September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance

The September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of an effort originally launched in 2002 by 9/11 family members and support groups, who worked to establish the charitable service day as a forward-looking way to honor the sacrifice of those who were lost and those who united in response to the tragedy.

In 2009, Congress designated September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with supporting this effort across the country.

On the days leading up to and including September 11th, Americans of all ages and backgrounds will participate in activities to pay tribute to 9/11 victims and heroes and honor their memory by joining together in service projects to meet community needs.

What Is the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance?

Starting in 2002, 9/11 family members and support groups wanted to provide a productive and respectful way to honor the memory of those who were lost while also rekindling the spirit of unity and compassion that swept our nation after 9/11. As a result of their efforts, the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance was established into law by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009.

The September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, a federally recognized observance, is being supported collaboratively by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the nonprofit MyGoodDeed, which annually organizes the 9/11 "I Will" campaign on behalf of the 9/11 community.

Why Serve on the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance?

Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, Americans united in a remarkable spirit of patriotism, and compassion. Given the tragedy

and heroism associated with 9/11, family members believe the best way to mark the anniversary is to remember the innocent lives lost and to join with others in service efforts that meet local needs and reclaim the spirit of unity that followed 9/11.

Since 2001, more than two million U.S. troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. With the end of the Iraq war and the drawdown in Afghanistan, more than one million service members are projected to leave the military between 2011 and 2016. Engaging in service on and around 9/11 is an appropriate and respectful way to remember the lives of those lost, pay tribute to those who rose in service, and honor those who continue to serve our country today.

What Types of Service are Encouraged?

All types of service are encouraged, particularly those initiatives that connect participants to ongoing opportunities to serve throughout the year, that have a lasting impact, or that build the capacity of organizations to meet community needs. Service on 9/11 can meet a range of

community needs including disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, health, and supporting veterans and military families. Successful projects typically provide participants the opportunity to both serve and reflect on the events of 2001.

For 2012, CNCS encourages projects that support veterans and military families or organizations to carry out projects which provide support to active duty service members, their families, and the veteran community as well as projects that help communities become better prepared for disaster and emergency situations or address educational needs.

Who Can Participate?

People of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are encouraged to serve, and to make the day the beginning of an ongoing commitment to a cause that is meaningful to them and addresses a need in their communities.

How Can I Continue to Serve After the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance?

Continue your service by connecting your 9/11 Day activities to service work being done in your community year round. Take the opportunity to find out more about the needs of your community and the organizations and individuals who are working to address them, and then find a way to plug in.

As part of the United We Serve Initiative, President Obama has called upon all Americans to make service a part of their daily lives. Where and how you serve is up to you. The important thing is to get involved. Visit http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp to find a volunteer opportunity in your area, or for ideas on planning your own project.

September 11th Day of Service Partners

CNCS joins with My Good Deed and other 9/11 family organizations, and works in collaboration with numerous national nonprofit organizations, faith-based and community groups, state service commissions, and other government agencies, to lead the National Day of Service and Remembrance.

As part of its leadership role, CNCS awards grants to organizations to support service activities on and around 9/11. In 2012, CNCS awarded grants to 21 organizations to develop and coordinate service and remembrance activities. For a list of grantees and partners, visit http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp.

Resources

A variety of free September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance resources for individuals and organizations are available at http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp.

These include:
- Tool to register your 9/11 Day project
- Tool to find a 9/11 Day project
- Toolkits that provide step-by-step instructions for planning a project
- Logos and other digital media materials

To register your 9/11 Day project, go to http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp and click "register your project."

To sign up for updates on the September 11th National Day of Service Remembrance or other topics, go to NationalService.gov and look for the email updates sign-up box.

About CNCS

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and other programs. It also leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.