



## An All Volunteer - Nonprofit Organization

*Heroes aren't born. They volunteer!*

### FUN FACT

- Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in May in the United States since 1949

### QUICK LINKS:

- [GNR Public Health](#)
- [Healthcare Coalition - Region D](#)
- [MRC GEM](#)
- [Alerts and Warnings](#)
- [National MRC](#)

## 2024 FESTIVAL SEASON

*Come join the fun!*



My name is Liza O'Neal and I am the Chair for MRC GEMS Outreach. My job is to find willing and enthusiastic volunteers to represent MRC GEM at festivals that occur during the year. Typically, there are three festivals where we have a presence. The Gwinnett Police organize a Multicultural Festival, which is on May 18<sup>th</sup> this year, the Peachtree Corners Festival, usually in September and the Public Service Festival, at Cool Ray Field in October.

As a volunteer you will be telling people (enthusiastically!) about MRC GEM, giving out leaflets AND our wonderful whistles and how they can become a member. When you sign up to volunteer at a festival, I'll send you a copy of Sherwin's "talking points" which gives an outline of what to say, when asked questions about our organization. Two volunteers will work at each shift. Each shift will be three and a half hours to four hours long, which includes setting up the booth (starting at 9:30 am) or taking it down (at 2:30). The Peachtree Corners Festival takes place over two days, so more volunteers will be needed for that one. I don't have exact dates for it yet though. Overall, these festivals are a lot of fun, and you get to talk to interesting people!

If you are interested in being on the volunteer list, please email me at [yorkshirerose@reagan.com](mailto:yorkshirerose@reagan.com) and I will send out the shift times available for each festival.

Many thanks for your interest!



## In the know:

May 18 - Telemedicine Overview

June 22 - Annual Summit - Basic Disaster Life Support

July 20 - Psychological First Aid

August 17 - Pain Management with Opioid Deterrence

[VIEW FULL SCHEDULE](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

2024 [National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) will be taking place this from May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>. Spread the word about hurricane safety and preparedness.

Each day has a theme to help everyone prepare and stay safe during hurricane season:

- [May 5, 2024 - Know Your Risk: Wind & Water](#)
- [May 6, 2024 - Prepare Before Hurricane Season](#)
- [May 7, 2024 - Understand Forecast Information](#)
- [May 8, 2024 - Get Moving When a Storm Threatens](#)
- [May 9, 2024 - Stay Protected During Storms](#)
- [May 10, 2024 - Use Caution After Storms](#)
- [May 11, 2024 - Take Action Today](#)

<https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep>

Thank you all for helping us create a Weather-Ready Nation by spreading the word about this important preparedness information.

