

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

Gov. Perdue Proclaims National AmeriCorps Week

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that North Carolina AmeriCorps members will participate in a variety of service projects and activities to celebrate National AmeriCorps Week, May 8-15. The governor also signed an [AmeriCorps Week proclamation](#) to thank program members and dedicate this week in their honor.

“National AmeriCorps Week is an opportunity to honor AmeriCorps members and alumni for their community service in North Carolina,” said Gov. Perdue. “I encourage all North Carolinians to volunteer in their communities and learn more about AmeriCorps.”

Approximately 22,923 participants are currently engaged in more than 90 national service projects including AmeriCorps across the state. In 2009, the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service awarded \$3.2 million to 14 statewide AmeriCorps programs, including \$891,387 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. National AmeriCorps Week is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The week is an effort to recognize AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners and to encourage others to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities. This year’s theme is “Getting Things Done,” and the following N.C. programs are organizing various service projects and events to commemorate the week:

- **Capital Area Workforce Development, Access JobLink and City of Raleigh VISTA:** Access JobLink members will set up a table at the entrance to the Cameron Village regional library in Raleigh and distribute information about AmeriCorps and discuss service opportunities with patrons. Activities will take place May 10 and 15 from 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. For more information contact Ray Riordan, program manager at 919-856-5992 or ray.riordan@wakegov.com.

- **Children First of Buncombe County, Putting Opportunities Within Everyone's Reach (POWER) and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, Project Conserve:** Members and Project POWER alumni have been invited to throw the first pitch at the Asheville Tourists home game on May 14 at 5 p.m. Members will participate during the inter-inning entertainment and take the field during the seventh inning stretch for public recognition and appreciation. In addition, a booth will be set up at the ballpark entrance with AmeriCorps information such as brochures and posters for distribution. For more information contact Jennifer Hampton, director of development at 828-259-9717 or jenniferh@childrenfirstbc.org.
- **UNC-G Center for New North Carolinians, AmeriCorps Cross Cultural Education Service System (ACCESS) and AmeriCorps Community Collaborative (RECOVERY):** AmeriCorps ACCESS and AmeriCorps ACC are collaborating with the HIVE, a cooperative community organization that provides multiple outreach services to the Greensboro community. Volunteers assist the HIVE with preparing and serving meals to the homeless in the Greensboro area. AmeriCorps ACCESS and ACC members will collect food items to donate and help prepare and serve these meals. This activity will take place on May 10 and May 12 at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact Tom Rhodes, training coordinator at 336-256-1375 or dtrhodes.access@gmail.com.

AmeriCorps ACCESS and ACC members will also participate in a refugee conference sponsored by the Center for New North Carolinians and the Center Fellows on May 17. During the conference, members will highlight AmeriCorps service activities. For more information contact Stephanie Baldwin, AmeriCorps ACC director at 336-256-1480 or CNNCconferences@gmail.com.

- **UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education, North Carolina Literacy Corps and The Servant Center, AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness:** Members will volunteer at the National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event May 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. AmeriCorps members from both programs will provide child care to the children of returning service members as the parents receive services designed to help them reintegrate to civilian life. For more information contact Donna Rasmussen, program director at 919-962-5470 or drasmuss@email.unc.edu, or Kathy Vohs, program coordinator at 336-275-8585 or krvohs@hotmail.com.
- **ECU College of Education, Project HEART and The Wellness Corps (RECOVERY):** AmeriCorps members will help the youth of the Boys & Girls Club of Pitt County create works of art that categorizes the children's life experiences in eastern North Carolina. On May 10-15 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. the art pieces will be displayed at the Boys & Girls Club for viewing by parents and the community. AmeriCorps members will be present to discuss AmeriCorps service and its impact in eastern North Carolina. For information contact Betty Beacham, director, at 252-328-1849 or beachamb@ecu.edu.
- **Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, Project Conserve and Project Energize (RECOVERY):** Members will participate in a variety of service projects in western North Carolina. The week will kick-off on May 10 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., with a river

clean-up on the Watauga River in Boone. Other service projects include an invasive species removal at the Nature Conservancy's Bat Cave preserve and trail restoration on Satulah Mountain. Volunteers in the community will have the opportunity to learn in a hands-on way about the important service AmeriCorps Project Conserve provides in the region. The members will also promote AmeriCorps and share AmeriCorps brochures, bookmarks and stickers, with those volunteering and with others who observe the service projects. For information contact Amy Stout, director at 828-697-5777 or pprojectconserve@carolinamountain.org.

- **Black Child Development Institute, Spirit of Excellence and The Spirit of SUCCESS (RECOVERY):** Members and community volunteers will commemorate National AmeriCorps Week by serving at the Murphy Traditional Academy on May 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Members will read to classrooms of students, participate in an afternoon pep rally and provide "encouragement packages" for each student as they prepare to take the end-of-grade tests from May 11-13. The encouragement packages will be assembled by members and will consist of a small greeting card with a sentimental statement or phrase and include goodies such as candy and cookies. In addition, AmeriCorps members will spread the word about AmeriCorps programs by hosting small presentations to parents as they enter or exit the building and will share presentations to the school's educators and volunteers as well. For more information contact Chris Wallace, program director at 336-230-2138 or cwallace@blackchilddevelopment.org.
- **Stokes County Partnership for Children, AmeriCorps and Children Together (ACT) and Days of Service VISTA:** Members will volunteer at the Statesville Special Olympics Games by assisting the athletes during the games on May 12 at 8 a.m. Members will work one-on-one with the athletes to help them achieve success. For more information contact Katie Snow, program coordinator at 336-985-2676 and ksnow@stokespfc.com.

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).

###