



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2019

Media Contact: Caitlin Brooking
Deputy Director, Volunteer Mississippi
769.257.4827 | cbrooking@ihl.state.ms.us

Volunteer Mississippi Celebrates AmeriCorps Week

Annual AmeriCorps Week recognizes AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service

JACKSON, Miss. – This week, Volunteer Mississippi joins thousands of Americans across the country to celebrate the valuable contributions of the AmeriCorps members who pledge to “get things done” for America as part of the annual AmeriCorps Week.

“We are proud to be part of AmeriCorps and grateful for the AmeriCorps members who get things done for Mississippi,” said Monica Ritchie, Executive Director of the MS Commission for Volunteer Service (Volunteer MS). “AmeriCorps members have made a significant impact on the Hospitality State’s ability to meet so many local needs, and AmeriCorps Week is a perfect opportunity to recognize their great work.”

The weeklong AmeriCorps Week celebration also honors the contributions and support of thousands of local organizations that make AmeriCorps programs possible. In Mississippi, 549 AmeriCorps members serve through 11 [AmeriCorps Mississippi Programs](#) in communities across the state.

Every year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve through 21,600 schools, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations across the country. These citizens have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Michael, and Florence. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime and revive cities, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs.

This fall, AmeriCorps will celebrate its 25th anniversary in September, saluting the more than 1 million men and women who have served in AmeriCorps since the program’s inception in 1994. Together, they have provided more than 1.4 billion hours of service and earned more than \$3.6 billion in education scholarships to pay for college or pay back student loans. Those interested in joining AmeriCorps can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/join.

A [growing body of research](#) shows that service has an effect on more than just the communities served, but also on the members themselves. AmeriCorps alumni credit their year of service for developing leadership skills that bridges divides, solves problems, and opens doors to opportunities that advance their careers and education. Additionally, alumni gain skills and are exposed to experiences that communities and employers find valuable. Public, private, and nonprofit sector employers have also demonstrated their commitment to hiring AmeriCorps alumni in Mississippi, signing on to be an [Employer of National Service](#), including Comcast NBCUniversal, CSX, MINACT Inc., Sodexo, and many others.

To join the celebration, follow Volunteer Mississippi on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and join the conversation by sharing pictures and stories using #MadeinAmeriCorps, #DayoftheA, and #AmeriCorpsWeek.

###

The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (also known as Volunteer Mississippi) was established in 1994 to encourage a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility to America. Volunteer Mississippi works to engage and support Mississippians in service to their communities through volunteerism and national service programs. As a state service commission, Volunteer Mississippi administers funds through AmeriCorps State and Volunteer Generation Fund to address critical community needs and engage Mississippians in service. Learn more at volunteermississippi.org.

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.