

July 16, 2012

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NO. 12-03
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: EDNA PRIMROSE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day 2012

1. Purpose. To inform the Job Corps community that Constitution Day is September 17, 2012, and to encourage students' knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution through instruction and activities.

2. Background. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, simply known as Constitution Day, is a combined event observed September 17th annually in the United States. This day commemorates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, and recognizes all who have become citizens of the United States. Constitution Day marks the beginning of Constitution Week, September 17-23.

Signed into law in 2004, Constitution Day mandates that publicly funded educational institutions provide education on U.S. Constitution history. The evolution of the observance began in 1940 when Congress created "I Am an American Day" to celebrate U.S. citizenship. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed it into law as "Citizenship Day." Years later, Congress requested that the President proclaim the week of September 17-23 "Constitution Week."

3. Reference. This November, the nation will participate in the presidential electoral process. Constitution Day is an apt occasion to review and learn more about the democratic process. Listed below are some classroom resources that will assist centers and teachers in leading activities.

- **Education World** – election-related plans: www.educationworld.com
- **Kids Voting USA** – election-related lesson plans: <http://kidsvotingusa.org/in-the-classroom>
- **Youth Leadership Initiative** – lesson plans about voting and mock elections (K-12): <http://www.youthleadership.net/learning-programs/mock-election/>. Free sign up required.

For resources that promote awareness and understanding of the U.S. Constitution, center staff and students may also access the following information:

- The **National Constitution Center (NCC)** provides a variety of games, podcasts, videos, print, and online resources to help students gain in-depth knowledge of the Constitution, and its relevance to everyday life. Centers can replicate activities and download handouts from NCC's webpage: www.ConstitutionCenter.org. Click on "Education" tab at left, then on "Educators/Classroom Resources."
- The **National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA)** "Charters of Freedom" website offers an interactive Constitution at http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/constitution.html. In addition, the NARA has research facilities and presidential libraries nationwide. Information about the facilities (by region and state) can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html>.
- **Websites** with alternative learning formats that Job Corps centers can use to educate students on the Constitution include:
 - a. The National Constitution Channel on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/ConstitutionCenter
 - b. Interactive Constitution: www.ConstitutionCenter.org
 - c. Constitutional Timeline: www.ConstitutionCenter.org/timeline
 - d. Constitution Fast Facts: www.ConstitutionCenter.org/ncc_edu_The_Constitution_Fast_Facts.aspx
 - e. Perspectives on the Constitution: www.ConstitutionCenter.org/ncc_edu_Perspectives_on_the_Constitution.aspx
 - f. Founding Fathers: www.ConstitutionCenter.org/ncc_edu_Founding_Fathers.aspx

4. Action. Job Corps centers are encouraged to provide an array of programming for their students.

Addressees are to ensure this Program Instruction is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Expiration Date. September 20, 2012.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Michele S. Stockham at 202-693-2804 or stockham.michele@dol.gov.