



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
1700 W. Washington St, Suite 230
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 1:30 PM

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV)
 convened on **October 2, 2024**, notice duly given.

Members Present (11)	
Helain Day	Felipe Garcia
Robert Ashcraft	Ariel Ackerman
Kimberly Rice	Victoria (Tori) Carlson-Foszcz
Jason Reynolds (proxy for Donna Martin)	Carla Nuñez (Ex-Officio)
Thomas Winkel	Tyler Butler
Michael Hammett	
Members Absent (02)	
Chris Gibbs	Alex Gabaldon
Staff and Guests (05)	
Emily Litchfield, Staff	Kainoa Spenser, Staff
Alana-Jasmene Little, Staff	Laura Terech, Presenter
Grace Kuruvilla, Staff	

Call to Order

- **Robert Ashcraft** called the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism meeting to order at **1:31 PM**. **Eleven** members and **five** staff/guests were present.

Welcome/Introductions

- With the quorum met, **Robert Ashcraft** welcomed attendees, asked commissioners and the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) staff to introduce themselves, and conducted an icebreaker. Each person shared a goal related to service and volunteerism for the final quarter.

Approval of Minutes

- **Robert Ashcraft** requested a review of the **August 7, 2024**, meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Thomas Winkel** moved to accept the meeting minutes with no amendments.
 - **Felipe Garcia** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **1:53 PM**.

Formation of New Workgroup Business Discussion

- **Robert Ashcraft** requested a motion to approve the Youth Service Workgroup, review the feasibility of each recommendation previously reviewed at the August 7, 2024 meeting, and rank them in priority.
 - **Helain Day** moved to approve the workgroup.
 - **Tyler Butler** seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Youth Service Workgroup was accepted with no dissenting votes at **1:55 PM**.
- **Robert Ashcraft** discussed the need for a volunteer to lead the workgroup and the most effective ways to fill this position. He also highlighted that participation is not restricted to commissioners and emphasized the importance of strategies to engage individuals passionate about service and volunteering.
- **Emily Litchfield**, the AmeriCorps Director for GOYFF, emphasized that the workgroup's primary focus will be reviewing the recommendations, identifying those most appropriate for the state, and discussing their implementation plan. This will include determining the commission's roles, the governor's office, and any existing local initiatives that address these needs.

