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Newsletter Information

We'd love to have an article about your program or organization. Please email [Shannon Ramsey](mailto:Shannon.Ramsey@kccvs.org) to learn more about submitting an article for the newsletter.

Download the print version of this newsletter and past editions from the [KCCVS Newsletter](#) page on our website.



Inspirational Quote

"Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time."

-- Marian Wright Edelman

Welcome

Welcome to the April 2013 edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

Note from the Newsletter Editor

Wow, time seems to be traveling at the speed of light these days, at least for me. I apologize for the length of time between newsletters, but it's hard to keep up with all the wonderful things going on in the world of volunteerism and national service!

Because of all the great information I'd like to share with you, I hope you'll appreciate the format of this newsletter edition. I have compiled a list of stories with links to learn more, because if I had inserted all the text, there is no telling how many pages it would be! I hope that you will take the time to look at the many included links to news articles, stories, blog posts and websites.

I'll try not to take as long to get out the next edition, but until then, you can always check the [KCCVS Facebook page](#).

Happy Spring!

[Shannon L. Ramsey](#), KCCVS Executive Assistant

AmeriCorps NCCC Members Serving in Kentucky

AmeriCorps Crew Works on Kentucky Trails

Nine young people from across the United States are spending several weeks this spring working on trails in eastern Kentucky to help communities and state parks.

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team has worked in Letcher County and at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park near Corbin and is scheduled to do more work at Stearns and Natural Bridge State Resort Park at Slade during April and May.



The Office of Adventure Tourism applied for the crew to work along the state's two largest trails - the Sheltoewe Trace and the Pine Mountain Trail. Elaine Wilson, director of Adventure Tourism, said the team is helping communities interested in becoming "Trail Towns," a new program that highlights the outdoor adventure opportunities available in communities across Kentucky.

Read the rest of the story on the [Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet website](#).

Check out more pictures of the NCCC team on the [KCCVS Facebook page](#).

KCCVS News and Updates

Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service



Judging for the 2012 Governor's Volunteer Awards is now complete. Nominations received this year were outstanding, and therefore the judging committee had to make some very tough decisions. In some cases the top nominees were separated by less than a point. In the opinion of KCCVS staff members, everyone who volunteers is a winner - which is one reason why we are thankful each year staff is not allowed to judge. Program Coordinator Shannon Ramsey and the rest of the KCCVS staff wishes to express sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to nominate a special volunteer, volunteer group, nonprofit or business!

All winning nominators have been contacted. Other nominators have been notified by email, if possible, and will receive an official letter and a recognition document for their nominee(s) in the mail by April 30. The list of 2012 [Governor's Volunteer Award](#) winners will be released in late May with a private ceremony planned for them and [Make A Difference Day Food Drive Competition](#) winners to be held in early June at the Governor's Mansion. For more information, contact Shannon Ramsey by [email](#) or phone at (800) 239-7404, ext. 3841.

MSUCorps Build-A-Bed Event

The MSUCorps AmeriCorps program sponsored a 100-bed build event in Morehead on April 6. Watch a video about the build on [YouTube](#) and check out pictures on the [Build-A-Bed Facebook page](#). Contact MSUCorps Program Director [Mary Claire Williams](#) for more information.



ATEAM Build-A-Bed Events



The ATEAM AmeriCorps program is sponsoring local bed builds in April and May (dates listed below). Visit the [Build-A-Bed Facebook page](#) or contact ATEAM Program Directors [Shannon Bailes](#) or [Donna Morgan](#) for more information and/or how to get involved.

- **April 20:** Marshall County
- **April 27:** Barren and Pulaski counties
- **May 4:** Garrard and Hancock counties
- **May 18:** Webster

County

Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service

April 9 was the first-ever Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. Check out the [KCCVS Facebook page](#) for images of Kentucky Mayors' proclamations and from other recognition activities in Kentucky. Visit the [CNCS website](#) for information about Mayors Day on the national level.



AmeriCorps Week 2013



AmeriCorps Week is a time to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service, thank AmeriCorps community partners and communicate AmeriCorps impact on communities and on the lives of those who serve. Celebrated March 9-17, this year's theme was "AmeriCorps Works" to reflect AmeriCorps triple bottom line return on investment -- for the recipients of service, the people who serve and the larger community and nation.

Kentucky AmeriCorps programs participated in various projects and events including presentations on AmeriCorps, service projects, press releases, proclamations, supply drives and recruiting volunteers for local projects. Check out photos on the [KCCVS Facebook page](#).

2013 ATEAM "Hearts From Home" Project

Since 2005, the ATEAM AmeriCorps program has sent more than 42,000 handmade Valentines to troops and veterans. The 2013 project saw a record number made and sent: 6,665 handmade Valentines were sent to 379 veterans and at least 1,074 active servicemen and women. Check out pictures and sample responses on the [KCCVS Facebook page](#).



Volunteer Insurance Program Update



Although the Kentucky Volunteer Insurance Program (KYVIP) is no longer available, you are now able to purchase a policy directly from the same insurance company, CIMA. Click on the links below to complete the online application for the type of insurance policy needed.

