
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

Date Signed: 3/31/2026 | ALMARS Number: 006/26

ALMARS : 006/26

R 311800Z MAR 26

ALMAR 006/26

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC//

SUBJ/NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH//

GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. Volunteers are the backbone of the Marine Corps' long standing tradition of service. Volunteerism enhances social and community connectedness, contributing to the resilience of Marines, their families, and the broader Marine Corps community. In Fiscal Year 25, the Volunteer Management Program connected Marines, Sailors, and their families to multiple volunteer activities, both inside and outside the gates of Marine Corps installations. Specifically, 9,482 active-duty service members contributed approximately 57,787 volunteer hours, 2,014 family members contributed approximately 37,487 volunteer hours, and 3,971 other volunteers, which include military retirees and civilian employees, contributed approximately 64,786 volunteer hours. Additionally, 496 Marines and Sailors earned The President's Volunteer Service Award.

2. April is recognized as National Volunteer Month, a time when the Marine Corps proudly recognizes those who have shown selfless service through their dedication to volunteering. This month also serves as an opportunity to highlight the positive impact volunteers

have on our installations, families, and surrounding community, while encouraging others to become more engaged and discover the many personal and professional benefits of volunteering. Commanders are encouraged to support the 12th Annual Single Marine Program (SMP) Days of Service, taking place throughout the month of April. All Marines and Sailors are invited to participate in volunteer activities. Commands should ensure these opportunities are made available, especially to our single Marines and Sailors, but not to interfere with regular duties.

3. Volunteer Appreciation Week, observed April 19-25, provides a special opportunity to recognize these efforts. Throughout the week, installations across the Marine Corps will host volunteer recognition ceremonies, celebrations, and events to thank our volunteers for their contributions and to show the vital role they play in strengthening the Marine Corps community. Recognizing volunteers underscores the importance of volunteer efforts, encourages greater participation, and enhances the quality of life aboard Marine Corps installations. Commanders are encouraged to support installation events in recognizing these Marines and Sailors for their volunteer service. For event details, contact your local Installation Volunteer Coordinator or SMP Coordinator.

4. The spirit and character of our Nation and Corps are reflected in the service of our volunteers. Trish and I are deeply grateful for your dedication and lasting contributions.

5. Semper Fidelis, Eric M. Smith, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.//