

National Service In America - A Timeline¹⁶

by Dr. Roger Landrum

- 1910 * William James, American philosopher, envisions nonmilitary National Service in his essay, "The Moral Equivalent of War."
- 1932 * Franklin Delano Roosevelt, at the Democratic National Convention, proposes a national civilian reforestation plan.
- 1933-42 FDR's vision becomes the Civilian Conservation Corps and over three million young men serve terms of 6-18 months before the program is ended.
- 1961 President John F. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps as a new form of National Service.
- 1964 President Lyndon Baines Johnson's "War on Poverty" creates VISTA, a National Teacher Corps, the Job Corps, and University Year of Action. These programs fade as the Vietnam war dominates the national agenda.
- 1969-80 Numerous legislative proposals to create a federal National Service program are unsuccessful.
- 1970 Youth Conservation Corps employs 38,000 young people (ages 14-18) for summer environmental programs.
- 1976 California Conservation Corps established by Governor Jerry Brown as first nonfederal state youth corps.
- 1978 The Young Adult Conservation Corps (ages 16-23) creates small conservation corps in the states with 22,500 employees. Potomac Institute establishes Committee for the Study of National Service with Ford Foundation grant and issues **Youth and the Needs of the Nation**.
- 1982 President Ronald Reagan's Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) eliminates federal funding for conservation corps. In **High School**, Ernie Boyer calls for all high school students to participate in community service.
- 1984 American Conservation Corps Act passed by Congress but pocket vetoed by President Reagan.
- 1984-86 * Grassroots efforts launch nongovernmental National Service strategies and model programs:
- Campus Outreach Opportunity League (1984) and Campus Compact (1985) created to mobilize service programs in higher education.
 - National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) established (1985) to network and replicate youth corps in states and cities.
 - K-12 programs ("service-learning") begin spreading in schools.
 - Youth Service America established (1985) to bring together the diverse "streams of service" into the Youth Service Movement.
 - Ford and Mott Foundations become major funders of the field.
- 1989-90 President George Bush creates Office of National Service in the White House and Points of Light Foundation to foster volunteerism. W.K. Kellogg and DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundations become major funders of youth service movement.
- 1990 The Youth Service Movement gains a federal partner as Congress passes the National and Community Service Act of 1990, grants program for the "streams of service" at state and local levels.
- 1993 President Bill Clinton creates a National Service Trust Fund.

*Three landmarks in National Service history.