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### Volunteers put state among best in the country for service

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#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Volunteers put state among best in the country for service" (2008). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21045. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/21045>

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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July 31, 2008

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### **VOLUNTEERS PUT STATE AMONG BEST IN THE COUNTRY FOR SERVICE**

#### **MISSOULA—**

A recently released Corporation for National and Community Service report on the state of volunteering in the United States ranks Montana among the tops in the nation.

The report ranked Montana nationally at fifth in terms of volunteer rate, with 38 percent of the state's population reporting that they volunteer. Montana also came in sixth in the nation in terms of volunteer hours, with 47 hours served per resident.

Trends and highlights included in the report show that on average 284,000 volunteers in Montana dedicated more than 35 million hours of service per year between 2005 and 2007, and that the estimated economic contribution of the volunteer hours served is \$689 million annually.

In Montana, more people participate in national service each year through organizations such as the Montana Campus Compact, a network of 19 state colleges and universities committed to renewing the public purpose of higher education.

“One of the key findings of the Corporation for National Community Service's study is that college and university towns are hot spots for volunteering,” said Dean McGovern, MTCC executive director.

Based at The University of Montana, MTCC sponsors community service, service-

learning, volunteer and civic engagement projects and programs, which are offered to the network's college and university students, faculty and staff. MTCC volunteers serve in all corners of the state – from Poplar to Missoula and from Kalispell to Glendive.

McGovern credits much of the state's success in recruiting volunteers to the impact of higher education.

“Highly educated adults often spend more of their free time volunteering on community projects and events,” McGovern said. He says that is a good reason to encourage more people to attend and stay in college.

“It's good for our communities and good for our democracy,” he said.

More information about Montana Campus Compact is online at <http://www.mtcompact.org>. For more information about the Corporation for National and Community Service, go to <http://www.nationalservice.org>.

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