

DOVIA Mississippi
February 21, 2013 @ MS Museum of Natural Science
Field trip to AmeriCorps NCCC Campus, Vicksburg
Meeting Notes

Thank you for a great trip to Vicksburg this morning! Special thanks to our hostess, Erika Roberts, and to the AmeriCorps*NCCC team leaders, for the tour and the time in Vicksburg.

PRESENT:

- Fran Baker
- Michele Baker
- Sharon Kendrick
- Ann Peden
- Erika Roberts
- Marsha Kelly (guest)

AMERICORPS*NCCC FIELD TRIP

Despite the driving rain, six brave souls toured the beautiful campus of the AmeriCorps*NCCC campus, formerly All Saints School, in Vicksburg. Erika Roberts acted as our host, sharing information about the campus's origins. Marsha Meeks Kelly also spoke, giving her part of the picture – she was instrumental in bringing a campus to Mississippi.

Each year, AmeriCorps NCCC engages teams of members in projects in communities across the United States. Service projects, which typically last from 6-8 weeks, address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Members mentor students, construct and rehabilitate low-income housing, respond to natural disasters, clean up streams, help communities develop emergency plans, and address countless other local needs.

Sponsoring organizations request the assistance of AmeriCorps NCCC teams by [submitting a project application](#) to the regional campus that covers that organization's state. The campuses provide assistance in completing the application, developing a work plan, and preparing the project sponsor for the arrival of the AmeriCorps NCCC team.

Who can apply:

- Non-profits—secular and faith based
- Local municipalities
- State governments
- Federal government
- National or state parks
- Indian tribes
- Schools

AmeriCorps NCCC has five (5) regional campuses located in Perry Point, MD; Denver, CO; Sacramento, CA; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA. These campuses are the hubs from which AmeriCorps NCCC operates and deploys corps members to service projects around the country. Each campus serves as a headquarters for its multi-state region and can lodge and feed its entire regional corps, which ranges in size from 150 to 500 members.

Campus staff supports both the corps members and project sponsors as they engage in service activities.

All corps members and team leaders live and work on campus for the duration of their training at the beginning of each corps year, as well as for transition weeks between project rounds. Campuses start at

various times throughout the year to ensure that there are enough trained AmeriCorps members available to respond to national and regional disasters.

See the project application: http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/nccc_project_app.pdf

Contact Erika Roberts to get an NCCC packet full of information – including a DVD – about AmeriCorps*NCCC: eroberts@cns.gov

NCCC Southern Region

2715 Confederate Avenue

Vicksburg, MS 39180

Tel: 601-630-4040

Fax: 601-630-4071

E-mail for Rich Smith: rsmith@cns.gov

E-mail for Erika Roberts: eroberts@cns.gov

States Served: AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There's still time to renew your DOVIA membership for 2013! **Renew (or join) today** for just \$25 and get the GIVE Awards luncheon event FREE (a \$30 value).

Also remember to check out the new DOVIA website (www.doviams.org), and to "like" us on [Facebook](#).

The book we discussed this morning ("finding your tribe," "playing instead of working") is [*Finding Your Way in a Wild New World: Reclaim Your True Nature to Get the Life You Want*](#), by Martha Beck (2011). Available at Amazon in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions

Share volunteer-related success stories (especially those with pictures!) with Deirdra Harris Glover: (press@volunteermisissippi.org)

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The 13th Annual Crossroads Film Festival is April 12-14, 2013 @ Malco Grandview Theater in Madison, MS. www.crossroadsfilmfestival.com. Also consider membership in the Crossroads Film Society and support indie film in Mississippi! www.crossroadsfilmsociety.com

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May 6-7, 2013 – statewide conference on nonprofit management and volunteerism (exact title TBA); focus of the conference is the economic impact of collaborations among nonprofits. Partners include:

- Volunteer Mississippi (formerly the MS Commission for Volunteer Service)
- Mississippi Center for Nonprofits
- Association of Community Action Agencies
- Mississippi Grantmaker's Association

DOVIA Mississippi will assist with several workshops on volunteer management – if you'd like to assist on this planning team, contact Michele Baker (dovia.michele@gmail.com)