



President Bush Thanks Volunteers for Their Dedication to Service



President Bush meets with USA Freedom Corps Greeter Eric Rasmussen. Photo by Eric Draper.

Upon arrival in Detroit on July 23, President Bush met Eric Rasmussen, [marking the 300th time since March 2002 that the President has thanked an outstanding volunteer](#) from a local

community. Eric is an active volunteer with the Tax Assistance Program at the [Volunteer Accounting Service Team of Michigan](#), providing low-income families with free tax services.

President Bush thanked Eric for his work and his dedication to serving others. The President hopes to encourage all Americans to perform more volunteer service by [highlighting the work of individuals in the communities to which he travels](#).

In addition, President Bush has launched the [President's Volunteer Service Awards](#) to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

Citizen Corps Volunteers Helping to Make Our Country Safer

The third [National Citizen Corps Conference](#) commenced in Denver, Colorado on July 27. This year's theme, "Prepare, Train, Volunteer" emphasizes the important role that citizens can and should play in our nation's preparedness. [In recent remarks](#), Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said: "The Emergency Response Teams, medical personnel and neighborhood watch volunteers who are part of the program form the backbone of our national preparedness efforts at the local level."

Conference attendees (51 out of 56 states and territories are represented) are focusing on a number of priorities, including ways to improve volunteer programs. Citizen Corps recently announced that county, local, and tribal [Citizen Corps Councils now serve 50% of the United States population](#).

[Created by President George W. Bush in January 2002](#), Citizen Corps mobilizes citizens across America to prepare, train, and volunteer to protect themselves, their

"Across our country, Citizen Corps volunteers are donating their time and talents to help make our country safer and stronger.... I commend you for your hard work and for answering my call to service. Your efforts help secure our Nation and contribute to our culture of responsibility and citizenship."

Message from President George W. Bush to the Third National Citizen Corps Conference

families, and their communities. "After September the 11th, we created the Citizen Corps, a grassroots effort spearheaded by the Department of Homeland Security, and the USA Freedom Corps, to help Americans learn how to be prepared for and respond to attacks on our homeland," [President Bush said in recent remarks](#).

July Highlights

★ [AmeriCorps*NCCC](#) is celebrating a decade of achievement this year and the ongoing service commitment of its 10,000 alumni with Legacy Weekend service projects in its five campus communities: Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; and Washington, D.C. Each Legacy Weekend includes a playground build in the campus community in collaboration with The Home Depot and KaBOOM!. The final build took place in Washington, D.C. on July 23. White House staff and interns joined representatives from The Home Depot, AmeriCorps*NCCC, D.C. Housing Authority, National Capital Police Fund, community volunteers, and organizers from KaBOOM! in the build.

★ [2004 Annual Corporate Citizenship Awards](#) On December 2, 2004, Secretary of Commerce Don Evans and President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber Tom Donohue will present the 2004 Corporate Citizenship Awards to recognize businesses that have demonstrated ethical leadership, corporate stewardship, made a difference in their communities, and contributed to the advancement of important economic and social goals. Nomination deadline is October 1.

★ [Peace Corps Returns to China](#) In late July, 48 Peace Corps volunteers arrived in China to teach English and environmental education. The Peace Corps program was suspended in China in April 2003 due to concerns over a SARS outbreak. The Peace Corps resumed its partnership with China, the world's most populous country, after an assessment team determined that it was safe for reentry.