- **Felipe Garcia** emphasized the need for improved connections within the youth service landscape. The commission has the potential to strengthen these connections by leveraging diverse experiences to support the implementation of the recommendations mentioned above.
 - **Robert Ashcraft** commented that forming a youth group can result in marginalization. Youth issues are often viewed as distinct rather than inclusive, emphasizing the importance of cross-generational cooperation to incorporate diverse viewpoints as the group takes shape within and beyond the commission.
- **Helain Day** questioned the workgroup's goal of creating a sustainable, ongoing initiative that adapts to changes in the ecosystem and evolves its strategies over time. She wondered if they would be responsible for developing and implementing these strategies while fostering ongoing conversations to address emerging needs and challenges in youth leadership and services.
 - **Emily Litchfield** responded that the workgroup will start with an exploratory phase. During this phase, they will review the consultant's recommendations and address the need for ongoing youth leadership activities. The workgroup may operate without a defined end date, allowing for flexibility and adaptations as conditions change. Although the group may dissolve if activity or participation decreases, the expectation is that there will always be a need to cultivate future leaders in service and volunteerism.
- **Helain Day** emphasized the importance of maintaining an equity lens within the workgroup, which involves ensuring diverse representation, addressing barriers faced by underrepresented groups, and regularly assessing progress toward equity goals to keep commitments at the forefront of the group's initiatives.
- **Robert Ashcraft** asked how to identify a chair and build the membership. He requested that everyone contribute to connections or recommendations for potential members and clarify how to nominate interested individuals to serve on the group.
- **Helain Day** asked about the workgroup's age minimum and what that looks like around maturity level.
 - **Emily Litchfield** highlighted the importance of involving high school students in discussions and decision-making. She stressed the need for internal staff discussions to support youth groups for continuity and emphasized the value of hearing youth voices to understand their perspectives and needs. **Emily Litchfield** added that these discussions could focus on the ages of 15 to 18, which aligns with the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) and extends into young adulthood.
 - **Felipe Garcia** recommended focusing on high school students in higher grades and emphasized the importance of having individuals open to collaboration. He also suggested that it would be beneficial to include at least one member of the GYC leadership, as they can bring valuable experience and a deeper understanding of the GOYFF.
 - **Kimberly Rice** suggested reconnecting with past Governor's Volunteer Service Award youth recipients. Some may be valuable mentors who can help guide and support current youth participants.
- **Jason Reynolds (proxy)** expressed his interest in learning how similar programs had previously been promoted or recruited so that he could apply these strategies to his organization and advance recruitment and involvement.
 - **Emily Litchfield** recommended beginning with recruitment by inviting organizations to an informational session. Organizations should target the organizations previously interviewed by the consultant and those recommended during discussions. She added that reaching out to previous youth service awardees could be beneficial in connecting them with an adult mentor who can support and advance initiatives to ensure the youth make the right connections to succeed.
- **Helain Day** discussed potential solutions to engage unaffiliated youth and utilize school systems where volunteerism is mandatory, potentially enhancing those environments.
 - **Kimberly Rice** suggested involving career and technical organizations, where students can apply the skills they learned in their classes. This engagement could help put the studied concepts into practice, provide real-world experience, and contribute to the initiative's goals.
- **Robert Ashcraft** acknowledged the consultant's comprehensive and well-documented work and thanked the members for the conversation.
- The motion to establish a Youth Service Workgroup passed without dissenting votes at **2:12 PM**.

Arizona America 250 Presentation

- **Robert Ashcraft** introduced **Laura Terech**, the [Arizona America250 Commission](#) Executive Director, housed within the [Arizona Secretary of State's Office](#), to discuss the role of the governor-appointed commission, its subcommittees, and projects for the state.

- **Laura Terech** announced the establishment of the [Arizona America250 Commission](#) in 2022. She emphasized the commission's core values of respect, collaboration, and stewardship, focusing on celebrating Arizona's history and culture leading up to 2026. The project includes several key initiatives, such as a public event in 2025, a traveling museum, and other statewide programs. The commission highlights volunteerism and local achievements, including plans to bestow the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) and organize community projects such as public art. **Ms. Terech** concluded by requesting collaboration, mailing list inclusion, and community involvement.
 - **Robert Ashcraft** mentioned the complications of reaching rural communities versus urban ones before inquiring about how **Laura Terech** connects statewide.
 - **Laura Terech** explained that she works independently but is dedicated to reaching all areas of the state, including smaller communities. She outlined the initiative of taking a traveling museum to various locations and placing statues across the state, stressing the significance of community participation and collaboration and encouraging ideas/projects that align with their objective of promoting Arizona's heritage as part of the [America250](#) celebrations.
 - **Helain Day** mentioned having limited staffing capacity before asking how best to refer potential partners for collaboration.
 - **Laura Terech** responded that, for now, referrals should be sent directly to her to ensure the information reaches the appropriate place. She also encouraged sharing her contact information and the presentation with anyone interested, as they are part of the public record.
 - **Felipe Garcia** asked how **Laura Terech's** commission could designate the President Volunteer Service Awards.
 - **Laura Terech** explained the process for becoming authorized to bestow an award.
- To view **Laura Terech's** presentation, [click here](#).

