

## National and Community Service Timeline

### 1903

The Cooperative Education Movement is founded at the University of Cincinnati.

### Circa 1905

American philosophers William James and John Dewey develop intellectual foundations for service-based learning.

### 1910

American philosopher William James envisions non-military national service in his essay "The Moral Equivalent of War."

### 1933-1942

Franklin D. Roosevelt creates the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), providing opportunities for millions of young men to serve six to 18 months to help restore the nation's parks, revitalize the economy, and support their families and themselves.

### 1935

The Works Progress Administration, later renamed the Work Projects Administration, is established to provide work-relief for millions of unemployed Americans.

### 1944

The GI Bill, officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, is created, linking service and education and offering Americans educational opportunity in return for service to their country.

### 1961

President John F. Kennedy proposes establishment of the Peace Corps and Congress authorizes it on September 22, 1961. President Kennedy states, "The wisdom of this idea is that someday we'll bring it home to America."

The White House Conference on Aging is held, drawing attention to the continuing opportunity and need to engage older adults in meaningful service activities.

### 1964

As part of the "War on Poverty," President Lyndon B. Johnson creates VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a National Teacher Corps, the Job Corps, and University Year of Action.

### **1965**

College work-study programs are established to harness the energy and enthusiasm of young people in communities.

The Older Americans Act of 1965 is passed (an outcome of the 1961 White House Conference on Aging). The Act sparked interest in creating programs for older adults and insuring their continued contribution to society.

The Foster Grandparent Program begins as a national demonstration effort to show how low-income persons aged 60 and over can establish meaningful relationships with children in need.

The Community Service Society of New York launches a pilot project involving a group of older adults in volunteer service to their communities. The project demonstrates the value of senior volunteers and serves as a precursor to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

### **1966**

Urban Corps emerges, funded with federal work-study dollars.

By this time, 3,600 VISTA members are serving throughout the country, helping to develop the first Head Start programs and Job Corps sites, and starting agricultural cooperatives, community groups, and small businesses.

### **1966-1967**

The phrase "service-learning" is first used to describe a project in East Tennessee that links students and faculty with area development organizations.

### **1968**

The National Service Secretariat Conference on National Service is held in Washington, D.C.

Foster Grandparent projects grow to 40 states and Puerto Rico, enrolling 4,100 Foster Grandparents and assisting more than 10,000 children in health, education, welfare, and related settings.

### **1968-1971**

Two Senior Companion demonstration projects, funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Administration on Aging, are launched in Tampa, Florida, and Cincinnati, Ohio.

### **1969**

Retired Senior Volunteer Program was authorized under Title VI of the Older Americans Act.

### **1970s**

In 1970, the Youth Conservation Corps engages 38,000 people ages 14 to 18 in summer environmental programs.

VISTA merges with the Peace Corps and senior service programs to form the ACTION agency.

**1971**

The White House Conference on Youth Report calls for linking service and learning. The National Center for Public Service Internships, the Society for Field Experience Education, and the National Student Volunteer Program are established.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is launched in the spring and 11 projects begin by summer.

**1972**

More than 10,000 Foster Grandparents are enrolled in 133 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

**1973**

The Foster Grandparent Program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the Senior Companion Program are authorized under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program grows to 590 projects nationwide.

**1974**

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program grows to 666 projects nationwide.

Eighteen model Senior Companion projects are funded.

**1975**

More than 1,000 Senior Companions are serving in projects. More than 60 percent serve in private homes.

**1976**

California Governor Jerry Brown establishes the California Conservation Corps, the first non-federal youth corps at the state level.

**1977-1978**

Existing Senior Companions projects are expanded, and 28 new projects are funded, creating opportunities for 3,000 Senior Companions to assist 9,500 clients in 39 states. In-home assignments grow to 65 percent.

**1978**

The Young Adult Conservation Corps creates small conservation corps in the states with 22,500 participants age 16 to 23.

**1979**

National Student Volunteer Program becomes the National Center for Service-Learning.

### **1980s**

National service efforts are launched at the grassroots level, including the Campus Outreach Opportunity League (1984) and Campus Compact (1985), which help mobilize students in higher education; the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (1985), which helps replicate youth corps in states and cities; and Youth Service America (1985), through which many young people are provided the opportunity to serve.

VISTA's focus changes to encourage citizen participation and community self-help.

### **1980-1987**

Forty-two new Senior Companion projects are funded, and approximately 81 percent of placements are in-home assignments.

### **1981**

National Center for Service-Learning for Early Adolescents is established.

### **1986**

The VISTA Literacy Corps is developed to create literacy councils and expand adult education.

### **1988**

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program grows to 750 projects nationwide, with approximately 400,000 senior volunteers participating.

The Senior Companion Program grows to 173 projects nationwide, with more than 8,000 senior volunteers participating.

### **1989-1990**

President George H.W. Bush creates the Office of National Service in the White House and the Points of Light Foundation to foster volunteering.

### **1990**

President Bush signs the National and Community Service Act of 1990 into law. The legislation authorizes grants to schools to support service-learning through Serve America (now known as Learn and Serve America) and demonstration grants for national service programs to youth corps, nonprofits, and colleges and universities.

### **1992**

A bipartisan group of Senators drafts legislation to create the National Civilian Community Corps as a way to explore how to use post-Cold War military resources to help solve problems here at home.

