



For Immediate Release

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CaliforniaVolunteers Co-hosts Regional Youth Preparedness Workshop

Workshop to be held in Los Angeles County on November 30

SACRAMENTO, California – Emergencies can happen at any time and often without warning. While emergency personnel do their best to quickly respond, it could take time for them to arrive on the scene. The preparedness of our nation's youth is imperative for surviving natural and man-made disasters. Leading educators and scholars in the field of preparedness education believe that children are the best envoys to bring this preparedness message home to their families.

In order to better prepare the youth in our communities and the organizations they participate in, CaliforniaVolunteers, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) and the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will serve as co-hosts of "*Integrating Youth Preparedness Into Your Organization*" – a one-day youth disaster preparedness workshop

"CaliforniaVolunteers, as the lead state entity responsible for organizing volunteers during a disaster, has seen first-hand the critical role that youth play as an asset to their families and communities by knowing how to make their communities safer," states Secretary Karen Baker. "We look forward to partnering with FEMA in providing this workshop so that our local communities can learn how they can integrate youth preparedness into their curriculum and organizations."

This workshop will be held at the following venue on **November 30, 2011**:

City of Cerritos Park East Community Center
California Room
13234 E. 166th Street
Cerritos, CA 90703
Time: 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

This youth disaster preparedness workshop is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is free of charge, and open to school program directors, private school administrators, after school program leaders as well as members from nonprofit and faith-based organizations representing FEMA Region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and Guam.

All workshop participants will receive a “How to Guide” for developing and implementing disaster preparedness programs in their area in addition to being provided a catalog of youth preparedness resources.

For additional information on the workshop and to obtain a registration form, contact Brenda Emrick at bemrick@ceooem.lacounty.gov or call (323) 980-2260. **Registration forms are due by Friday, November 18.**

For more information about youth disaster preparedness, please access FEMA’s website at: <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>.

About CaliforniaVolunteers

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering. Through its innovative website, individuals and families can find more than 50,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation’s first state cabinet Secretary of Service and Volunteering leads the organization. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

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