

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
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Gov. Perdue Proclaims National Volunteer Week

N.C. AmeriCorps members to participate in various volunteer activities the week of April 18-24

RALEIGH—Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that AmeriCorps members across North Carolina will participate in a variety of service projects as part of National Volunteer Week, April 18–24. AmeriCorps members will provide literacy services for children, assist in job preparation activities, land beautification and participate in a variety of community service activities.

“National Volunteer Week is a time for North Carolinians to celebrate the service they provide to their communities,” said Gov. Perdue. “I encourage all North Carolinians to give back by helping a neighbor in need or volunteering with a local nonprofit organization.”

National Volunteer Week is a signature event sponsored by the Points of Light Institute and the Hands On Network. This year’s theme is “Celebrating People in Action,” honoring ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve communities across the nation.

The following are AmeriCorps programs that will be conducted during National Volunteer Week:

Carolina Land Conservancy/AmeriCorps Project Conserve & Recovery Project Energize (Recovery), Asheville City Schools Foundation & the Center for Participatory: Members will participate in a variety of activities aimed at landscaping beautification and cleanup projects. Activities will take place in Henderson and Buncombe Counties from April 19-24. For more information about dates and times, contact Amy Stout, AmeriCorps project conserve program director at 828-697-5777, ext. 208 or projectconserve@carolinamountain.org.

East Carolina University College of Education, High Expectations for At-Risk Teens (HEART) and ECU Wellness Corps (Recovery): Members will participate in the city of Greenville’s “Adopt a Street” program. The Greenville Community Cleanup Day project is an annual project sponsored by the Greenville Parks and Recreations Department. Project HEART and Wellness Corps members will clean the community area surrounding East Carolina

University and streets adopted by the program on April 24, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information contact Betty Beacham, program director at 252-328-4357 or beachamb@ecu.edu.

Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Access JobLink, and City of Raleigh VISTA:

On April 20, 30 participants will take part in a “How to Be Successful at a Career Fair” workshop facilitated by Access Joblink members. Following this workshop, participants will be granted early access to the JobLink Career Expo being held at the Raleigh Convention Center. On April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the ACCESS AmeriCorps Joblink program will partner with the city of Raleigh AmeriCorps Vista program and the AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness to participate in a homeless camp cleanup service project. For more information contact Ray Riordan, program director at 919-856-5992 or ray.riordan@wakegov.com.

Stokes County Partnership for Children/AmeriCorps and Children Together (ACT):

Stokes Partnership for Children will host the “Little Folks Festival” on April 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Little Folks Festival is a free event that focuses on the promotion of early care, education, school readiness, family support and health as it relates to young children and their families. ACT members and volunteers will assist families throughout the event, ensuring that they receive all the services and information available through vendors. For more information contact Katie Snow, program coordinator at 336-985-2676 or ksnow@stokespfc.com.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education/ North Carolina Literacy Corps: The North Carolina Literacy Corps, the YMCA Literacy Initiative, Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, the One Economy Corporation VISTA program and the Triad chapter of AmeriCorps Alums will join together on April 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Members will participate in a cleanup project at La Escuelita, a YMCA funded day camp for children focused on improving literacy within the Latino community residing at The Ledges Apartments in Winston-Salem. For more information contact Donna Rasmussen, program director at (919) 962 5470 or drasmuss@email.unc.edu.

Children First of Buncombe County, Putting Opportunities Within Everyone’s Reach

(POWER): Members will volunteer on April 22 at the Manna Food Bank organizing food boxes and backpacks for families and children at the Safe Haven Learning Center in Buncombe County. On April 23, members and volunteers will also work at the Emma Garden from 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. to prepare the community garden for spring planting. The members will clean and prepare the garden to plant seeds to grow vegetables. The harvest from this garden will go to the Emma Community through the Emma Family Resource Center’s Food Bank. On April 24, members will participate in the Vance 5K Rocket Run and International Children’s Festival from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Members and volunteers will organize a mini marathon and children’s festival. For more information contact Jennifer Hampton, director of development at 828-259-9717 or jenniferh@childrenfirstbc.org.

The Servant Center/Partnership to End Homelessness and Welfare Reform VISTA:

Members will cleanup a homeless camp site in Greensboro, removing trash, glass and other debris. The members will also distribute “goodie bags” to the camp site residents. The group will meet at 10 a.m. on April 24, at Grace Community Church and carpool to the cleanup site.

For more information contact Kathy Vohs, AmeriCorps program director at 336-275-8585 or krvohs@hotmail.com.

Child Care Services Association T.E.A.C.H.® Early Childhood Corps: The T.E.A.C.H.® Corps will partner with Stanford Warren Library to host “Books Alive!” on April 17 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Books Alive! is an early literacy event and diversity celebration for children and their families. Members have planned a variety of activities for children that highlight diversity and its contribution to a healthy community. Members will offer arts and crafts, music and a story corner where children can read their favorite books with their families. For more information contact Allie Davis, AmeriCorps program coordinator at 919-403-6950 or allied@childcareservices.org.

UNC-Greensboro Center for New North Carolinians, AmeriCorps Cross Cultural Education Service Systems (ACCESS) and AmeriCorps Community Collaborative: Members will travel to the North Carolina Zoo on April 18, for Zoo Earth Day to engage members into Earth Day activities and to learn about service activities. On April 24, members will collaborate with the AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness, to assist homeless individuals by cleaning up their living areas. For more information contact Daniel Rhodes, training coordinator at 336-256-1375 or dtrhodes.access@gmail.com.

Black Child Development Institute/ Spirit of Excellence and Spirit of SUCCESS (Recovery): Members will serve as community kitchen volunteers serving meals to the homeless at the Urban Ministry of Greensboro the week of April 19-23. Members will also stock canned foods in the food pantry for displaced families and clothes in the clothing bank. AmeriCorps members will serve alongside AmeriCorps VISTA members from the Welfare Reform Liaison Project, and volunteers from different faith-based organizations and local colleges. For more information contact Gail Lewis, director at 336-271-5959 or lewis@guministry.org.

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 5,000 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).

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