# Telehealth Training

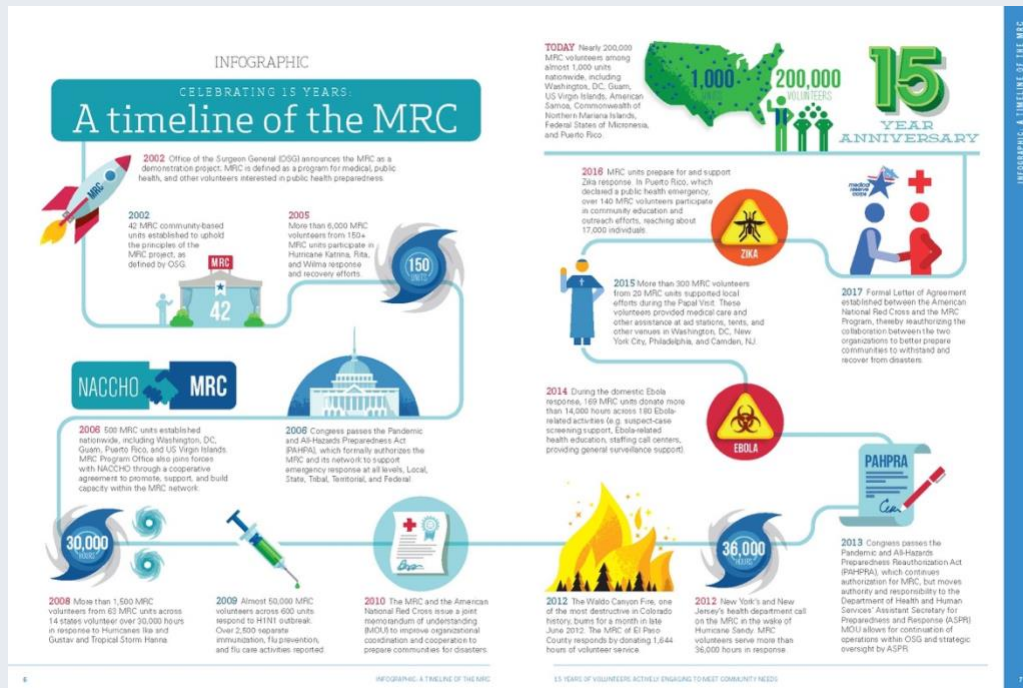
May 18, 2024



Our training this month will introduce telehealth concepts. We will provide an overview of how MRC GEM volunteers can leverage telemedicine before, during, and after a disaster, as well as provide attendees with hands-on experience, using Department of Public Health (DPH) issued telemedicine backpacks which include a laptop, web camera, and necessary peripherals such as stethoscopes and other equipment to connect patients back to providers, in real-time. [Please sign up](#) to let us know you plan to attend.



## A Timeline Of MRC



The idea for the MRC was initiated following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks when spontaneous volunteers, many of them health-care professionals, offered their services in support of response and recovery efforts. Unfortunately, many of these volunteers could not be utilized because emergency managers did not have the capability at the time to verify their backgrounds, training, or credentials. The anthrax incidents that occurred in October and November of that same year further confirmed that health and medical volunteers could be instrumental in assisting with large-scale disaster or public health emergency responses. In 2002, President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address called on all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. From that call to action, the MRC Demonstration Project was created. The project began with 42 community-based units of medical, public health, and other volunteers. In 2006, Congress passed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, which authorized the Medical Reserve Corps program. Since those early beginnings, the MRC network has evolved to approximately 175,000 volunteers in more than 800 units nationwide. Throughout its history, the mission has remained the same—to engage volunteers and communities across the country to improve local emergency response capabilities, reduce vulnerabilities and public health risks, and build community preparedness and resilience.

## Kids Around Water

Accidental drownings are tragic reminders of how quickly life can be taken away. Although 90 percent of parents say they supervise their children while they are swimming, these adults are sometimes distracted by other activities. Here are some helpful tips to keep your kids safe in or around pools:

- Stay alert even with a lifeguard on duty
- Install secure barriers around home pools
- Ensure children wear a fitted life jacket whenever they are around water
- Sign your kids up for swim lessons with Gwinnett Parks to practice safe swimming
- Designate a Water Watcher, a responsible adult who watches kids in the water without distractions

Please visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](http://GwinnettSafety411.com) to find more [water safety tips](#).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



BECAUSE ONE MATTERS, a foster care service nonprofit, is hosting a Career Day for teenagers to give them insights, inspiration, and guidance as they ponder their future career paths. Your expertise and experiences is invaluable, and we believe they could significantly impact the lives of our participants. The event promises to be enlightening and enjoyable, designed to connect passionate professionals with young minds curious about their future. The focus will be on discussing your career, the path you took to achieve your current role, educational requirements, and the pros and cons (or highs & lows) of your field, among other insights you wish to share. This is a fantastic opportunity for individuals to influence the next generation, helping them to understand the realities and rewards of different careers.

Tentative Schedule:  
Date: Saturday, July 6th  
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
For more information or to sign up contact, [Andrea@becausedonematters.org](mailto:Andrea@becausedonematters.org)

