**NAME OF COMPONENT:** AIA Mississippi

**CONTACT:** Amber Lombardo

**COMPONENT SIZE:** Up-to 500 members

**PROGRAM TITLE:** District to DC

**CORE SERVICE:** Advocacy

**PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:**
AIA MS hosted a series of community visits to educate about the Federal Historic Tax Credit and other development incentives. While there, we engaged a local craftsman to teach a replicable skill to youth scout members. Participation in the workday was required to qualify for the opportunity to earn a trip to Washington, D.C.

**HOW DOES YOUR PROGRAM ADDRESS THE CORE MEMBER SERVICE?**
Advocacy is a key component of the work of AIA. By effectively delivering voting constituents to Washington, D.C., we were able to attract youth and adults who otherwise would not be aware of the work of AIA and its members.

**WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE (include size and demographic)**
Youth and adults from the communities we visited.

**WHAT IS THE BUDGET? (include all costs including sponsors, grants, and other outside funding)**
- $0 - Accommodations were donated by a hotelier with a historic property. He also attended the Hill visits.
- $0 - Each family was responsible for their own transportation to DC
- $250 - Dinner to provide policy briefing and answer questions on the evening before the legislative visits
- $0 - Materials and supplies donated by construction project owner/beneficiary
- $100 - Refreshments provided on the workday
- Executive director travel expense was covered within the standard operational budget

**HOW (list the steps or process to implement this program, be as specific as possible)**
1) Enroll a property owner to allow a local craftsman to provide a one-day hands-on education event for youth and their parents.
2) Secure appropriate insurance coverage for the activity.
3) Develop a project supplies list and ask sponsors/supporters to donate.
4) Promote the workday. We chose to limit to scouting youth and their parents because it simplified the promotional effort, allowed for additional insurance protection through BSA
and GSUSA and was already geared towards directing youth into leadership roles.

5) Host the workday and photograph. Clean up the giant mess that results.

6) Build a flyer to show the kids doing the project and use it to ask for Hill Visits with legislators. Schedule meetings.

7) Host a dinner to provide training for the youth and parents, distribute an itinerary and coach on what to wear, how to behave, what to expect, etc.

8) Attend the meetings. Direct the youth to ask the legislator to visit their projects when next at home in the district. Take lots of photos.

9) Send personalized thank you notes to the Congressional members and their staff, along with photos.

10) Send press releases to papers along with photos of the youth.

11) Send thank you notes to the vendors who contributed and the property owner, expressing that without their help, the program would likely not occur.