Updates

- **Kainoa Spenser**, the GOYFF Service and Volunteerism Specialist, discussed the 2024-2025 [Governor's Youth Commission \(GYC\)](#) updates. The Quarter 1 meeting occurred on August 26, 2024, with 57 high schoolers representing 13 Arizona counties. Applications for the remaining counties, Cochise and La Paz, will close on October 26, the next quarterly meeting date. Since the GYC emphasizes community-driven solutions and amplifies youth voices, the Quarter 2 meeting will focus on working with community partners to help youth groups refine their project proposals and build sustainable partnerships. The Domestic Violence Workgroup has also aligned its Donation Drive, which supports local shelters statewide, with the [Lighting Arizona Purple](#) campaign. **Kainoa Spenser** highlighted the diverse and dedicated youth involved in the commission, acknowledging the challenge of ensuring continuity across counties and the goal of maintaining diversity without overrepresentation.
 - **Robert Ashcraft** praised the increased representation on the GYC, acknowledging steady growth and expansion.
 - **Kainoa Spenser** discussed the upcoming Bi-National Youth event, organized in collaboration with the [University of Arizona's Model United Nations](#) and the GYC. He stated that the event will bring together 15-20 GYC members and 20 students from Sonora, Mexico, for a strategic planning meeting in the City of Tucson. The students will engage in discussions. The event is set for November 2 and involves students from various parts of Arizona, including northern counties, emphasizing cross-border collaboration.
- **Emily Litchfield** provided updates on AmeriCorps State and National activities. The [AmeriCorps State and National Symposium](#) occurred in Washington, DC, in early September. At the symposium, [Maggie's Place](#) was honored with the [2024 Outstanding Program of the Year award](#), and the [Chinle Chapter of the Navajo Nation](#) received the [Native and Indigenous Leadership and Service Award](#). **Ms. Litchfield** also shared her recent appointment with the board of Commission, the [America's Service Commission's](#) board. She highlighted the success of the [9/11 Day of Service](#) event in Arizona, during which AmeriCorps programs and volunteers packed 350,000 meals with the participation of Governor Katie Hobbs. Additionally, **Ms. Litchfield** recapped a visit to the City of Flagstaff to observe projects with the [American Climate Corps](#), [Northern Arizona University's Center for Service and Volunteerism](#), and [the Flagstaff Office of Sustainability](#). Finally, she mentioned the start of the AmeriCorps fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 program year.
- **Carla Nuñez** provided regional updates for AmeriCorps and encouraged commissioners to share with relevant organizations in their communities:
 - Organizations can now submit concept papers for [AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America \(VISTA\)](#) capacity-building projects. The submission deadlines are December 2024 and March 2025.

- A recently closed safety competition highlights the ongoing collaborations with local organizations to support senior programming.
- Introduced a presidentially appointed advisor focused on veterans and military families, indicating efforts for enhanced services for this demographic.
- **Emily Litchfield** updated about the upcoming [Governor's Volunteer Service Awards](#). Award nominations are open and will close on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. She requested the commission's support in promoting the opportunity to increase the number of applications. If the governor cannot attend, a keynote speaker who can attest to the value of service and its impact in Arizona will be considered.
 - **Robert Ashcraft** reminded members to utilize the Service Enterprise Initiative for potential outreach. To view the Service Enterprise Initiative material update, [click here](#).
- **Emily Litchfield** announced that the [Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement](#), scheduled for 2024, will be postponed due to staff capacity constraints. She mentioned that internal discussions are ongoing to determine if the traditional format of the summit adequately meets the community's needs or if there are better ways to address existing gaps. Plans are in place to issue a statewide evaluation to reassess the approach. This evaluation will involve conducting outreach and gathering data through a state service survey. The insights will inform future decisions more effectively and equitably, meeting the community's needs.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Robert Ashcraft** announced that this was the last official meeting for the year. The commission will reconvene to celebrate the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 3:00 PM**. He mentioned that the next official meeting will occur on **January 14, 2025**, primarily to approve the FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity application package.

Adjourn

- **Helain Day** motioned for adjournment of the meeting.
 - **Felipe Garcia** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed without dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **3:19 PM**.

Dated the 7th day of October 2024
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Alana-Jasmene Little
GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator