

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

I am pleased to inform you that Paterson YMCA in Paterson has been approved for a 2010 Learn and Serve America Summer of Service Grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service. This pilot grant competition is the result of the expansion of national service made possible by the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act last year. Enclosed is a brief description of the grant, including local contact information. We are providing you with this information so that you will have the opportunity to notify your constituents in advance of the Corporation's public release.

Using service as a vehicle for learning, Learn and Serve America helps over one million students nationwide every year make meaningful contributions in their communities while building their academic and civic skills and establishing a lifelong commitment to service. Through its grant programs, Learn and Serve America engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to identify and address real community needs.

The Summer of Service program supports collaborative efforts to establish and implement community-based service-learning programs during the summer months. Through intensive, structured and supervised projects that engage middle school youth in productive and meaningful service to the community, participants have the opportunity to earn a \$500 education award, setting them on a path to aspire to obtaining higher education.

The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation engages more than four million Americans in service each year through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. For more information, visit www.NationalService.gov.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may also contact Rhoda Glickman, Director, Government Relations, at (202) 606-6731.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Corvington
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure



Corporation for National and Community Service

Learn and Serve America Summer of Service 2010

The purpose of the *Summer of Service* program is to support collaborative efforts to establish or implement service-learning programs that engage students during the summer months. Programs involve middle school students in community-based service-learning projects that are intensive, structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable improvements to the community. This opportunity will provide youth, particularly those from disadvantaged circumstances, with service-learning experiences that will increase student civic, academic and leadership skills while meeting local environmental and disaster preparedness needs.

Each student who completes at least 100 hours of service in an approved summer of service position is then eligible for a summer of service educational award of \$500. Students may use the award to pay for educational expenses at qualified higher education institutions for up to ten years after their term of service.

Eligible applicants for this competition include State Education Agencies, State Commissions, U.S. Territories, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, public or private nonprofit organizations (including faith-based organizations), public or private elementary or secondary schools, local educational agencies, or a consortium of such entities.

Applicant: Paterson YMCA, Paterson, NJ

Project Contact: Anne Thompson
(973) 593-0246
annelthompson@hotmail.com

Grant Award: \$50,000 **Summer of Service
Education Awards:** 100

Program Summary:

The Paterson (NJ) YMCA will implement ScienceFaction, a summer enrichment service program that builds upon a pilot program operated by the Paterson YMCA designed to address environmental issues and disaster preparedness. ScienceFaction will add a service-learning component and target 100 middle school-aged youth for participation. Youth will engage in various service projects, including river clean-up, designing and creating bio-retention filters, and developing and launching a campaign to encourage businesses in the community to recycle. Strong partnerships with the Paterson Education Fund and Roche Pharmaceuticals will contribute to the success of this summer program. The service-learning component will utilize Paterson public school's science curricula to engage students on environmental issues that would likely not be covered during the school year. The ScienceFaction program effectively integrates this rigorous and exciting academic component with tangible and impactful service work.