NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo | CITIES OF SERVICE .ORG | Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Join Us on April 5, 2016!

MAYOR and COUNTY
Recognition Day
for National Service

AMERICORPS A | SENIOR CORPS S

Every day, in counties and cities across America, national service is tackling tough problems and strengthening communities. On April 5, 2016, county officials and mayors across the country will thank those who serve and recognize their impact on the **Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service**.

The nation's cities and counties are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective strategy to address local challenges. By unleashing the power of citizens, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs have a positive and lasting impact, making our communities better places to live. The initiative is being led by the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

National Service: A Local Resource

As the federal agency for national service and volunteering, CNCS annually engages five million citizens in service at more than 60,000 sites across the country. Through AmeriCorps (including VISTA and NCCC), Senior Corps (including Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP), the Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, CNCS leverages federal and private funds to support organizations that achieve measurable results where the need is greatest. Whether supporting food banks and homeless shelters, restoring parks, providing health services, strengthening public safety and juvenile justice services, tutoring and mentoring students, and managing community volunteers, national service members help county officials and mayors tackle tough problems.

Why a City and County Recognition Day?

County and city governments have a broad range of responsibilities to their residents, which matches CNCS's mission to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement. A coordinated recognition day presents a unique opportunity to spotlight the key role that national service plays in helping counties solve problems. Participating in the day will highlight the impact of citizen service, show support for nonprofit and national service groups, and inspire more residents to serve in their communities.

What Happened Last Year?

On April 7, 2015, the third annual Recognition Day for National Service united mayors, and for the first time, county officials across the country to spotlight the impact of national service and honor those who serve. Altogether, 2,786 county officials and mayors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico officially recognized the work that AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers are doing to make cities better and stronger. Together, these elected officials represent more than 150 million citizens, or nearly half of the population.

What are the Goals of the Day?

- Highlight how county officials and mayors use national service to solve their local challenges
- Thank national service members for their commitment and impact
- Build public awareness about the value and impact of national service to the nation's cities and counties
- Highlight the role that national service plays in managing volunteers to focus and amplify their impact
- Provide opportunities for county officials and mayors to communicate about the impact of national service to national policymakers
- Generate press coverage and online discussion about county officials and mayors supporting service

Who Can Participate?

Mayors, county officials, county board chairs, tribal leaders, or other head officials of counties and cities of any size.

How Can We Help?

CNCS offers a variety of resources that can help county officials and mayors learn about national service and volunteering in their jurisdictions and expand the impact of volunteering by their residents:

- **Each year, CNCS produces State Profiles that list all national service funding, projects, and participants in every state. CNCS also will produce county and city profiles on demand for those participating in the Recognition Day for National Service. To receive your profile, contact the CNCS Director in your state. A list is here: nationalservice.gov/state-offices.**
- CNCS also produces the annual Volunteering and Civic Life in America report, the most comprehensive data on volunteering ever assembled. Visit volunteeringinamerica.gov.

How Can County Officials and Mayors Get Involved?

County officials and mayors are encouraged to hold a public event, issue a proclamation, and use media to highlight the impact of national service. Here are several ways county officials and mayors can participate:

- Announce your county/city is becoming an Employer of National Service (nationalservice.gov/employers)
- Issue a proclamation naming April 5 as Recognition Day for National Service
- Visit national service programs or projects in order to highlight their value to the county/city
- Invite national service programs to a public roundtable to discuss how they address county/city problems
- Issue a press release or report on the scope and impact of national service in your county/city
- Serve with a national service program as a "member" for a day to highlight their important work
- Use Twitter, Facebook, and other social media to thank national service members in your community
- Write an op-ed about the unique contributions of national service your county/city
- Take a group photo with all national service members in your county/city

Where Can I Learn More?

To learn more or register to participate, go to NationalService.gov/RecognitionDay or contact Tess Mason-Elder, Office of Government Relations, 202-606-6873 or tmason-elder@cns.gov. You can also contact the CNCS Director in your state, whom you can find here: nationalservice.gov/state-offices.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the federal agency that engages five million Americans in service through our AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, and leads President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.
For more information, visit NationalService.gov.