

The monthly FEMA *Children & Disasters Newsletter* is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens. It shares timely research, examples of successful youth preparedness programs, safety tips, and resources related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the *Children & Disasters Newsletter*, please visit [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



FEMA



### MARCH 2014 - ISSUE 3

Welcome to the March issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! This newsletter highlights preparedness resources, programs, and happenings. Continue reading for stories on Red Cross Month, the Youth Preparedness Technical Assistance Center, tips for organizing a virtual readiness exercise in your community, and FEMA Corps. In addition, we are looking for your input on a youth preparedness activity booklet and the *Catalogue of Youth Disaster Preparedness Education Resources*.

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### MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH

The American Red Cross and the White House have had an established relationship since President Woodrow Wilson first took office in 1913. As a tradition started by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943, the current President of the United States proclaims March as Red Cross Month each year.

On March 1, President Barack Obama declared March as Red Cross Month. As stated in the proclamation, "During American Red Cross Month, we honor those who devote themselves to bringing relief where there is suffering, inspiring hope where there is despair, and healing the wounds of disasters and war."

Throughout Red Cross Month, the American Red Cross honors the "everyday heroes" who have dedicated their time and effort to helping those in need, and hosts a variety of events and activities to train and teach others valuable, life-saving skills.

To learn more about Red Cross Month or how to get involved, please visit <http://www.redcross.org/about-us/red-cross-month>.

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## YOUTH PREPAREDNESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) CENTER

Last month, we featured the Youth Preparedness TA Center. This center offers TA providers to help answer individual questions or offer assistance to youth preparedness programs. The TA Center is also a great place to access a variety of resources and tools for individuals starting or operating youth preparedness programs, as well as individuals who have a general interest in youth preparedness.

In the "Tools" and "Resources" sections of [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness), you can find a variety of information on starting or enhancing a youth preparedness program, including:

- [Youth Preparedness: Implementing a Community-Based Program](#): Provides high-level steps for implementing a youth preparedness program.
- [Catalogue of Youth Disaster Preparedness Education Resources](#): Identifies existing programs, curricula, and resources available to those operating youth preparedness programs.
- [Youth Preparedness Program Implementation Workbook](#): Enriches program managers' implementation of each step discussed in *Youth Preparedness: Implementing a Community-Based Program*.
- [Youth Preparedness Program Implementation Checklist](#): Helps ensure that program managers have thoroughly completed each of the steps discussed in *Youth Preparedness: Implementing a Community-Based Program*.
- [Youth Preparedness Funding Guide](#): Provides information about securing funding and resources for a program.
- [Youth Preparedness Quick Tips to Mitigate Risks](#): Provides a quick overview of basic strategies to manage key risks that a program might face.
- [Youth Preparedness Guide to Risk Management](#): Helps program managers identify potential risks associated with their programs, as well as techniques to mitigate them.

Additional youth preparedness tools and resources can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness> or by emailing the Youth Preparedness TA Center at [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

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## FEMA CORPS APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES APRIL 1ST

**Make a difference when it matters most.** Check out **FEMA Corps**, a new partnership program between AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and FEMA!

FEMA Corps, a track of AmeriCorps NCCC, is a national service program for 18-24 year olds who are interested in emergency management and passionate about disaster relief. FEMA Corps members serve with a team for 10 months, and travel the country working directly with FEMA on emergency management related projects. Teams have responded to every major U.S. disaster since the program's creation in 2012.

In addition to the benefits of engaging directly in emergency management projects and working with FEMA staff, FEMA Corps members also receive a living stipend, and their housing, food, and transportation costs are covered during their 10 months of service. Members who successfully complete their term of service also receive an education award in the amount of \$5,645 dollars – which can be used to pay for school costs or to pay off qualified student loans.

If you are interested in learning more about FEMA Corps, please visit:

- Blog: <http://ncccblog.americorps.gov/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AmeriCorpsNCCC>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AmeriCorpsNCCC>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/nationalservice>

The application for the Summer 2014 FEMA Corps class beginning in July 2014, closes on April 1. If you are interested in applying, please visit: <http://www.americorps.gov>.

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## ORGANIZE A READINESS EXERCISE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The [HandsOn Network](#) and [Points of Light](#) developed the [Resilient Response Exercise series](#), a nationwide virtual exercise series that allows interested groups to practice disaster preparedness and response for a variety of disasters.

Organize your friends, family, neighbors, or coworkers to participate in one (or more!) of these free virtual simulation exercises. Exercises are free and open to the public, so be sure to [register today](#) for the following exercises in 2014:

**Hurricane Exercise:** Friday, May 30, 2014

**Influenza Pandemic Exercise:** Thursday, September 11, 2014

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## REMINDER: CALL FOR RESOURCES FOR YOUTH PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITY BOOKLET

FEMA is still collecting resources (activities, games, worksheets, etc.) for the youth preparedness activity booklet. If you have any youth preparedness activities that are quick and easy to conduct and provide a powerful learning experience, we would love to include them in the booklet. For complete details about the booklet and the types of resources we are collecting, please see [the original bulletin](#). Please email all submissions to [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov), and please note that by sharing information about your activity, you are consenting for it to be included in the booklet.

We look forward to seeing the activities that are helping youth get prepared!

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## FEMA SEEKS YOUTH PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS FOR CATALOGUE

Do you run a youth preparedness program, or are you involved with one? If so, FEMA would be interested in including that program in the *FEMA Catalogue of Youth Disaster Preparedness Education Resources*. The *Catalogue* supports individuals who are interested in promoting youth preparedness education by connecting them with existing local-, state-, and national-level programs. It also directs readers to curricula and resources that can be used to develop or sustain a program. The current *Catalogue* is available in the [FEMA Media Library](#).

Listing your program in the *Catalogue* will enable new participants and partners to find it more easily, and will promote the program to youth preparedness practitioners across the country. If you are interested in having your program included, please send a description of the program (including ages for which the program is appropriate, topics covered, and a website link, if possible) to [FEMA-Youth-](#)

[Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov). Also, please feel free to send information about curricula and resources that might be of interest to youth preparedness practitioners.

Please note that FEMA may follow up with any questions about the submission, and may revise inputs to align with the *Catalogue's* structure.

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## CONTACT US

**Email:** [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov)

**Online at** <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

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Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

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