



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – Library Project Tip Sheet January 19, 2009

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service. **Community libraries offer a unique place to gather your neighbors to discuss our history and to create solutions for today's social problems.** How ambitious you choose to be depends on you—and on your community's resources. For example, you could:

- Hold a workshop on Dr. King's life and examine issues in your community that you can address
- Hold a forum on the future of civil rights/minority rights in your community. Invite community leaders to serve as panelists
- Bring a can of food, participate in MLK Day learning experience
 - Can of food goes to local food bank
 - MLK program might include things like:
 - A speech, video, or discussion group
 - Listen to MLK audio from his speeches
 - Story hour for kids focused on MLK and the civil rights movement
 - Create a display case featuring books on civil rights (see attached suggested bibliography)
- Work with local schools to have kids paint a mural celebrating civil rights or community history. Display the artwork in public spaces, at hospitals, in local businesses, etc.
- Recruit volunteers through the www.mlkday.gov website for special library projects:
 - General library maintenance
 - Dust the shelves
 - Organize one of the sections
 - Sort out/dispose of worn materials

For more information about creating a successful volunteer opportunity, visit:

<http://mlkday.gov/resources/tips/index.asp>

Also, remember to begin thinking soon about MLK Day 2010. Even if you're unable to hold a service project this year, we still welcome your participation as we bring people together next year. Make sure you have a place at the table by contacting us about your interest!

Contact the Iowa State Office for more information. We'll help you publicize your event and offer suggestions from event planning experts. You can reach us at (515) 284-4816 or at ia@cns.gov



MLK Day Q & A

1. My organization is closed on MLK Day (January 19, 2009). Can I do an activity on an alternate day?

Yes. We encourage you to hold activities as close to January 19, 2009 as possible. However, you're welcome to honor Dr. King's call to service on the most convenient day for your organization.

2. My organization is interested in participating but none of the activities suggested above work for us. What other activities can we do?

We suggest visiting www.mlkday.gov to view the opportunities that have already been listed. Maybe you can 'piggy-back' an already existing idea or you might be able to partner with one of the groups you find.

If you're still unable to find something that suites you, contact the Iowa State Office at (515) 284-4816. We'll be happy to assist you as you think about your options.

3. Our organization is interested in holding an activity to honor Dr. King's call to service. What should we do next?

1. Register your event on www.mlkday.gov – This process takes just a few minutes and is a great way to publicize your activity. You can also order advertising materials (posters, flyers, etc.) for free on this website.
2. Contact local partners to see how they might be able to assist you in your planning efforts
3. Recruit volunteers to help with your activity. Remember, people can register to volunteer at your event on www.mlkday.gov.
4. Plan how you can measure the impact of your work. For instance, consider counting the number of people served, the number of items collected, etc.
5. Hold your event on or around January 19, 2009
6. After the event, contact the Iowa State Office to tell us about your event. You can reach us at ia@cns.gov or at (515) 284-4816.

4. How can I recruit volunteers for my activity?

Remember that by registering your event on www.mlkday.gov, potential volunteers can find and register for your activity.

Also, consider contacting volunteer organizations in your community like the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Schools, businesses, and local community service groups are also great sources of dedicated community members and volunteers.

5. What is the Corporation for National and Community Service?

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency charged with overseeing a variety of volunteer programs including AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. The Iowa State Office is the field office in Iowa (located in the Des Moines Federal Building) that supports national service and volunteerism in our state.

For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov