



SERVE Alaska News

State Service Commission



AmeriCorps Week 2008



To foster, support and promote the ethics of service and volunteerism to all Alaskans.

Anchorage, Alaska—Members joined the second nationwide celebration of **AmeriCorps Week, May 11-18**, spotlighting the vital work done by AmeriCorps members in communities across Alaska since the national service program began 15 years ago.

More than 300 hundred AmeriCorps members are serving in Alaska this year, helping students learn to read, mentoring at-risk youth, providing health services, building homes for low-income families, and helping nonprofits recruit more volunteers and better achieve their mission.

To mark AmeriCorps Week, a number of events happen around the state, including Alaska's AmeriCorps Recognition Awards in Anchorage, Senior Center Spring Garden Prep service project, Anchorage, AmeriCorps week Food Drive, Fairbanks and Disability Inclusion planning meeting., Anchorage. These events allowed community residents to learn about, and participate in, AmeriCorps programs.

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Disability Workshop & Planning Meeting

SERVE Alaska hosted a community workshop to encourage the recruitment of persons with disabilities into National Service. The workshop focused on developing partnerships in the disability community and was held at RurAL CAP's library May 15 – 16. The informational workshop was presented by Paula Sotnik and Jason Wheeler from the **National Service Inclusion Project**. The main focus was on the value of inclusion and National Service through outreach and recruitment. The presenters emphasized the importance of developing partnerships between national service entities and the disability community to help increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in community service. Around 20 individuals from Alaska's disability community attended the workshop. A follow up meeting is being planned for the SERVE Alaska October Institute.



Financial Training

Kris Tecce, technical Provider from Walker and Associate presented a two day intensive financial training at the RurAL Cap library. The focus of the financial training was to provide accounting fiscal staff specific program guidance and to ensure fiscal accountability for their CNCS grants funds.



Topics included living allowance distribution, background checks, and new rules for match.





Right Master Gardener Marcy Vreeland, Senior Center Volunteer. Left SERVE Alaska Staff Didi Taylor

2008 AmeriCorps Outstanding Volunteer Winners:

Daniel Ungier, Matt Richardson, Kelvin Lee, Laura Tauke Caroline Wolf, Amanda Keever Charlotte Davis Brandy Christensen Carrie Williams, Michelle Rudisill

Serve Alaska, State Service Commission would like to congratulate all the 2008 winners and thank all Alaskan AmeriCorps Member for their tireless contribution through out Alaskan Communities!

Special Thanks!

Costco Debarr, Starbucks Downtown, Municipality of Anchorage, The Senior family, Commissioner Denise Morris, Commissioner Angelina Burney, Alaska VISTA Member, Nine Star, Rural CAP, SAGA



Nita Madsen, Serve Alaska’s Executive Director will recognized 10 of Alaska’s outstanding AmeriCorps members who are making a significant impact on Alaska’s ability to meet many local needs all over the state. These AmeriCorps Members efforts have gone beyond standard expectations of the Corporation for National Community Service terms of service. Since its inception in 1994, more than 540,000 Americans have given 705 million hours of service through AmeriCorps, including 322,848 hours from Alaska AmeriCorps members help students learn to read, mentor at-risk youth, provide health services, build homes for low-income families, and help nonprofits recruit more volunteers and better achieve their mission.

This year more than 300 hundred AmeriCorps members are serving in Alaska helping students learn to read, mentoring at-risk youth, providing health services, building homes for low-income families, and helping nonprofits recruit more volunteers and better achieve their mission.



Right Kevin Lee, AmeriCorps Alum, Left Nita Madsen Executive Director SERVE Alaska



Nine Star Employment Services AmeriCorps Members

Sitka Volunteers Honored

Sitka Alaska—AmeriCorps Volunteers Livvy King and Stacie Bolan have received a proclamation from Governor Sarah Palin recognizing the work done by AmeriCorps Members in Alaska. Both women served in the Sitka School District through the Sitka Community School Program. They cleaned all the bus stops on Halibut Point Road as part of the Nation AmeriCorps Week. Sitka was also awarded a grant from Serve Alaska, State Service Commission. Thirteen AmeriCorps adults and twelve youth Members will be serving in Sitka Schools and other non profit agencies in the community.



New SAGA Members



SAGA AmeriCorps Members say the AmeriCorps oath of Service at Beluga Point June 3rd, 2008.

About 30 Members will start their service terms in the Alaska Service Corps and the Serve Alaska Youth Corps. SAGA Members work in teams, performing service projects for our land agency sponsors. Projects include trail work and recreation site enhancements, fire fuels reduction work, stream restoration, cultural site rehabilitation, public safety enhancements on Alaskan highways, invasive weed removal and much more



Quote of the Month

It's so hard when I have to, and so easy when I want to.

Annie Gottlier