



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH WASHINGTON STREET CLEAN-UP IN HONOR OF NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK

Charleston, W.VA. – Volunteers in the Charleston area are kicking off National AmeriCorps Week with a Washington Street Clean-Up effort on Saturday, May 8th.

In honor of the special week, Volunteer West Virginia is partnering with the East End and West Side Main Street programs as well as the City of Charleston to help gather more volunteers for their quarterly clean-up effort.

“We are pleased to be partnering with Volunteer West Virginia to do our quarterly cleanup of Washington Street East and West,” Pat McGill, executive director of the West Side Main Street Program, said. “The Main Street programs have adopted this highway and appreciate the support of the community in keeping our main roadway free of litter.”

Volunteers will meet at the City Service Center on the first floor of the public parking garage on McFarland Street at 8:30 a.m. for a short breakfast and safety instructions before heading out to pick up litter and debris along Washington Street. The areas from Patrick Street to Pennsylvania Avenue and from the Clay Center to the 35th Street Bridge will be covered. Volunteers will pick up litter from 9 to 11 a.m. and will conclude with a memorial ceremony at the United Way of Central West Virginia honoring three AmeriCorps members who passed away in the previous year.

“This clean-up effort is a great way for AmeriCorps members and supporters to partner with the city and its Main Street programs on an effort that is already successful and well-organized,” Kim Barber Tieman, executive director of Volunteer West Virginia, said. “We can help them by recruiting more volunteers while also honoring AmeriCorps Week.”

AmeriCorps Week is a national event that takes place each year in May. This year's event begins on May 8th and continues through May 15. The event provides an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on AmeriCorps and motivate more Americans to serve.

Other AmeriCorps efforts taking place during the week include a Volunteer Night kick-off event at the Appalachian Power Park on Friday, May 7th and a celebration ceremony from the Mountain State Leaders program, which is a leadership training program provided to all AmeriCorps members throughout West Virginia on May 12th. Graduates of the training program will gather in Charleston on that day to celebrate the service projects they've completed as a result of their participation in the program.

For more information about AmeriCorps Week activities in West Virginia or to participate in the Washington Street Clean-Up, contact Mitzi Miller Vince at 304-558-0111 or email mitzi.miller@wv.gov.

Volunteer West Virginia is the state's Commission for National and Community Service. The agency challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism by identifying and mobilizing resources, promoting an ethic of service, and empowering communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.

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