AmeriCorps: 20 Years, 800K Volunteers, 1.8 Hours of Service

This week marks the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, the federal government program that encourages people of all ages, and especially young people, to engage in public service via local nonprofit organizations, universities, and other community groups. It is built with strong bipartisan support to promote service and civic engagement, and has been supported by a wide array of the political establishment. The first cohort of the original AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps I, was created by the Corporation for National and Community Service in 1993. Since then, the program has grown, but it is still not clear how many corps members have volunteered more than one million hours of service.

At the time of initiation, each volunteer received the AmeriCorps pledge, including three vows:

1. I will give them life
2. I will give them love
3. I will give them friendship

The AmeriCorps pledge quickly replaced their experiences. You gained insights into what it means to volunteer, and you gained a connection to the public service, starting with AmeriCorps, and that's why they are so important. You applied to the other programs and volunteered yourself, probably more than you realized; that volunteering is the basis for public service.

Here, AmeriCorps and Charles Bartleson.

AmeriCorps

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Three Companies Think So

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