

Julie Sande
Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Serve Alaska joins AmeriCorps and 9/11Day.org to Commemorate September 11th Terrorist Attacks

Thursday, September 8, 2022 (Anchorage, AK) – AmeriCorps members serving across the State of Alaska will commemorate the 9/11 attacks by joining in patriotic acts of volunteer service as part of the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, commonly known as 9/11 Day.

9/11 Day is a chance to reinvigorate the unity that swept the nation in the aftermath of 9/11, while paying tribute with acts of service to those lost on September 11, 2001, heroic first responders and the countless others who serve to defend the nation's freedom at home and around the globe.

"Each year, 9/11 Day is an opportunity to salute those who served our country and honor the fallen who lost their lives to the September 11th terrorist attacks," said **Katie Abbott, Executive Director, Serve Alaska State Commission**. "This year, Alaskan communities will join the thousands of Americans participating in acts of service to rekindle the spirit of unity and service that swept our nation after that tragic day. We encourage Alaskans to join us and commemorate this important part of American history by giving back to our communities through acts of service."

Day of Service Projects—AmeriCorps members in Alaska in partnership with local organizations and tribal groups will commemorate 9/11. Some of the projects include:

- **Sitka AmeriCorps** members in partnership with the Sitka Fire Department, will be hosting a public servants' "Walk Across O'Connell Bridge" for all firefighters, first responders, EMT's, police and USCG staff. The walk will be inaugurated with a speech, and recognition of the fallen, followed by a moment of silence. As a display of remembrance, they will have a list of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives along the bridge. Sitka AmeriCorps will then host a small reception for participants.
- **RurAL CAP Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps** members will be volunteering at Stickleback farm and the garden at Airport Heights Elementary, in the Anchorage area.
- **United Way of Southeast Alaska AmeriCorps** members in Juneau will volunteer to clean-up a Rotary Park including the 9/11 memorial in preparation for the 9/11 memorial service. They will also bake goods to deliver to community first responders in Juneau after the ceremony.
- **Alaska Public Defender Agency AmeriCorps** members will execute projects in different parts of the state where members are serving, these are:

- ✓ **Anchorage** members are partnering with The Web to provide a free barbecue event and job interview workshop sessions to community members in need. The event will take place on 9/9 from 10am-5pm at The Web on Gambell St.
- ✓ **Fairbanks** members are partnering with local elementary school classes to write thank-you cards and delivering those cards to first responders and soliciting donations from local restaurants and coffee shops to provide a thank-you breakfast for the Fairbanks Fire Department.

September 11th was designated a National Day of Service by Congress in 2009 and is led by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps partners with 911Day.org, the nonprofit that, along with 9/11 families, began the 9/11 Day observance more than a decade ago, and engages hundreds of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, schools, and businesses nationwide.

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.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, 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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Media Contact: Mirna Estrada, (907) 269-4561, mirna.estrada@alaska.gov