

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers to Sweep through Hartford Next Tuesday Joined by National Head of AmeriCorps

HARTFORD, Oct. 23 – Some 220 young people and adults will fan out across Hartford neighborhoods next **Tuesday (Oct. 29)** installing smoke detectors, upgrading emergency shelters, clearing community gardens and staffing soup kitchens following their swearing in as Connecticut’s newest AmeriCorps members by Rosie Mauk, national Director of AmeriCorps, at a morning ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford.

This volunteer blitzkrieg marks Connecticut’s first “**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 swearing-in ceremony in the State Capitol’s Hall of Flags. Joining Mauk will be Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez – who once was an AmeriCorps member – and State Rep. William R. Dyson, chair of the Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service as well as Valerie F. Lewis, commissioner of higher education. Connecticut’s two top high school volunteers for 2002 also will be announced. Following the swearing-in, Connecticut’s newest cadre of AmeriCorps members will board buses to conduct their work projects from 10:15 to 3:00 at these Hartford sites (*all good visuals*):

- ❖ **4-H Center at Auerfarm** – preparing gardens for winter, building a butterfly garden and barn clean-up
- ❖ **Boundless Playgrounds** – building a sensory garden for people with disabilities
- ❖ **Hartford’s Camp Courant** – trail clearing and camp clean up
- ❖ **Hartford’s Fire Department** – smoke detector installations at homes on Baltimore, Adams and Kent Streets between Albany and Norfolk Streets
- ❖ **Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Inc.** – help with food service
- ❖ **My Sister’s Place** – prepare Piney Street shelter for winter
- ❖ **Westmoor Park** – garden clean up

This year more than 50,000 AmeriCorps members will serve through local nonprofits and schools to tutor children, build homes, organize neighborhood watch groups, clean parks and perform other community work. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn a modest living allowance, health insurance, and an education 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.ccncs.ctdhe.org.

Tuesday’s Day of Service is Rosie Mauk’s first stop in Connecticut as head of AmeriCorps. She has led many community service organizations in Texas and nationally before being appointed to head AmeriCorps in November 2001. She is leading efforts to expand AmeriCorps to use more recruits in homeland-security roles. In addition to Tuesday, Mauk is available Monday evening for interviews.

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