The Maryland State Board of Education adopts a mandatory service requirement to graduate from high school.

### **1993**

The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development endorses the importance of linking service with learning.

### **September 1993**

President Bill Clinton signs the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, creating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service to expand opportunities for Americans to serve their communities. VISTA and the National Civilian Community Corps become part of AmeriCorps, and the Foster Grandparent Program, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and the Senior Companion Program are combined to create Senior Corps.

With passage of National and Community Service Act, Congress changes Retired Senior Volunteer Program to Retired "and" Senior Volunteer program to reflect that not all volunteers were retired.

Governor-appointed state service commissions are created to administer AmeriCorps funding at the state level.

### **1994**

The Corporation for National and Community Service officially begins operation.

Congress passes the King Holiday and Service Act of 1994, charging the Corporation for National and Community Service with establishing Martin Luther King Day as a day of service.

The Stanford Service-Learning Institute is created.

The Ford Foundation/United Negro College Fund Community Service Partnership Project (a 10-college program linking direct service and learning) begins.

Four National Civilian Community Corps campuses open in Aberdeen, MD; Charleston, SC; Denver, CO; and San Diego, CA.

### **September 1994**

The first class of AmeriCorps members - 20,000 strong - begins serving in more than 1,000 communities. In swearing in these Americans, President Clinton says: "Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty. When it is all said and done, it comes down to three simple questions: What is right? What is wrong? And what are we going to do about it? Today you are doing what is right - turning your words into deeds."

### **1995**

A study commissioned by the IBM Foundation, the Charles A. Dana Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation finds that every federal dollar invested in AmeriCorps results in \$1.60 to \$2.60 or more in direct, measurable benefits to AmeriCorps members and the communities they serve.

The Service-Learning network is established on the Internet, via the University of Colorado Peace Studies Center

The National Civilian Community Corps is included under AmeriCorps, becoming AmeriCorps\*NCCC. The Aberdeen, MD, campus moves to Perry Point, MD.

**April 1997**

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future, chaired by General Colin Powell, brings together President Clinton, former Presidents Bush, Ford, and Carter, and Mrs. Reagan to encourage increased service and volunteerism to meet the needs of America's youth.

**1997**

AmeriCorps expands by introducing the Education Awards Program, which allows more organizations to join the service network -- nonprofits, faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, welfare-to-work programs, and other groups.

The Fourth of July Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education and the Wingspread Declaration Renewing the Civic Mission of the American University are published.

President Clinton and former President George Bush announce the resumption of the Daily Points of Light Award.

A fifth AmeriCorps\*NCCC campus opens in Washington, D.C.

American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC) is launched by a group of state service commissioners and executive directors.

**1999**

Since the program began, more than 100,000 AmeriCorps members have served 33 million people in 4,000 communities

**October 1999**

AmeriCorps celebrates five years and 150,000 members. General Colin Powell, Utah's Governor Mike Leavitt, Coretta Scott King, and Sargent Shriver join President Clinton at the White House to honor the winners of the first All\*AmeriCorps awards.

**June 2000**

The Foster Grandparent Program commemorates its 35th anniversary. As the Senior Companion Program enters its 26th year of service, and RSVP looks ahead to its 30th birthday in 2001, the three National Senior Service Corps programs engage more than 500,000 adults age 55 and older in sharing their time and talents to help meet local community needs.

**October 2000**

AmeriCorps\*VISTA commemorates 35 years of fighting poverty in America. Since 1965, more than 130,000 VISTA members have used a hands-on, grassroots approach to empower individuals and communities throughout the country.

## **2001**

President George W. Bush calls for a “nation of citizens, not spectators” in his inaugural address and launches faith-based and community initiative to expand support for grassroots organizations meeting local needs.

The first International Conference on Service-Learning Research is held.  
The Wingspread conference on student civic engagement is held.  
AmeriCorps\*NCCC’s San Diego campus moves to Sacramento, CA.

## **September 11, 2001**

Terrorist attacks spark a surge of patriotism and volunteer service by Americans.

## **January 2002**

In his state of the Union Address, President George W. Bush asks all Americans to devote two years or 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetimes. As part of this call to service, he creates USA Freedom Corps, a White House office and coordinating council to encourage Americans to serve their communities and country. He also proposes to expand AmeriCorps by 50 percent.

## **July 2002**

The Corporation awards first Homeland Security grants to engage citizens in public health, public safety, and disaster relief and preparedness.

## **2003**

President Bush creates the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our Nation. The Council creates the President’s Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

## **December 2003**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports that both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in September 2003. About 63.8 million people did volunteer work at some point from September 2002 to September 2003, up from 59.8 million for the similar period ended in September 2002.

## **January 2004**

AmeriCorps receives record funding increase to allow programs to grow to 75,000 members.

**2004**

AmeriCorps\*NCCC recognizes 10,000 alumni, 15.3 million service hours, 4,500 projects and 10 years of service during *Legacy Weekends* at all five campuses.

In recognition of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, AmeriCorps\*VISTA commences a study of its alumni and the impact national service had on their lives

More than 330,000 individuals have served through AmeriCorps.

During the past decade, more than 1 billion volunteer service hours have been generated by Senior Corps volunteers.

Senior Companion Program celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

More than 1.8 billion high school students participate annually in service-learning initiatives funded by Learn and Serve America.