell and other community leaders. Participants were then transported to service projects at Ronald McDonald House, Plaster Creek, John Ball Zoo,

Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, two elementary schools, and two Habitat for Humanity build sites. Service teams participated in projects in the areas of education, environmental stewardship, health, and community building. On Saturday, May 17, a smaller group of AmeriCorps members engaged in a service project in Holland. Members partnered with the organization 3-Sixty to help them renovate a home that will be used for intern housing, staff office space, and a community tool exchange.

Mid-MI (Lansing)

In Lansing, more than 85 AmeriCorps members and volunteers engaged in multiple community projects on May 16. Following a kickoff at the Allen Neighborhood Center, participants were transported to one of nine project locations. Accomplishments for the day included the creation of a community garden with 12 70-foot-long beds, beautification of the Grand River riverbank, and the rehab of several bicycles for future use by local youth.

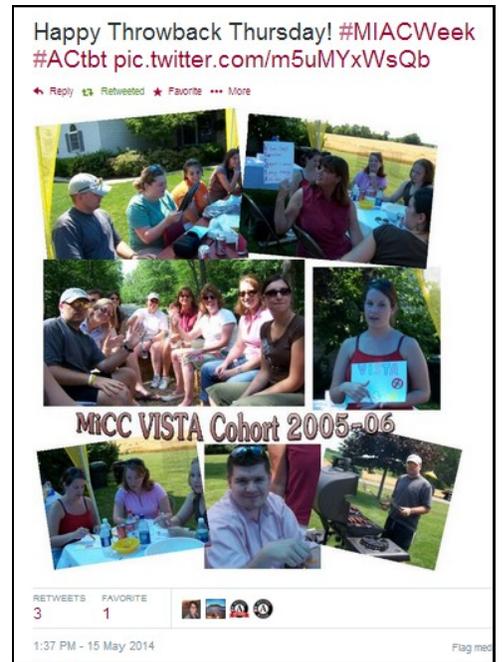
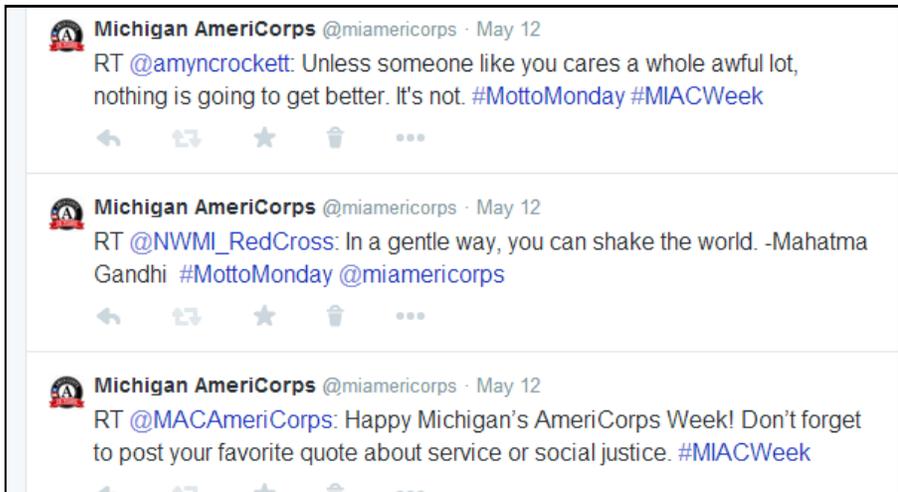


Other AmeriCorps Week service events included a Graffiti Free Day in Flint, a spring clean-up day in Saginaw, and a park clean-up in Detroit.

Twitter Talk - #MIACWeek

#MottoMonday #TalkAboutTuesday #WillDoWednesday #Actbt #FridayFavorites #Service Saturday

Throughout the week, AmeriCorps members took part in the social media theme days by sharing their favorite quote about service, commenting on what they hope to pursue after AmeriCorps, posting their favorite photos, and sharing their favorite thing about being an AmeriCorps member. Members were also encouraged to spread the word about AmeriCorps through informal conversations with friends and family, as well as outreach presentations to the community.



Volunteer, Michigan.

The Michigan Community Service Commission also hosted a series of webinars for AmeriCorps members that provided an overview of the Volunteer, Michigan campaign. The webinars helped inform participants about how to connect with and utilize their local volunteer centers, how to access and post volunteer opportunities within the Volunteer Michigan portal, and how to recruit volunteers using campaign materials and promotional tools.

Volunteer, Michigan.

