Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown tremendously in scope each year since, drawing the support and endorsement of all subsequent U.S. presidents, governors, mayors and other respected elected officials.

National Volunteer Week is about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, in unison, there is fortitude to meet challenges and accomplish goals.

National Volunteer Week is about taking action, encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.

"We use volunteers in many of our preparedness planning committees and in implementing our preparedness plan," states Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator for Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. "Volunteers are the backbone of our success in public health response.

"SWNPHD would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers in their communities or with us in preparedness planning across the eight county health district," she said.

"We appreciate your commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the people in your county. Amidst the busyness of each day, we encourage everyone to seek out ways to serve and volunteer in small ways whenever possible. We appreciate our local heroes."