Building Capacity and Youth Leadership:
Working with Young People to Implement Safe Routes to School Projects

2019 Safe Routes to School National Conference
November 12, 2019
What is The Corps Network?

• National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
• Founded in 1985
• Based in Washington, DC

What we do
• Advocate on behalf of Corps
• Provide Corps access to funding, project opportunities
• Offer expertise in Corps operations, best practices
• Offer range of association benefits for members
Based on model of Civilian Conservation Corps of the New Deal Era (1930s – 1940s)

Comprehensive service and workforce development programs (some Corps also offer GED / high school diploma program)

Operated by nonprofits or units of state and local government

Participants – “Corpsmembers” – include young adults age 16 – 30, veterans up to age 35

Service projects address environmental, community and disaster response needs

Photo: LA Conservation Corps / California
### The Corps Model

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corpsmember transitional support and follow-up services</th>
<th>Engage Corpsmembers in crews or Individual Placements</th>
<th>Corpsmembers work under supervision of trained Crew Leaders and mentors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Corpsmember and Crew Leader orientations and trainings</td>
<td>Paid service-learning and work experience</td>
<td>Individualized Corpsmember assessments and personal planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce and leadership development</td>
<td>Civic engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Photo: Civic Works / Maryland*
The Corps Model

Contracting with Youth Conservation Corps

- Matching funds
  - Capability to leverage additional revenue sources
- Budget customizations per project/partner,
  - scope of work analyses, annual audit review and report completions; and cost efficient programming
- In-house recruitment, project site visit teams, orientation and training for Corpsmembers
- Executive, program, and administrative oversight & support
- Tools, equipment, materials & supplies, uniforms, etc.
- General Liability, Workers Compensation Insurance
- Skilled, professional Supervisors
What Do Corpsmembers Gain?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Training</th>
<th>Hands-on Work Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipend / Living Allowance</td>
<td>GED, High School Diploma / College Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmeriCorps Education Award</td>
<td>A Stronger Connection to their Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo: Palmetto Conservation Corps / South Carolina
What Can Corps Do?

Just a few examples...

Enhance neighborhoods & community public spaces
- Build & maintain parks, playgrounds
- Landscaping, tree care
- Reclaim abandoned lots, brownfield remediation
- Build & maintain trails
- Build & maintain urban farms, gardens
- Trash and recyclable collection
- Graffiti abatement
- Provide educational programming on conservation-related topics for youth, community members
- Constructing, improving park shelters, benches, signage

Protect/restore habitats
- Invasive species removal/reintroduction of native species
- Water quality and species monitoring
- Fencing installation
- Construction of nesting boxes,
- Wetland & coastal restoration

Disaster preparedness/response
- Erosion and flood control measures
- Installing/maintaining storm water management infrastructure
- Volunteer management
- Wildfire mitigation and response
- Debris removal, mucking/gutting

Help conserve resources
- Weatherizing/retrofitting homes and public structures
- Conducting energy audits
- Installing insulation, sealing air flow, replacing windows
- Installing solar panels

Preserve historic structures
- Foundation stabilization
- Masonry
- Carpentry
- Tuckpointing
What Can Corps Do?

### SRTS-Type Projects Performed by Corps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction of New Pedestrian Pathways and Trails</th>
<th>Trailside Facilities and Sidewalk Corridors</th>
<th>Maintenance and Restoration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalk Construction</td>
<td>Parking Lot Improvements</td>
<td>Sidewalk Improvements / Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA-compliant Ramps and Walkways</td>
<td>Construction of New Sidewalk Facilities</td>
<td>Trail and Walkway Corridor widening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Bridges and Boardwalks</td>
<td>Trail and Pathway Vegetation Management</td>
<td>Management of Retrofitting walkways/trails with asphalt, concrete, and rock composites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike paths and Pedestrian Trails</td>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>Drainage System Design and Repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safety and Signage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage Installation</td>
<td>Construction of Curb, Gutter, and Curb Ramps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar powered lighting and panels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of Trail and Corridor Conditions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Impact - Nationally

Corpsmember Demographics in 2018

Corpsmember Race and Ethnicity

- **White**: 54%
- **Other**: 5%
- **Black, African-American**: 17%
- **American Indian, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander**: 21%
- **Asian**: 3%

*15% identified as Hispanic or Latino

Corpsmembers

- **24,093** Total number of Corpsmembers
- **56%** Identify male
- **43%** Identify female

Photo: Greater Miami Service Corps / Florida
Our Impact - Nationally

Community Outcomes in 2018

Corps in Numbers - FY18

- 31,574,000 pounds of waste collected/recycled
- 1,868,796 square feet of graffiti removed
- 1,400,478 acres of habitat restored
- 1,044,819 trees planted
- 67,984 acres of invasive species treated
- 36,029 low-income homes audited and/or weatherized
- 13,967 miles of trails constructed/improved
- 656 disasters responded to

Photo: Community Training Works / Florida
Florida Serving Corps
Corpsmember Demographics in 2016 - 2018

- **Gender**
  - Female: 32%
  - Male: 68%

- **Military Veterans**: 7

- **Ethnicity**
  - Afr.-Amer.: 70%
  - Amer. Indian / AN: 0%
  - Asian: 17%
  - Hawaiian/PI: 7%
  - Hispanic: 1%
  - White: 5%
  - Other: 0%

- **Age**
  - 16 and under: 0%
  - 16-17: 0%
  - 18-25: 1%
  - 25+: 7%

**Florida Serving Corps**
## Corpsmember Certifications: 2016 - 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Aid / CPR</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forklift Certification</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Construction Education and Research [NCCR]</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw/Sawyer Certification</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness First Aid / Responder</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticide Applicator</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Social and Environmental Impact: 2016 - 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings or Housing Unit</td>
<td>Number of housing units assessed, rehabilitated, or renovated</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible Walkways/Ramps</td>
<td>Number of accessible walkways/ramps created</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Public Spaces</td>
<td>Number of community parks, gardens, playgrounds, etc.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Habitat Restoration</td>
<td></td>
<td>16,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons of Litter and Trash</td>
<td>Tones of litter and trash removed or recycled</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Public Facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of Trails and Waterways</td>
<td>Miles of trails created, improved, or restored</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Responses</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes Assisted</td>
<td>Number of homes assisted following a natural disaster</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corps Projects

Miami-Dade County Sidewalk Improvement Project / Greater Miami Service Corps
Corps Projects

Miami-Dade County Sidewalk Improvement Project / Greater Miami Service Corps
Corps Projects

Wiseburn Walking Path Project / LA Conservation Corps
Corps Projects

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# Conferences and Webinars

**WEBINAR**  
The Future of Transportation and Recreation Trail Projects Utilizing Youth and Conservation Corps  
**Thursday, December 5, 2019**  
1:00pm – 2:30pm ET / 10:00am – 11:30am PT  

**CONFERENCE**  
The Corps Network 35th Annual National Conference  
**February 9-12, 2020**  
Washington, DC  
[https://corpsnetwork.org/conference/](https://corpsnetwork.org/conference/)
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www.corpsnetwork.org

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