

# THE VOLUNTEER STAR

*a monthly newsletter from your friends at the*



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
KANSERVE.ORG

## APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH!



### APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

April marks Volunteer Appreciation Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This month, we invite you to join us in honoring the mentors and mentoring advocates who work tirelessly to help close the mentoring gap. We also encourage you to hold space for youth who have been impacted by abuse and assault and to help create safe and supportive environments for them to heal. Join us in amplifying the movement, and don't forget to use #MentoringAmplifies in your posts so we can share!

### IMPORTANT DATES

- World Autism Awareness Day: April 2
- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: April 6
- National Volunteer Week: April 21 - 27

*april is* **CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH**



**JUNETEENTH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE MINI-GRANT  
OPPORTUNITY**

# **JUNETEENTH**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY**



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
KANSERVE.ORG

**GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION  
AVAILABLE AT: [KANSERVE.ORG](https://kanserve.org)  
APPLICATIONS DUE: 4/22/2024**

Juneteenth, officially named Juneteenth National Day of Observance, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth was first celebrated on June 19, 1866, in Galveston, Texas, nearly nine decades after our Nation's founding and more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Juneteenth Day of Service is an opportunity to empower individuals to promote equity and justice through community-based projects and recognize and celebrate African-American culture and achievements.

These mini-grants offer eligible entities grant funding to effectively recruit and engage volunteers in meaningful service activities OR deliver a service-learning activity related to Juneteenth.

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Apply Now: [kanserve.org](https://kanserve.org) (link to apply directly on the homepage)

Questions? Email: [volunteer@ksde.org](mailto:volunteer@ksde.org)

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINI GRANT SUBGRANTEES



### CONGRATULATIONS YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINI-GRANT SUBGRANTEES

THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER  
COMMISSION IS PROUD TO  
AWARD \$10,000 TOWARDS  
YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
PROJECTS IN KANSAS

- TANGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY
- USD 260 - STORYTIME VILLAGE, INC.
- UNITED WAY OF KAW VALLEY



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
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**Congratulations to the 2024 Youth Civic Engagement Mini-Grant Subgrantees**

The Kansas Volunteer Commission is proud to award \$10,000 towards Youth Civic Engagement projects in Kansas. Thank you to everyone who applied!

The subgrantees are as follows:

- Tanglewood Elementary
- USD 260 - Storytime Village, Inc.
- United Way of Kaw Valley

## GIVE BACK KANSAS CHALLENGE BEGINS



The Give Back Kansas Challenge is an eight-week challenge that engages Kansans in employer-supported volunteering, both during and outside the workday. The Kansas Volunteer Commission and Volunteer Kansas are excited to co-partner in this challenge because much research shows the connection between employer-supported volunteering and improved employee engagement, employee wellness, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention. There is also research connecting employee engagement with increased profitability and productivity.

There is no cost to participate, and the challenge is open to ANY employer in Kansas (for-profit, non-profit, education system, and government).

This year's participants are:

- All For Moms Foundation
- Arvest Bank-Greater Kansas City Area (MO/Kansas)
- Bethel Life Center
- Breakthrough/Episcopal Social Services
- Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
- City of Derby
- County of Cloud
- Cowley County Historical Society Museum
- Flint Hills Volunteer Center
- Kansas State Department of Education
- Medical Loan Closet
- Pfizer

- Schenker Family Farms, Inc
- Smoky Hill Museum
- Tanganyika Wildlife Park
- TGC Group
- The Treehouse
- United Way of Kaw Valley
- Volunteers In Action
- Wichita Festivals Inc
- Wichita Habitat for Humanity

Follow the progress of the challenge each week on our social media!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## AMERICORPS NCCC REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2024-2025



# AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Southwest Region is requesting applications for team-based community service projects in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. AmeriCorps NCCC is seeking projects that engage members in service for 40-45 hours per week for 6-13 weeks while living in the communities they are serving.

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### AN AMERICORPS NCCC TEAM

NCCC members are young adults, 18 to 26 years old, who participate in a residential 10-month service term and represent a wide variety of socioeconomic, cultural, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

Team sizes vary and range from 6 to 12 Corps Members. Corps Members receive

on-the-ground supervision from an NCCC team leader.

Each team is assigned to a unit led by a full-time, professional staff member called a Unit Leader. The Unit Leader oversees the team's project performance and member development.

Each team is provided with one 15-passenger van, and NCCC covers the fuel. Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry. All members are background-checked and fully insured by the Federal Tort Claims Act and the Federal Employees Coverage Act.

