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N.C. AmeriCorps Program to Host Service Fair in Wake County

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is sponsoring the 2010 AmeriCorps Inclusion Service Fair on Friday, June 4, at the Triangle Aquatics Center in Cary, N.C. The Commission will coordinate this year’s inclusion service fair with the help of two partners: Special Olympics North Carolina and the Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy. The inclusion service fair will raise awareness about AmeriCorps service opportunities for people with disabilities and educate the Tarheel ChalleNGe cadets about the benefits of national and community service. Miss North Carolina USA, Nadia Moffett will wrap up this year’s fair.

During the service fair, 28 N.C. AmeriCorps program directors and members will team with 20 Tarheel ChalleNGe cadets to provide volunteer assistance to 365 athletes at the N.C. Special Olympics Summer Games. AmeriCorps members will help families, monitor access to the event and assist athletes during the competition. AmeriCorps members and program directors will also have booths setup to present and distribute AmeriCorps information to athletes, families and spectators.

“This year’s service fair is an opportunity to show North Carolinians how AmeriCorps gives back and helping athletes at the Special Olympic Games is a great example,” said Gov. Bev Perdue.

Special Olympics North Carolina offers year-round sports to more than 38,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, making it one of the largest Special Olympics programs in the world. The summer games is the largest state-level event for Special Olympics, featuring competition in aquatics, athletics, golf, gymnastics, power lifting, softball and volleyball.

The Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy is a quasi-military style program for youth at risk of dropping out of school and is sponsored by the N.C. National Guard. The mission of the academy is to redirect the efforts of these young adults who have had trouble succeeding in the normal high school environment, and give them the skills and attitude to become productive citizens in their communities.

Nadia Moffett currently holds the 2010 title as Miss North Carolina USA. She is a native of High Point, N.C. and an active community and business leader with a passion to empower people. Moffett is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with a bachelor's degree in marketing and minor in information technology. With the launch of her organization in 2008, Make Me A Queen Foundation, she has inspired young women to reach their full potential and impact their communities. In addition, she is an advocate for breast and ovarian cancer research throughout the state of North Carolina.

The N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, a federally and state-funded agency housed in the Governor's Office, administered funding to 14 N.C. AmeriCorps programs for the 2009-2010 program year. AmeriCorps is a national service initiative designed to increase volunteering and civic engagement in America. Since 1994, more than 12,153 individuals have participated in N.C. AmeriCorps programs. Members tutor and mentor school-aged youth, improve the quality of care for preschool children and address the need for energy efficient housing for low-income families. For more information on the N.C. AmeriCorps programs, visit the Commission's Web site at www.VolunteerNC.org or call 1-800-820-4483 or 1-877-877-1765 (TTY).

Who: AmeriCorps members, Tarheel ChalleNGe cadets, Special Olympics North Carolina and 2010 Miss North Carolina USA, Nadia Moffett

What: Inclusion Service Fair

Where: Triangle Aquatics Center
275 Convention Dr.
Cary, N.C. 27511

When: Friday, June 4
9:00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

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