

THE USA FREEDOM CORPS' 

# Network of Service

April 2003

## New Study will Measure Capacity of America's Volunteer Infrastructure

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the USA Freedom Corps are launching a national study that will measure and evaluate the capacity of America's nonprofit sector to utilize volunteers to meet vital community needs, such as mentoring, healthcare, hunger relief, and public safety. The assessment will include an unprecedented survey of more than 3,000 nonprofit, service, and faith-based organizations.

The volunteer capacity study will result in a report that offers nonprofit organizations information that will help them strengthen their ability to more effectively engage a greater number of volunteers in service delivery. Results from the study will help improve volunteer management programs by identifying best practices, raising awareness within the funding community regarding unmet needs, and providing data to inform initiatives that will help engage more Americans in volunteer service.

The study will be conducted by the Urban Institute through a \$300,000 donation from The UPS Foundation that is being matched one-for-one by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

[Click here](#) to view the press release announcing the study.

## Administration Launches New Initiatives to Encourage Volunteer Service in Environmental Stewardship

On April 22, 2003, President George W. Bush celebrated the 34th annual Earth Day by encouraging Americans to become "a partner in service" by volunteering through environmental stewardship. Volunteers play a vital role in preserving our country's natural resources, keeping our parks clean, and maintaining our historical monuments.

The Bush Administration launched two new initiatives in April to help Americans find volunteer service opportunities in environmental stewardship, encourage public-private partnerships, and bring more Americans into contact with our public lands and natural resources:

### [EarthDay.gov](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency launched EarthDay.gov to provide Americans with a comprehensive guide to environmental service opportunities. This website is an interagency federal resource for citizens who want to participate in environmental activities. EarthDay.gov allows visitors to access a database of environmental service opportunities with approximately 7,000 organizations that are part of the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network, as well as download classroom curricula and information on the environment. [Click here](#) to visit [earthday.gov](#).

### [Take Pride in America](#)

Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton launched Take Pride in America, a national partnership initiative aimed at increasing volunteer service to restore and improve America's public lands. The program, which is part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, will



President Bush works with volunteers at the Adirondack Park near Wilmington, New York. *White House photo by Eric Draper.*

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*"We have a duty in our country to make sure our land is preserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, our parks are accessible and open and well-preserved."*

*President George W. Bush*

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encourage more Americans to take part in environmental volunteer service opportunities and recognize outstanding volunteers for their efforts.

Take Pride in America enables federal, state, and local government agencies to offer volunteer opportunities through the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network by using the Department of the Interior's [volunteer.gov/gov](#) website to register public sector volunteer opportunities.

In addition, the Department is working with a bipartisan coalition of state governors, corporations, conservation groups, and service organizations to launch volunteer conservation projects.

[Click here](#) to visit [Take Pride in America](#) and the [USA Freedom Corps](#).

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The "Network of Service" is intended to help you answer President Bush's Call to Service. This newsletter should be used for informational purposes only.