



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

Pamela Dugan, State Director

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www.fivepromises.wv.gov

Press Release

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members serving across the state with West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth (WVP), is championed by the First Lady of West Virginia Gayle C. Manchin, managed through the office of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

WVP VISTA Project held VISTA and Site Supervisor training at Tygart Lake State Park in Grafton on Friday November 13, 2009. AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service organization which places volunteers in projects to address community needs, particularly in the areas of reducing poverty. The training was hosted by Pamela Dugan, West Virginia's Promise Statewide Director and Patty Ralston, AmeriCorps VISTA Leader and brought together VISTAs from Wheeling, Harpers Ferry, Moundsville, Parkersburg and Hurricane along with their site supervisors. Kathleen Roedersheimer from West Virginia Corporation for National and Community Service joined the group for lunch and icebreakers at the beginning of the training. Two of Governor Manchin's Regional Representatives, Lynn Phillips and Michelle Figaretti also attended and spoke about how they could assist the VISTAs in each of their regions, what regions they cover, and the different awards they give to people in the state on behalf of the Governor..

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, Pamela Dugan and some of the VISTAs and Site Supervisors teamed up with a Taylor County Girl Scouts Troop 34158, and Troop Leader Jeanie McDaniel, on a "Clean a Trail" service project at Tygart Lake State Park, providing one of the Five Promise for children and youth the "Opportunities to Help Others". The girl scouts met at the cabin and received instructions from the Park Ranger Mic Elsey on the "dos" and don'ts" when cleaning the trail such as not picking up broken glass but allow an adult to do so. The girls, along with their parents and some brothers, VISTAs and Site Supervisors spent two hours picking up trash on the trail, the little troopers picked up over 15 bags of debris. Everyone enjoyed lunch together back at the cabin and children were awarded certificates for their participation in the trail clean up.

Patty Ralston, AmeriCorps VISTA Leader with WVP, spoke to the girls about the Five Promises and how they pertained to the day's events. West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth is a leader in West Virginia at promoting positive youth development and challenging communities to support, nurture and strengthen their youth and improve their communities. West Virginia's Promise is the state level organization of America's Promise which promotes the Five Promises; Caring Adults, Safe Places, Healthy Start, Effective Education and the Opportunities to Help Others.

For more information about West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth and/or individual VISTA projects, visit www.fivepromises.wv.gov or call Pam Dugan 304-661-1460, email pdugan@frontiernet.net, office address HC 66 Box 1 F Frankford, WV 24938



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First and Second Row: Taylor County Girl Scouts Troop 34158 not pictured Troop Leader Jeanie McDaniel

Back Row: AmeriCorps Promise VISTA members: Memory Cooper, Mission WV; Patty Ralston-VISTA Leader, Children's Home Society of Parkersburg, Katie Nolan, FLOC of Harpers Ferry, and



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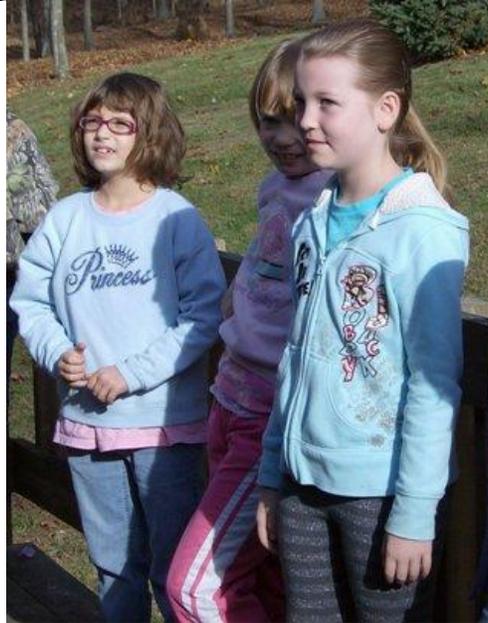
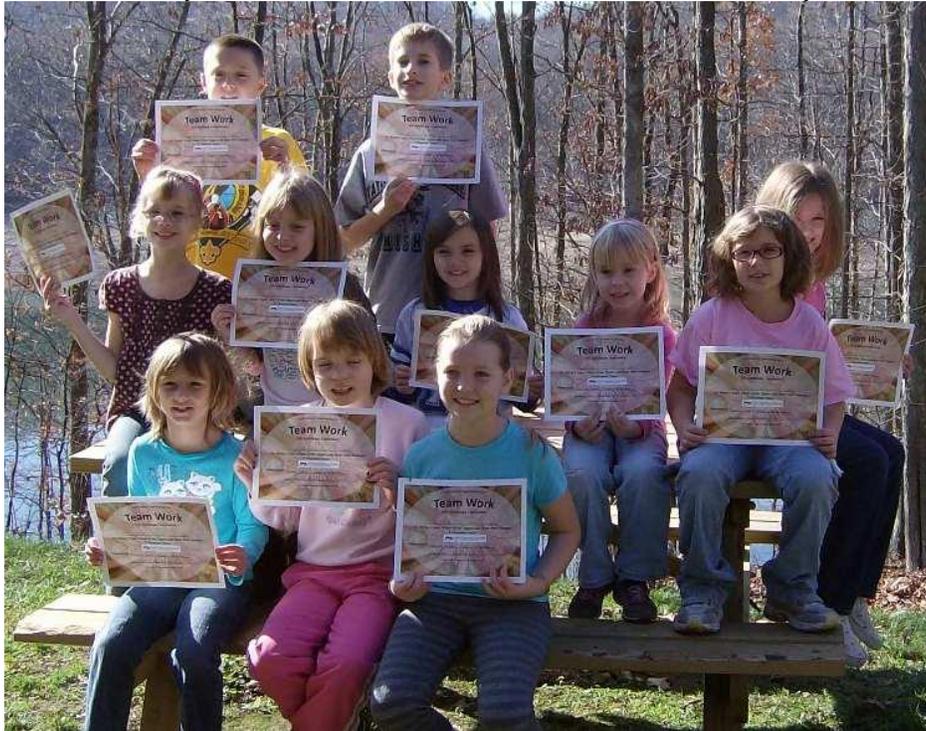
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Cindy Nicholson, The Youth Club of Marshall County



Children received Team Work certificates for participating in a "Clean a Trail" Service Project



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