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## SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

- Provide on-site support including technical oversight, training, supplies, equipment, and a minimum of 20 hours of supervision per week.
- Secure housing for the team for the duration of the project including a bathroom, kitchen, sleeping quarters, separate quarantine headquarters, and parking for one 15-passenger van.
- Housing examples include churches, community centers, vacant apartments or houses, college dorms, park cabins, and military facilities.
- Lend service-learning support to help the team understand the community's needs and the organization's work.
- Meet the NCCC project criteria necessary to be awarded a team; there are additional considerations that make an application more competitive.

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2024-2025 SERVICE TIMELINE			
Service Dates	Concept Form Deadline	Application Deadline	Award Notification
Nov. 8 - Dec. 15, 2024*	Jun. 14th, 2024	Aug. 9th, 2024	Week of Sep. 9th, 2024
Jan. 9 - Apr. 13, 2025*	Sep. 6th, 2024	Oct. 11th, 2024	Week of Nov. 11th, 2024
Apr. 19 - Jul. 13, 2025*	Dec. 13th, 2024	Jan. 31st, 2025	Week of Mar. 3rd, 2025

\*NCCC may accommodate requests for shorter projects within these date ranges

Please note: Service dates are subject to change due to evolving coronavirus policies and safety measures

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Arkansas, Colorado and Kansas - Ka Vang, Phone: (202) 914-8429, Email: [kvang@americorps.gov](mailto:kvang@americorps.gov)



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
**CELEBRATES**

**SARAH**

**NELSON**

**TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR**

**SARAH NELSON, TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION, EARNS MENTOR PRO CERTIFICATION IN "MENTORING FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH"**

Recently, the Commission's very own Sarah Nelson, Training & Engagement Coordinator, earned her MentorPro certification in "Mentoring for Youth Mental Health." It is becoming increasingly common for youth referred to mentoring programs to be struggling with a wide variety of mental health concerns, such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, aggression, or attention difficulties. This course covered evidence-based techniques that can be infused into mentoring practices to address these mental health concerns more effectively. Course participants learned about cutting-edge techniques proven by research to be effective in clinical settings and how to implement these strategies in diverse mentoring program settings.

Course participants also learned to discuss how youth identity may intersect with mentoring techniques and consider how to apply strategies in a culturally humble way with youth from diverse, marginalized backgrounds.

Sarah earned a Certificate of Completion for this course in March of 2024.

[MentorPRO](#)

# KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION ANNIVERSARIES

Thank you for your hard work!



**TIERNEY KIRTDOLL**  
**1 Year**  
20 YEARS WITH THE  
STATE OF KANSAS



**HALEY MATHERLY**  
**1 Year**  
WITH THE COMMISSION  
AND STATE OF KANSAS



**SARAH NELSON**  
**1 Year**  
23 YEARS WITH THE  
STATE OF KANSAS



**ELAINE RODRIGUEZ**  
**3 Years**  
5 YEARS WITH THE  
STATE OF KANSAS



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
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Many of our staff have celebrated anniversaries so far this year, including:

- **Tierney Kirtdoll** - 1 year with the Commission and 20 years with the State of Kansas.
- **Haley Matherly** - 1 year with the Commission and the State of Kansas.
- **Sarah Nelson** - 1 year with the Commission and 23 years with the State of Kansas.
- **Elaine Rodriguez** - 3 years with the Commission and 5 years with the State of Kansas.



# 2024 MINI GRANT SERIES

*Guidelines and Application release dates*

ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MENTORING

*Releases: 1/05/2024*

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Releases: 2/09/2024*

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

*Releases: 3/22/2024*

SOCIAL JUSTICE & CAPACITY BUILDING

*Releases: 4/26/2024*

RURAL & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

*Releases: 5/31/2024*

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

*Releases: 7/05/2024*

MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

*Releases: 10/04/2024*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mission of Managers of Volunteer Engagement (M.O.V.E.) is to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

### M.O.V.E. Topeka

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit [www.moveks.org](http://www.moveks.org).

Or reach out via [Facebook](#).

### M.O.V.E. Kansas

Statewide-Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email  
[mpearson@uwkawvalley.org](mailto:mpearson@uwkawvalley.org)

# Volunteer Managers Network United Way of the Plains

2023 Dates T.B.D.

12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Abel Frederic

[afrederic@unitedwayplains.org](mailto:afrederic@unitedwayplains.org)

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

## CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF



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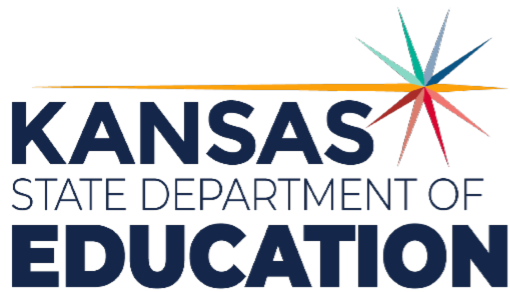
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