

# United We Serve

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## September 11, National Day of Service and Remembrance Talking Points

- This September 11, Americans across the nation will remember the tragic events of eight years ago, and serve in their communities to honor the victims and heroes of that day.
- This new National Day of Service and Remembrance is inspired by the remarkable spirit of service that emerged in the wake of the tragedy on September 11, 2001 and the widespread compassion that helped to heal our nation.
- In immediate response to the attacks in New York City, Washington D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, military personnel, and other first responders immediately and without concern for their own well-being rose to service, in a heroic attempt to protect the lives of those still at risk, consequently saving thousands of men and women.
- In the days, weeks, and months following the attacks, thousands of people in the United States and other nations spontaneously volunteered to help support the rescue and recovery efforts, braving both physical and emotional hardship.
- Hundreds of thousands of brave men and women continue to serve every day, having answered the call to duty as members of our nation's armed forces with thousands having given their lives or been injured to defend our nation's security and prevent future terrorist attacks.
- For years, families of 9/11 victims, survivors, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers called for legislation to formally authorize the establishment of September 11 as an annually recognized national day of service.
- This past April, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which among other provisions, officially recognizes September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.
- On September 11, Americans will join together in service activities organized by a broad and diverse group of national nonprofits, their local affiliates, small service organizations and individuals across all fifty states. The day is being led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), State Service Commissions, MyGoodDeed, ServiceNation, and other nonprofit and community organizations across the county.
- This September 11 marks the culmination of the summer phase of *United We Serve* and a transition to a sustained, collaborative, and focused effort to meet community needs and make service a way of life for all Americans.
- *United We Serve* is President's Obama's call to service challenging all Americans to engage in meaningful service to meet growing social needs resulting from the economic downturn. Confident that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things when given

the proper tools, President Obama has asked us to come together to help lay a new foundation for growth.

- The *United We Serve* initiative, led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, aims to both expand the impact of existing organizations by engaging new volunteers in their work and encourage volunteers to develop their own "do-it-yourself" projects with friends, family, and neighbors.
- Since the launch of *United We Serve* in June, Americans from all walks of life have responded enthusiastically to the President's call to service. By joining with friends and neighbors, they have replenished food banks, prevented summer reading loss, provided health services, supported our veterans and military families, restored parks and public lands, and given back in countless other ways.
- With the help of nonprofit and community organizations across the country, *United We Serve* has built a website featuring over 250,000 service opportunities, collected thousands of stories of service from people from all walks of life, highlighted examples of impact-oriented service activities in communities across the country, and developed exciting new partnerships.
- Each year more than 61 million Americans volunteer in our communities, providing vital support to our schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, and other neighborhood efforts. But to meet our nation's challenges we need more Americans to mentor and tutor at-risk-youth, care for seniors, respond to disasters, support veterans and military families and meet other social needs.
- Individuals looking for service opportunities on or around 9/11 can visit [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov), a website that allows visitors to type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities or find ideas for creating new projects with family, friends and neighbors. Organizations can also recruit volunteers by posting their 9/11 service projects on the database.
- There are as many ways to join *United We Serve* as there are needs in our communities. If you're already doing service, post your opportunities or share your story at [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) so others can join your efforts. If you're new to service, search for volunteer opportunities in your area or download one of the "do-it-yourself" toolkits at [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov).