

NJDOE News

Contact: Richard Vespucci For Release: October 27, 2000

New Jersey AmeriCorps Units Prepare for 'Make a Difference Day'

New Jersey AmeriCorps members will participate in community service events around the state to celebrate "Make a Difference Day" on or around Saturday, October 29, 2000.

The events will be part of an annual national event that will involve more than 2 million participants in activities such as serving meals at homeless shelters, providing children with fun educational activities, planting trees, beautifying parks and sprucing up community centers.

AmeriCorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for a year or two of community service. AmeriCorps members help meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, human needs and the environment. The program, hosted by the New Jersey Department of Education, is guided by the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service.

For more information on "Make A Difference Day" or AmeriCorps, please contact Rowena Madden or Anthony Bland at 609-633-9627.

NOTE: <u>A list highlighting service activities and sites is attached</u>. Reporters and photographers are invited and encouraged to attend.