



NEWS RELEASE

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Obama Volunteerism Chief Headlines 15th Annual Serve Idaho Conference

Asim Mishra, chief of staff for Corporation for National and Community Service, will be the main speaker at the 15th annual Serve Idaho conference Feb. 24-25 in Boise.

Also scheduled to participate are Boise City Council member Ben Quintana and Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray, best friends who made the 500-mile El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage through the Spanish Pyrenees Mountains - Skeesuck in a wheelchair and Gray pushing him.

The conference at the Riverside Hotel, sponsored by State Farm Insurance in conjunction with Serve Idaho, will focus on volunteer management and professional development training for national service members, volunteer administrators in public and private sectors, service-learning educators and community volunteers. It will include sessions on corporate volunteerism with leaders from Hewlett-Packard, Regence BlueShield, Idaho Power and Wells Fargo; crowdsourcing community change; and toolkits for facilitating successful group volunteer projects.

"Whether you are serving Idaho through the public or private sector, giving a year of service through one of our National Service programs or volunteering independently, we commend you for your commitment to solving problems and meeting critical community needs," Serve Idaho Commission Chairman Mike Jensen said.

The conference agenda is online at <http://serveidaho.gov/Events/ServeIdahoConference.aspx>.

Idaho ranked second nationally in 2014 for volunteerism. Over 36percent of all Idahoans volunteered more 62.3 million hours of service worth \$1.4 billion, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service and the National Conference on Citizenship.

Serve Idaho, a division of the Idaho Department of Labor, encourages voluntary public service and volunteerism throughout the state. The Serve Idaho Commission is funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Idaho Department of Labor.

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