

THE VOLUNTEER STAR

a monthly newsletter from your friends at the



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG

SEPTEMBER IS BACK TO SCHOOL & LATINX HERITAGE MONTH!



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As students across the country head [#BacktoSchool](#), it's so important that we check in to ensure that their social & emotional needs, alongside their academic ones, are being met. To learn how [#MentoringAmplifies](#) student success, visit: mentoring.org/back-to-school @MENTORnational

This [#LatinAmericanHeritageMonth](#), join us in celebrating all the Latin American mentors working to inspire and support young people nationwide! <http://bit.ly/3AtqFgR> [#MentoringAmplifies](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Labor Day: Sept 4
On Sept 4, This [#LaborDay](#), we honor the passionate individuals committed to making the world a more equitable and supportive place for young people. To learn how you can join them, visit mentoring.org [#MentoringAmplifies](#)

- **World Suicide Prevention Day: Sept 10**

With loneliness & isolation on the rise, the need to expand mentoring opportunities for young people is incredibly urgent. On World [#SuicidePrevention Day](#), learn how mentors can provide young people with the care & support they deserve: <https://bit.ly/3ey1Btj>
[#MentoringAmplifies](#)

- **9/11 National Day of Service: Sept 11**

Today we remember the lives lost on 9/11 and honor those who rose to serve in the aftermath. To learn how you can support affected communities through mentorship, visit: tuesdayschildren.org
[@Tuesdayschldrn](#) [#MentoringAmplifies](#)

- **International Day of Peace: Sept 21**

The next generation deserves a future free from violence and discrimination. Today, in honor of International Day of Peace, we call attention to how [#MentoringAmplifies](#) compassion, equity, and nonviolence: <https://bit.ly/3m842lo>

CELEBRATING



*Latinx
Heritage Month*

AMERICORPS NCCC SPONSOR OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Danielle Waller from White Memorial Camp in Council Grove, KS for receiving the prestigious "Sponsor of the Year Award," from **AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region**. AmeriCorps NCCC sponsors provide on-site support including technical oversight, training, supplies, equipment and so much more.

Danielle's NCCC team had nothing but wonderful things to say about her work including, "During my time at White Memorial Camp, I got to know our sponsors on a deep level....The camp director, a woman named Danielle, was kind, friendly, and open. Beyond this, she made certain every single person on the team felt comfortable with her and the work at all times." - NCCC Team Member

White Memorial Camp is a small nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for Indigenous people, children, families, nonprofits, and adults with disabilities to experience outdoor, spiritual, and educational adventures. AmeriCorps NCCC helped WMC increase the safety of its guests, beautify the property, and support native plant species around the region.

Are you a nonprofit organization interested in sponsoring an AmeriCorps NCCC team in Kansas? How can NCCC help you accomplish your mission? Contact Ka Vang - kvang@americorps.gov to learn more.

**#KansasProud #AmeriFamily #AmeriCorpsKansas #WeAreAmeriCorps
#BeTheGreaterGood #sponsoroftheyear #AmeriCorpsWorks**

AMERICORPS KANSAS NOFO RELEASED



AmeriCorps Kansas

AmeriCorps Kansas has two applications available for the 2025 - 2026 grant period. Read the descriptions below to learn which grant opportunity is right for your organization. Click on the link to access the application materials:

- **AmeriCorps Kansas Operational Grant:** This grant is for organizations interested in operating an AmeriCorps program in Kansas. This grant DOES require matching funds. Applicants must request a minimum of three Member Service Years (MSY). **Due date:** December 13, 2024 for staff review OR January 31, 2025 for Final Applications
- **AmeriCorps Kansas Planning Grant:** This grant is for organizations interested in a 12-month planning period to develop an operational AmeriCorps program in Kansas. This grant DOES require matching funds. **Due date:** January 31, 2025.

Questions? Email: americorps@ksde.org



AmeriCorps Kansas

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

APPLY TODAY!

OPERATIONAL OR PLANNING

[KANSERVE.ORG](https://kanserve.org)



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
[KANSERVE.ORG](https://kanserve.org)

BRING ON THE PEOPLE POWER TO
ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF YOUR
COMMUNITY TODAY & TOMORROW

CIVIC ADVOCACY NETWORK AWARDS



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Kansas State Department of Education has awarded 11 **Civic Advocacy Network (CAN) Awards** in 2024. The CAN Award recognizes schools that actively engage students in civic activities and promote civic engagement across all grade levels. The CAN Award aims to highlight exemplary practices in civic engagement and share them with other schools to foster a culture of civic responsibility and participation.

Congratulations to the staff, students, and communities for earning this prestigious award!

- USD 230 Prairie Creek Elementary School
- USD 230 Timber Sage Elementary
- USD 230 Dayton Creek Elementary
- USD 305 Lakewood Middle School
- USD 327 Ellsworth Junior Senior High School
- USD 405 Lyons High School
- USD 405 Lyons Middle School
- USD 475 Westwood Elementary School
- USD 475 Washington Elementary School
- USD 475 Eisenhower Elementary
- USD 475 Seitz Elementary

COMMISSIONER & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION STAFF CELEBRATES BACK TO SCHOOL



Memories of our school days.



Back to School



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG

Ah, the back-to-school season—when the air smells of freshly sharpened pencils, and backpacks sag under the weight of new textbooks. It's a season that dances on the edge of summer's fading warmth and autumn's crisp embrace. The Kansas Volunteer Commission celebrates that time when our thoughts would go to much simpler concerns, such as, if we could get that 64 box of crayons with the sharpener in it, giant pencils, and the smell of Pink Pearl erasers. Enjoy these throwback photos of our formative years!

**JESSICA DORSEY NAMED 2024 YWCA WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE
HONOREE!**

36TH ANNUAL
**WOMEN OF
EXCELLENCE**
AWARDS AND GALA BENEFITING YWCA NORTHEAST KANSAS

“I have learned that being a leader doesn't mean knowing exactly what to do in every situation. A truly great leader empowers others to be leaders as well.”

Dr. Jessica Dorsey
Kansas Volunteer Commission,
Kansas State Department of
Education



At YWCA Northeast Kansas, they believe in a world where all women are empowered to thrive, and their brilliance knows no bounds. They will honor these

extraordinary trailblazers at their *36th Annual Women of Excellence Awards!* Every year, they host an evening of inspirational storytelling to highlight the achievements and contributions of their *Women of Excellence Honorees*. They pay tribute to the women leaders who rise above challenges, inspire greatness, and work to build a stronger, brighter future for us all. Jessica was nominated for *Women of Excellence* as a government employee.

2024 MINI GRANT SERIES

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.

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit 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

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

Volunteers United: Newton

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month

12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Dalton Black

director@harveyunitedway.org

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

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF



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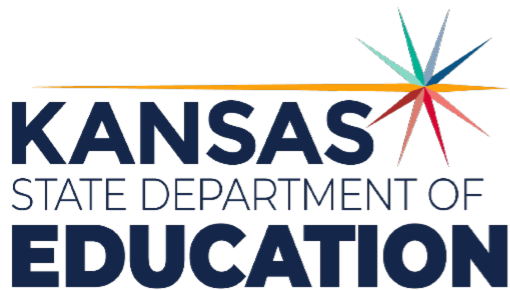
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