



The Corps Network

Strengthening America through
service and conservation



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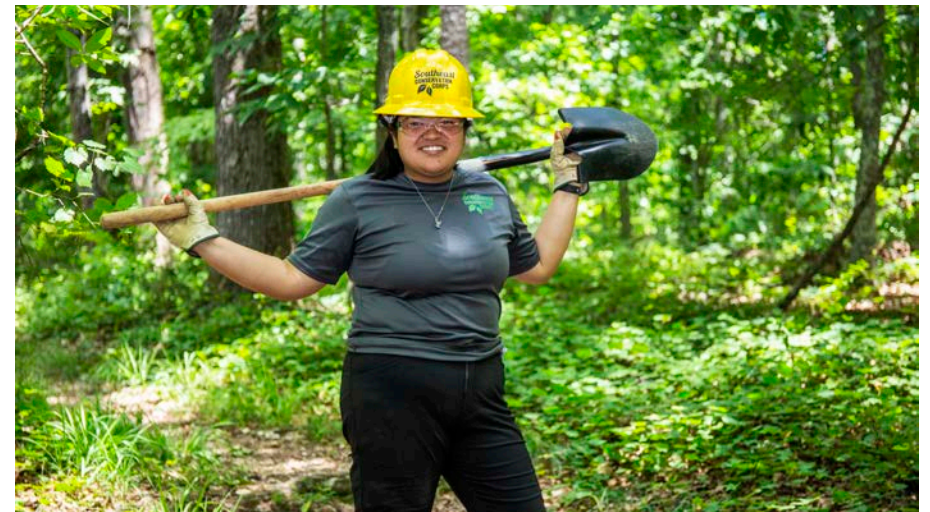
Strengthening America through service and conservation

National Association of State Park Directors, September 2021



What is a Corps?

- **Service and workforce development programs** *(some Corps also offer GED, high school diploma or college preparatory programs)*
- Operated by **nonprofits** or units of **state or local government**
- Engage in **public-private partnerships** on **service projects** focused on stewardship, community improvement, outdoor recreation access.
- Based on model of **Civilian Conservation Corps**



Each Corps is a little different, but they share common elements

- Paid service-learning/work experience
- Corpsmembers work under supervision of trained Crew Leaders and mentors
- Intensive orientation/training
- Individualized assessments and personal planning
- Workforce development
- Civic engagement
- Corpsmember transitional support/follow-up services



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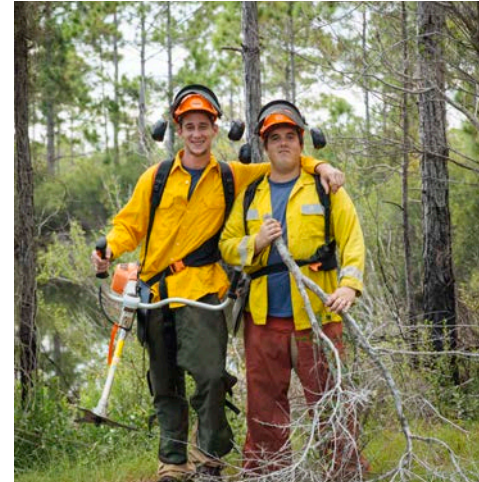
- National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
- Founded in 1985
- Based in Washington, DC
- Provide technical assistance, project and grant opportunities, best practices, advocacy
- **139** member organizations across the U.S.
 - Annually engage ~20,000+ diverse young adults (**typically ages 16 – 30**)
 - Corpsmembers represent range of backgrounds and life experiences



Types of Work with Parks

Examples include:

- Trail maintenance and construction
 - *Stairs, bridges, erosion control, accessibility*
- Invasive species treatment
- Habitat restoration
- Fire fuels treatment
- Hazardous tree removal / saw projects
- Campground maintenance
- Visitor education and interpretation
- Historic preservation
- Prescribed burns
- And more...



Outcomes Snapshot

From 2019 - 2020, young adults in Corps...

