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AmeriCorps NCCC Lends Helping Hands to the Indiana State Fair Foundation

Indianapolis – An AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) team is serving alongside the Indiana State Fair Foundation from July 13 through September 6 to allow fairgoers to “Step Right Up” to this year’s circus-themed fair. The team is assisting with fair preparation, educating families while the fair is active, assembling the big top circus tent and deconstructing the fairgrounds at the end of the fair to make way for other events to take place throughout the year.

The AmeriCorps NCCC team of eight members from the North Central Region campus of Vinton, Iowa are hard at work cleaning and setting up livestock barns, assembling livestock pens, repairing stalls, and preparing show arenas. The team is also setting up exhibit buildings by sweeping, mopping, cleaning display cases, and assembling risers and tables.

During the fair, the team is educating children and families at the “Little Hands on the Farm” exhibit. This exhibit helps children and families living in an area with nature deficit disorder, or people spending less time in nature, and food illiteracy to understand the process of farming. Children learn where their food comes from and also understand how to create healthier dietary choices.

Through their service, AmeriCorps NCCC members are hoping that children and families take what they learn about nature deficit disorder and food illiteracy and incorporate it into their everyday lives. Knowing how to grow fresh vegetables and fruits and to prepare healthy meals allows families to live healthier lives. By assisting with the fairground before, during and after the fair, those visiting the fair will be able to better enjoy their experience.

Ray Allison, Vice President of Administration, said “The AmeriCorps NCCC program is such a great program. The team’s contributions this summer are a tremendous benefit to us. We are happy to host this group of young people, and provide them the opportunity to experience the great Indiana State Fair.”

The 162nd annual Indiana State Fair is scheduled for August 3-19. In addition to the fair, the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center hosts more than 370 events throughout the year. The Indiana State Fair Foundation launched in 2011 with a mission of providing year-round agriculture education, youth development, and campus stewardship to benefit all citizens of Indiana. The

Foundation raises funds to support the fairgrounds in three areas: preservation and enhancement of the facilities, agriculture education, and recognition of youth participating at the Indiana State Fair.

ABOUT AMERICORPS NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and its FEMA Corps unit engages up to 2,800 young Americans in a full-time, 10-month commitment to service each year. AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, and urban and rural development. FEMA Corps members are solely dedicated to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery work. The programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is the federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Volunteer Generation Fund programs. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

ABOUT THE INDIANA STATE FAIR

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating Hoosiers' spirit and agricultural heritage. These 17 days celebrate Indiana agriculture and promote it to hundreds of thousands of people across Indiana, and beyond. Nationally recognized for offering great entertainment, showcasing youth, interactive agriculture education programs, premiere facilities and a variety of unique, fun foods, the Indiana State Fair has been an annual attraction for generations of Hoosiers since 1852. The 2018 Indiana State Fair will be held August 3-19. The 2018 theme pays homage to Indiana's rich circus heritage by offering a world-class Big Top Circus presented by Bee Window. The new family-friendly Big Top Circus is FREE with paid State Fair admission and features acrobats, clowns, trapeze artists and more! For more information, visit www.indianastatefair.com.

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