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**CHEROKEE NATION®**

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Office of the Principal Chief

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
2023-03-CTH**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GADUGI CORPS TASK FORCE ON  
VOLUNTEER AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

1. **AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation.
2. **POLICY:** It is in the interest of the Cherokee Nation to promote and support volunteerism and opportunities for national service. The Cherokee concept of “gadugi”- working together for the common good- is deeply ingrained in Cherokee culture and traditions. An increase in volunteerism and participation in national service programs has the potential to support local problem solving, grass roots community organization and stronger national identity among Cherokee citizens. Therefore, perpetuating the time-honored concept of “gadugi.” Achieving goals relating to volunteerism and national service requires an assessment of existing volunteer and paid service programs, the coordination of such efforts to maximize impact and efficiency and a determination of opportunities to apply more resources to bolster volunteerism and national service and reducing or eliminating bureaucratic barriers. Accordingly, the Principal Chief’s Gadugi Corps Task Force on Volunteer and National Service is hereby established to undertake an assessment of existing volunteer and national service opportunities and recommendations to improve such opportunities.
3. **Definitions:**
  - a. **National Service Participant:** A provider of services by an individual to their community in exchange for a stipend or other compensation for the benefit of a Cherokee Nation community and under the guidance or direction of the Cherokee Nation or its designee.

- b. **Volunteer:** An individual who provides a service or services to their community without compensation, for the benefit of a Cherokee Nation community, and under the guidance or direction of the Cherokee Nation or its designee.
- c. **“Gadugi Corps”:** A conceptual framework for the consolidation, creation, expansion and improvements of volunteerism and national service opportunities supported by Cherokee Nation.

4. **Principal Chief’s Gadugi Corps Task Force on Volunteerism and National Service:**

There is hereby established the Principal Chief’s Gadugi Corps Task Force on Volunteerism and National Service, operating pursuant to the composition, goals and other parameters set forth herein and alternatively known as the Gadugi Corps Task Force:

- a. **Composition:** The Gadugi Corps Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- i. Shawn Crittenden, Deputy Executive Director of Education (Chair)
- ii. Canaan Duncan, Deputy Secretary of State (Co-Chair)
- iii. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff
- iv. Dawni Squirrel, Special Advisor to the Administration
- v. Melissa Payne, Community Liaison
- vi. (Optional) Sixth member, chosen by above membership.
- vii. (Optional) Seventh member, chosen by above membership.

**b. Goals**

- i. Catalog and conduct a threshold assessment of existing Cherokee Nation volunteer and national service programs.
- ii. Highlight areas of aspects of successful volunteer or service programs and Identify barriers to effective volunteer and national service programs.
- iii. Identify opportunities for volunteer and national service within the “Gadugi Corps Framework” described in this order and such other opportunity areas that the Task Force may recommend.
- iv. Recommend a legislative and budgetary framework to implement the Task Force’s recommendations.

- c. **Methodology:** In conducting its work, the Task Force shall investigate the subject matters under review through such methods as the Task Force deems appropriate, provided that the Task Force conduct:
  - i. Citizen surveys
  - ii. Stakeholder surveys and/or interviews, with such stakeholders to include:
    - 1. Cherokee Nation departmental executive leadership.
    - 2. Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Participating Organization Leadership
    - 3. Members of the Council of the Cherokee Nation.
- d. **Duration:** The task force shall terminate no later than September 30, 2023, unless extended in writing by the Principal Chief.
- e. **Final report:** The Task Force shall issue a final report on or before September 30, 2023, to the Principal Chief with a copy provided to the Speaker of the Council of the Cherokee Nation and made available for public inspection on Cherokee Nation's website.
- f. **Transparency:** Although the Gadugi Corps Task Force is an executive branch advisory group and not a public body within the meaning of the Cherokee Nation Freedom of Information Act, its work shall be available for public inspection as set forth in paragraph 4.e, above,
- 5. **Gadugi Corps Conceptual Framework:** The Gadugi Corp conceptual framework shall guide and inform the work of the Gadugi Corp Task Force. Said framework is based on leveraging volunteer and national service to address particular community needs, including:
  - a. **Gadugi Education Corps:** Volunteer and national service participants providing short term supplemental education to Cherokee Nation communities with demonstrated education gaps.



- b. ***Gadugi Community Service Corps***: Volunteer and national service participants engaged in short term community based projects, usually in coordination with CCO participating organizations, to address local needs in areas such as serving elders, children or working on community building capital projects.
  - c. ***Gadugi Mentors Corps***: A network of volunteer or national service participants dedicated to providing educational and career mentorship for Cherokee Nation youth and young adults through safe and controlled interactions and experiences.
  - d. ***Gadugi Disaster Response Corps***: A network of volunteer or national service participants who received relevant basic training and agree to be available to be “called up for duty” in their community to assist in natural disaster or infrastructure failure response and recovery by a designated Cherokee Nation official.
  - e. ***Gadugi At-Large Service Corps***: Volunteer or national service participants specifically from membership of at-large CCO participating organizations participating in special short-term organization or community service projects with on-reservation “sister” CCO participating organizations.
6. **ORDER**: The Principal Chief’s Gadugi Corps Task Force on Volunteer and National Service Opportunities is hereby created to achieve the purposes and policies set forth in this order, including but not limited to the creation, expansion and improvement of volunteerism and national service opportunities within Cherokee Nation communities and among Cherokees irrespective of residency.
7. **EFFECTIVE DATE**: This Order is effective immediately on this 17 day of August 2023 and expires October 31, 2023, unless extended in writing by the Principal Chief.



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Chuck Hoskin, Jr.  
Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation