

M. Merlene Mazyck

Merlene has served as Program Manager for the USDA Forest Service Volunteers & Service program since 2010. During the past year she also served as the acting Deputy Director for the National Forest System Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources staff group. In her permanent position, Merlene provides strategic leadership and policy guidance for a national program that engages more than 100,000 volunteers and service members on the 175 national forests and grasslands, and FS units in every deputy area, annually. She has been instrumental in rebranding Forest Service volunteerism efforts, promoting expanded service opportunities for youth and veterans through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Program, and establishing new programs such the Resource Assistants Program that are making significant contributions to the Forest Service mission. Prior to joining the Forest Service, Merlene served as the Director of AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), an AmeriCorps program operated by the Corporation for National & Community Service. In this role, Merlene provided leadership to a \$30 million plus federally funded and operated program that engaged young adults in full time team-based residential national service focused on disaster relief and response, environmentalism and housing construction and rehabilitation. As Director of AmeriCorps NCCC, Merlene managed strategic planning and daily operations including financial and human resources for 1,200 full time service members and over 100 full-time staff, consultants, and contractors; policy-making; budget formulation and execution; and outreach, recruitment, selection and placement, and alumni affairs. She has worked in the youth service field most of her professional career serving in various education, workforce development and leadership roles with youth corps and non-profits, and as a training and program monitoring consultant in the private sectors in addition to her government service. Merlene graduated from Temple University with a degree in criminal justice and earned her Masters in Public Administration from Kean University in New Jersey.