

■ AmeriCorps/USDA

USDA sponsors approximately 1,200 AmeriCorps members serving in 38 States in urban and rural projects fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and rebuilding rural America. During just their first 2 1/2 half months of service—from September 12 to November 31, 1994—members provided over 360,000 hours of service to their communities. The following examples indicate the breadth of activities performed by AmeriCorps participants:

- Members of the **Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team** cook and prepare meals at soup kitchens, conduct nutrition and food safety workshops for the elderly, sort goods at food banks, develop nutrition education programs for schools, provide outreach for the Women's, Infants, and Children nutrition program, work to increase the number of children receiving immunizations, improve participation in the summer feeding program, locate sites for revitalizing community gardens in low-income neighborhoods, assist earthquake victims with emergency food information, and inform pantries about how their clients who are working but are still poor can boost their incomes by using the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- Members of the **Public Lands and Environment Team** working on Forest Service lands do rehabilitation and watershed protection work, construct stream structures for fish habitat, reforest fire-damaged lands, construct and maintain trails for hiking and horseback riding, plant cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintain and rehabilitate campgrounds and make them accessible for the disabled, improve timber stands, restore historic sites, conduct surveys of threatened and endangered species habitats, remove and install fences, improve wildlife habitats, and hang erosion control netting on roads.

Members of the Public Lands and Environment Team working on private and local municipal lands repair and restore flood-damaged areas, recreate fish habitats, monitor water quality, build community greenhouses, construct nature trails in urban and suburban as well as rural areas, build playgrounds, restore windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps, revegetate coastal marshes, restore collections at the National Arboretum, create a safe haven lot at a public housing development, landscape public high school grounds, clean up urban wetlands, revitalize historical sites, improve camping sites, protect stream banks, create community gardens, and clean out public fountains.

- Members of the **Rural Development Team** provide service on a wide range of projects related to running water and indoor plumbing, sustainable agriculture, emergency response and prevention, fisheries restoration, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, community improvement and personal responsibility development, tourism to boost local economies, water quality protection, recycling promotion, American Indian tribal empowerment, water quality protection, rural housing improvement, and cultural resource preservation.