- Restored over **1.73 million** acres of habitat
- Planted **1.3 million+** trees
- **32,000+** acres of fuels treated
- Built/improved over **25,300** miles of trails
- Maintained/improved over **7,300** miles of waterways



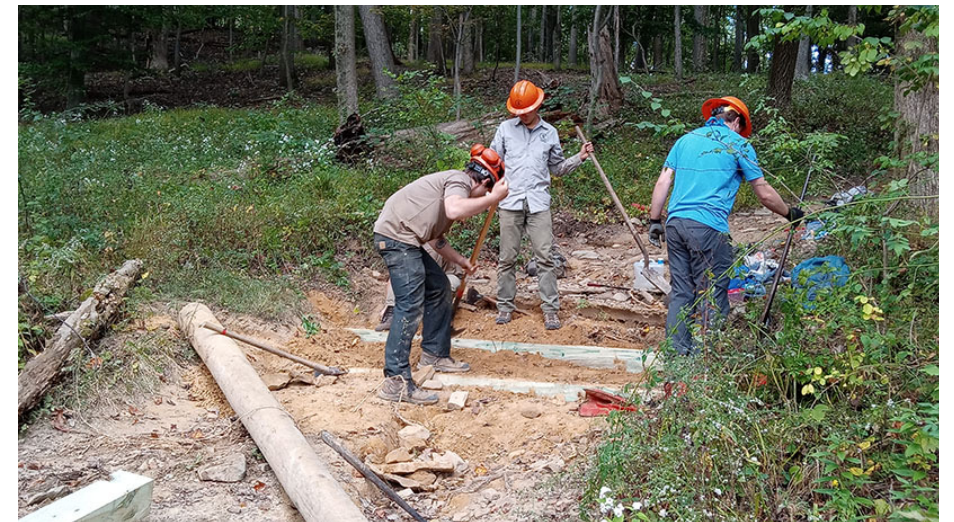
Next Generation of Park Leaders: Certifications / Training

- ~10,000+ certifications earned annually
- **Examples of certifications:**
 - Wilderness First Aid
 - Wilderness First Responder
 - OSHA 10-hour, OSHA 30-hour
 - Chainsaw/Sawyer Certification
 - ATV/OHV Operator
 - Pesticide/Herbicide Applicator
 - Government Driver's License
 - Boating License



Valued Project Partners

- Many Corps have worked with federal, state and local park agencies / resource managers for decades
 - Fee-for-service
 - Some programs based in state agencies
- Corps help extend staff capacity, address backlogged projects, get to projects sooner



Corps that received funding through park agencies, 2018 – 2020 (>\$80 million in work completed)

ACE
American YouthWorks
Anchorage Park Foundation
Appalachian Mountain Club
California Conservation Corps
Canyon Country Youth Corps
Civicorps
Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa
Conservation Corps North Bay
Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Conservation Legacy
Delaware State Parks Veterans Corps
EarthCorps
Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps
Great Basin Institute
Green City Force

Greencorps Chicago
Heart of Oregon Corps
Kansas Outdoor AmeriCorps Action Team
Kupu
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Maine Conservation Corps
Maryland Conservation Corps
Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps
Montana Conservation Corps
Mt. Adams Institute
Northwest Youth Corps
Onondaga Earth Corps
Operation Fresh Start
PowerCorpsPHL
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps – CO
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps – NM

San Jose Conservation Corps
SEEDS EcoCorps
Student Conservation Association
Urban Conservation Corps
Urban Corps of San Diego County
Utah Conservation Corps
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
Virginia Conservation Corps
Washington Conservation Corps
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Western Colorado Conservation
Corps
X-Cel Education
YouthWork Conservation Corps

Example:

Maryland Conservation Corps

- AmeriCorps program
- Members ages 17 – 25 (from across country)
- Managed by Maryland Park Service since 1984
- Crews of 5-7 members serve under supervision of MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff.
- Do range of projects – examples include:
 - Aquatic restoration
 - Education for school groups and interpretive programs in parks
 - Historic preservation
 - Nature center improvement
 - Trail maintenance
 - Tree planting
 - And more...



Example:

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa

- Founded in 1981 (originally based in Minnesota DNR)
- Became its own nonprofit in 2003
- >\$2.5 million annually in State Parks and Trails, and Natural Resource Management resource dollars
 - Youth and Young Adult field crew-based maintenance and improvement projects
 - The I Can! Program: Corpsmembers teach beginner paddling and camping classes to hundreds of park visitors annually
 - Year-long Individual Placement (intern) program with 20-25 positions. Provide more specialized projects (e.g. program planning, communications, community outreach, and field work)



Civilian Climate Corps

- Calls to invest in engaging more Americans in critical conservation and climate resiliency projects
 - Executive order from White House in February
 - Nearly a dozen bills introduced in Congress
- Possibility of funding through budget reconciliation
- What we hope to see:
 - More funding for projects
 - More service opportunities
 - *Emphasis on recruiting underserved, underrepresented populations*
 - Support for career pathways, additional training
 - Increased stipend/wage



How to get involved

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