

GREAT STORIES

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4-H



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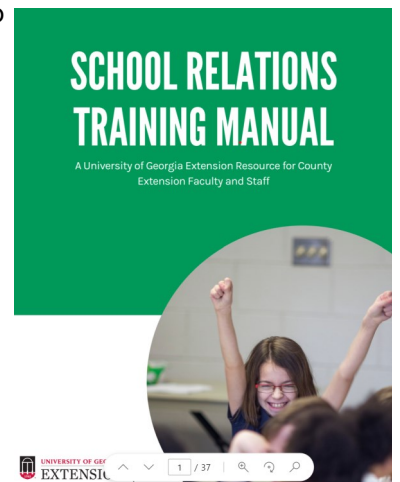
Conclusion of VISTA Grant and Service Term

McKenzie Tankersley

October 2023

During October, McKenzie Tankersley, an AmeriCorps VISTA service member serving with the Georgia 4-H State Office and UGA Extension, began this month preparing to end her service term while also preparing to help end the VISTA grant lifecycle.

During this month, McKenzie and her supervisors, Laura Goss and Keri Hobbs, have begun the process to close out the AmeriCorps VISTA, UGA Extension, and Georgia 4-H partnership along with McKenzie's service term. To support possible future programs, McKenzie has processed and uploaded all documents, tools, and resources created or used during her term into the Georgia 4-H State Office G-Drive. Additionally, McKenzie has worked to get ongoing projects wrapped up for someone to pick up where she left off or share for distribution, including resources like the In-School Volunteer Lesson Guide, Germ Bingo, and the Volunteer Appreciation Guide. McKenzie has put forth the most effort regarding the In-School Volunteer Lesson guide with layout edits and organization, writing, expansion, and compiling pictures and existing materials created by Columbia County to be handed off to the next team to use within the updated School Relations Guide in the coming years.



While McKenzie has been working to end her service and handoff ongoing projects, she has received an estimated impact of past projects like the Risk Management Training (RMT). This month, it is estimated that over 5,000 personnel have benefited from the VISTA support McKenzie provided on this tool. It is projected that this number will continue to rise beyond McKenzie's service term and the life of the grant. Additionally, it has been discussed that the volunteer scholarship opportunities McKenzie helped create submission surveys and marketing materials for earlier this year are scheduled to be reused next year to award two more volunteers.

Despite the professional and personal challenges McKenzie has faced during her service, it has proved fruitful towards her professional growth and aspiring career in the field of development work. She has learned to better manage her time in a professional and long-term environment while learning to more effectively communicate her goals and ask for help when necessary. From this role, she aspires to pursue a career in the federal sector within agencies like AmeriCorps, continuing her career in the development field.