



NJDOE News

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For Release: April 9, 2003

New Jersey AmeriCorps Prepares for National Youth Service Day

New Jersey AmeriCorps members will participate in community service events around the state from April 11-13 to celebrate National Youth Service Day.

The events are part of an annual national event that involves more than four million young people who participate in activities such as peer tutoring, home restorations, community clean-up, watershed preservation, and help for the disadvantaged.

Commissioner of Education William L. Librera encouraged young people throughout the state to participate in activities to improve their communities. "When people participate in activities to serve their community needs, they share in a spirit of teamwork, civic responsibility and academic achievement," Dr. Librera said. "It is vitally important for young people to experience that kind of sharing and to feel empowered to make a positive difference in the lives of others."

National Youth Service Day was founded in 1988 by Youth Service America, an alliance of 175 organizations committed to community and national service. In the last decade, volunteers have contributed millions of hours of service valued at hundreds of millions of dollars.

National Youth Service Day has three primary goals:

- To recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young people nationwide;
- To recruit a new generation and cadre of citizens that are both participants and supporters of youth service organizations; and
- To promote young people as resources rather than as problems.

AmeriCorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for a year or two of community service. AmeriCorps members help meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, human needs and the environment. The program, hosted by the New Jersey Department of Education, is guided by the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service.

For more information on National Youth Service Day or AmeriCorps, call 609-633-9627.

NOTE TO REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS: [A list of service activities and sites is attached. Media coverage is invited and encouraged.](#)