



For Immediate Release

22-002

Serve Alaska & AmeriCorps Alaska: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service

Thursday, January 13, 2022 (ANCHORAGE, AK) – Observed each year on the third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, MLK Day of Service, is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. MLK Day is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable, underpin racial equity, expand civic opportunities, and foster respect for individual differences

In conjunction with the King Center, AmeriCorps has been charged with leading MLK Day efforts for the past quarter century across the nation. Join us this year on Monday, January 17, 2022 as AmeriCorps members and Alaska residents step up to serve our communities and take action to build the Beloved Community of Dr. King’s dream.

“Today, we answer Dr. King’s call to serve and make a difference in the lives of Alaska residents,” said **Katie Abbott, Executive Director of the Serve Alaska State Commission**. “Volunteer service is a powerful tool that builds strong communities and is a resourceful way to meet local needs. We are putting the core American principles of citizenship and service into action.”

Day of Service Projects – AmeriCorps members in Alaska, in partnership with local organizations and tribal groups, will commemorate the MLK Day of Service with the following projects:

- **Alaska Public Defender Agency Social Advocate AmeriCorps Members Ensuring Justice (SAME)** – In Fairbanks, members will be conducting a feminine hygiene products drive designed to benefit low-income, vulnerable populations. In Kodiak, members are holding a rubber boot drive to benefit Brother Francis Shelter.
- **RurAL CAP Resilient Alaska Youth (RAY)** – RAY members serve many different communities and will take action on a variety of service projects within those communities, such as gathering youth to shovel snow around homes of community elders, writing thank you letters to health workers and community leaders, making food to deliver to elders, and engaging youth in a community mural.
- **United Way of Southeast Alaska Juneau AmeriCorps Program** – The United Way of Southeast will be collaborating with the Black Awareness Association in Juneau to conduct a food and supply drive to benefit the Glory Hall (homeless shelter) and AWARE (domestic violence shelter). AmeriCorps members will put collection boxes at their host sites and grocery stores. Members will prepare posters and on MLK Day, they will help receive and sort donated items.

- **Sitka School District AmeriCorps Program** – Sitka AmeriCorps Program members will be cleaning, prepping, and painting the interior of the OO Senior Center.

The MLK Day of Service shines a spotlight on service as a powerful force to bridge economic and social divides – today and throughout the year. For more information on any of the projects above, please review the Announcements section on the [Serve Alaska](#) website.

Serve Alaska promotes and supports volunteerism across the state and brings AmeriCorps programs to Alaska. It is overseen by no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor. The Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every region of the state, bringing much needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska. Serve Alaska is housed within the Division for Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at the State of Alaska. To learn more about Serve Alaska, visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/ServeAlaska>.

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for volunteerism and national service which provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency invests more than \$800 million in grants for local nonprofit, community, tribal, and state organizations; places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.

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