- [Work Release Program](#)
- [CRASVP \(Court Referred Alternative Sentencing Program\)](#)
- [Traditional VIS Volunteers](#)

For more information, call CIMA at (800) 222-8920. For information only about the inactive KYVIP program, contact Linda Harney by [email](#) or by phone at (502) 564-7420, ext. 3846.

National Service News and Updates

Blog Posts about National Service

[Gena Bigler: AmeriCorps, V.I.S.T.A. offer amazing life experiences for young people](#), KyForward.com

[AmeriCorps: Service, Sacrifice, and Solutions](#), The White House Blog

[Revitalizing America: Whatever the Question, National Service Is an Answer](#), HuffPolitics Blog

[A Video Salute to Presidential Citizens Medal Winner Harris Wofford](#), National Service Blog: United We Serve



CNCS Budget Information



Want to learn more about President Obama's budget request for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)? Find information on the [CNCS website](#), including a message on the president's budget request from Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS.

Senior Corps Week 2013

Senior Corps Week 2013 is May 6-10 to align with Older Americans Month. The goal is to celebrate, recognize and highlight the extraordinary contributions that Foster Grandparents, RSVP and Senior Companion volunteers make through service in their communities each and every day. Learn more on the [Get Involved! website](#).



National Value of Volunteer Time



INDEPENDENT SECTOR

The estimated value of volunteer time for 2012 is \$22.14 per hour. Find out more information and values by state on the [Independent Sector website](#).

Volunteering and Civic Life in America 2012

The report, issued by CNCS in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship, shows that Americans significantly increased their commitment to volunteering and civic engagement in 2011, with the national volunteer rate reaching a five-year high. Find more information on [VolunteeringInAmerica.gov](#).

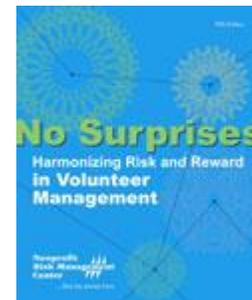


No Surprises in Volunteer Management

By Erin Gloeckner, Nonprofit Risk Management Center - Reprinted with permission

Volunteers are at the heart of most nonprofits, but your nonprofit's heart may beat a dangerous rhythm without volunteer risk management. Every nonprofit with volunteers is at risk of experiencing these surprises:

- The risk of a volunteer abusing a client
- The risk of a volunteer's actions harming the nonprofit's reputation
- The risk of losing a key volunteer who leads and motivates others
- The risk of volunteers considering themselves employees
- The risk of volunteers misusing private client information or financial assets
- The risk of harm coming to a volunteer



How can you avoid surprises and setbacks when managing your volunteer team? Peek at these volunteer screening tips from [No Surprises: Harmonizing Risk and Reward in Volunteer Management, to](#) learn more.

TIP #1: Create a written description for each volunteer position. Formal position descriptions convey expectations between the nonprofit and the volunteer. These expectations may include: assigned duties, qualifications, time commitment, which staff member to report to, and dress code, among other things. Formal, written descriptions encourage appropriate applicants to apply for the volunteer position.

TIP #2: Be selective when recruiting volunteers. Many of us believe that "the more, the merrier." This mentality leads us to engage more volunteers than we can handle, or to indiscriminately select volunteers. Thoughtful selection reduces the chance of engaging a volunteer who presents a risk, or who is not compatible with the needs of the nonprofit. Selective recruitment also allows you to engage only the number of volunteers you can supervise, given your resources.

TIP #3: Interview volunteers based on position requirements. Devote your time and resources to interviewing candidates for volunteer positions. Ask specific interview questions that relate to the responsibilities of each position. For example, you may ask an applicant for a driver position questions about his or her driving record. If another applicant seeks to mentor children, you might ask that person why helping children is satisfying work.

TIP #4: Screen friends the same way you screen strangers. If the board chair's sister wants to volunteer, she may not be asked to provide references because you already trust the board chair. Whether volunteers are friends or strangers, you should screen them using the same methods. What you see isn't always what you get, so be sure to screen familiar applicants!

TIP #5: Complete additional screening for high-risk positions. Require added screening when selecting volunteers for high-risk positions, such as positions providing one-on-one support for vulnerable clients. Advanced screening may help determine which volunteer applicants are not suited for high-risk work. Standard volunteer screening may include applications and orientation, whereas advanced screening for high-risk positions may include: applications, interviews, reference checks, criminal history background checks, home visits, orientation, and extra training.

[No Surprises](#) also offers advice on other volunteer risk management topics:

- Volunteer recruitment strategies
- Volunteer supervision, discipline, and termination
- Volunteer protection laws
- Insurance for volunteer programs
- The difference between employee and volunteer
- Volunteer challenges and fulfillment
- Public relations issues in volunteer programs.

Erin Gloeckner is project manager at the [Nonprofit Risk Management Center](#), where she coordinates and supports consulting projects for a diverse array of clients. She's also working on a book on managing partnership and fundraising risks. Erin welcomes your feedback on this article or questions about risk issues at (202) 785-3891.

