

News Release

Contact: Connie Fraser 860/947-1801 (W)
860/347-6679 (H)
cfraser@ctdhe.org

Board of Governors for Higher Education
Department of Higher Education
State of Connecticut



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AmeriCorps Members get Civics Lesson as part of the 2003 AmeriCorps Launch

HARTFORD, Oct. 27 – Some 150 young people and adults will fan out across Hartford **Tuesday (October 28)** learning about disaster relief, democracy and civics, working with school children, upgrading emergency shelters, clearing community gardens and re-building homes with Christmas in April following their swearing in as Connecticut’s newest AmeriCorps members by Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell, at a morning ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford.

This national service blitzkrieg marks Connecticut’s second “**Day of Service**” created to welcome new members and launch AmeriCorps activities throughout the rest of the state. The day of service begins with the 8:30 a.m. swearing-in ceremony in the State Capitol’s Hall of Flags. Joining Rell will be Representative William R. Dyson, chair of the Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service as well as Valerie F. Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education. Following the swearing-in, Connecticut’s newest cadre of AmeriCorps members will board buses to conduct their work projects from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at these Hartford area sites (all good visuals)

- ❖ **4-H Center at Aurefarm** – preparing gardens for winter, barn clean-up and classroom maintenance.
- ❖ **American Red Cross** - learning about emergency disaster relief, to include the operation of the emergency response vehicle and mass distribution of food.
- ❖ **An Interactive Lesson in Civics** –discuss democracy and civics with State Comptroller Nancy Wyman along with tours of the State Capitol, Supreme Court, Bushnell Park and the Old State House.
- ❖ **Elizabeth Park** – weeding, mulching, pruning, and preparing the rose beds for winter.
- ❖ **My Sister’s Place** – Repairing and upgrading emergency shelter
- ❖ **Re-Building Hartford- Christmas in April** – Home repair for elderly and disabled low income homeowners.
- ❖ **Dwight and Burns Elementary Schools** – Working in a literacy project with children.

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn a modest living allowance, health insurance and an educational award of \$4,725 to pay for college or pay back student loans. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. It is part of USA Freedom Corps, a White House initiative to foster a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility, and help all Americans answer the President’s Call to Service. For more information, visit www.americorps.org and www.ccnsc.ctdhe.org.

61 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2326

FAX: 860/947-1310
www.ctdhe.org