About The Corps Network

Established in 1985, The Corps Network is the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. Our 133 Corps provide young adults and veterans the opportunity to serve our country through projects on public lands and in communities. The Corps Network supports Corps by advocating on their behalf, providing access to funding and project opportunities, and by offering expertise in Corps operations and programming.

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President & CEO, The Corps Network

Dear Readers,

The year 2020 marked the 35th anniversary of The Corps Network. We envisioned a year-long celebration of the strength of the Corps community. None of us could’ve imagined the challenges 2020 would bring; however, these unprecedented times offered unexpected opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the power and versatility of modern Corps.

As the country shut down in response to COVID-19, our team began working remotely. Corps adapted, too, developing protocols to safely continue engaging young people in service and education. With planned projects canceled, Corps pivoted to assist communities with essential activities, like staffing food banks and setting up auxiliary medical facilities.

Like never before, we saw Corps uniting to support each other. The Corps Network proudly helped facilitate this: we started a virtual town hall series; launched an online messaging platform; and – with generous support from the JPB Foundation – provided grants to help Corps during an uncertain time. I can report that not a single program in our membership had to close.

The year 2020 certainly will be remembered for the pandemic, but also for a reckoning on racial injustice. Corps and the larger conservation community still have work to do in this area, but I am hopeful. We are pleased that The Corps Network received a renewed three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support our Moving Forward Initiative: an effort to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Corps community. I am inspired by how Corps responded to the national conversation on race, creating learning opportunities and providing space for Corpsmembers and employees of color to share their truths. We are working to ensure that equity is at the center of Corps programming.

During this time of seemingly constant major news stories, Corps have also been in the headlines. A report by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication found that 85 percent of Americans support reviving the Civilian Conservation Corps. And we are thrilled that, within his first week in office, President Biden signed an executive order calling to create a Civilian Climate Corps. These have been trying times, but also exciting times for our movement. We are proud to be at the center of conversations about how Corps can continue to “Strengthen America Through Service and Conservation.”

Mary Ellen Sprenkel
President and CEO, The Corps Network

Our Mission
The Corps Network advances programs that transform young people’s lives and communities through career development, conservation, and civic engagement.

Our Vision
A high-quality Corps serving every community in America.

www.corpsnetwork.org
@TheCorpsNetwork
## Corps in Numbers

A snapshot of the Corps Community in FY20

### Membership

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<td>Full Members</td>
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<td>Emerging Corps</td>
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<td>Affiliate Members</td>
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<td>AmeriCorps Basic Members</td>
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### Enrollment

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<td>Identify male</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify female</td>
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<td>Identify non-binary or gender expansive</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chose not to identify or did not report</td>
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### Corpsmember Race & Ethnicity

| White | 62% |
| Black, African-American | 16% |
| Other | 14% |
| American Indian, Alaska Native | 4% |
| Asian | 4% |
| Pacific Islander | <1% |
| Identify as Latino or Hispanic | 23% |

- 9,773 Industry-recognized certifications earned by Corpsmembers
- 1,201 Corpsmembers enrolled in a Corps-related GED or high school program (across 21 Corps offering such programs)
- 4,372 Corpsmembers covered through The Corps Network Health Insurance Plan
Conservation, Recreation and Environmental Outcomes

- **333,185** Acres of habitat restored
- **319,047** Trees planted
- **141,236** Acres of invasive species treated
- **12,891** Acres of hazardous fire fuels treated
- **12,051** Miles of multi-use trails constructed/improved
- **4,956** Miles of waterway restored
- **803,223** Tons of waste collected and recycled/properly disposed
- **29,642** Households informed about resource efficiency practices

Community Outcomes

- **1,974,870** Square feet of graffiti removed
- **246,777** Volunteer service hours generated through Corps service opportunities
- **>300** Disasters responded to, including fires, floods, and storms
- **84,514** Community members who benefited from educational programs provided by Corps
- **294** Historic structures restored
- **1,266** Community spaces improved or constructed
Programs & Projects

Learn about work made possible through partnerships and grants

CALIFORNIA

Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) crews worked alongside the City of Long Beach’s Emergency Management Team to install temporary medical facilities, support food distribution efforts, and assist in essential activities such as litter abatement and recycling collection.

Photo by Conservation Corps of Long Beach
COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund
Supported by the JPB Foundation

The Corps Network received a three-year grant from the JPB Foundation in FY18 to help expand our training and technical assistance offerings. In 2020, The Corps Network received additional support from the JPB Foundation to create the COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund. Through this program, The Corps Network awarded $250,000 to 30 Service and Conservation Corps across 13 states. These grants, ranging from $5,000 to $10,000, helped Corps offset costs associated with ensuring the continued engagement and safety of Corpsmembers during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this support, Corps covered unanticipated expenses – such as masks, cleaning supplies, and additional vehicle rentals – and reengaged both in traditional Corps activities and COVID-19 relief efforts.

Examples of how Corps used COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund Grants

NEW YORK
Green City Force distributed 20,000 pounds of produce from their farm sites located on New York City Housing Authority properties. They also sourced and distributed 4,500 pounds of food from a produce market, and an additional 175 bags of food through an end-of-year distribution event.

NEW MEXICO
YouthWorks Santa Fe Corpsmembers addressed food insecurity by preparing and distributing 9,000 meals per week, totaling 108,000 meals over the period of their COVID-19 Corps Relief Fund grant. They also launched two farms to generate local produce, performed trail restoration projects, tackled river restoration projects, and more.
Since 2000, The Corps Network has operated an AmeriCorps Education Award Program (EAP). Through partnerships with federal, state and local resource management agencies, EAP Corps engage AmeriCorps members in environmental, public lands improvement, and disaster response service projects. In FY20, EAP engaged 1,601 AmeriCorps members serving in 21 Corps across 42 states and the District of Columbia. These AmeriCorps members had the potential to collectively earn over $4.3 million in AmeriCorps Education Awards.

**Project Outcomes Snapshot**

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<td>Acres mapped/surveyed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees planted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of public land improved</td>
<td>43,518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of invasive species cleared</td>
<td>25,148</td>
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<td>Miles of trails and waterways improved</td>
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<td>Disasters responded to</td>
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**Training/Certification Snapshot**

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<td>Emergency response training</td>
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<td>Leave No Trace certified</td>
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<td>Herbicide application certified</td>
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<td>Chainsaw/sawyer training</td>
<td>213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilderness first aid certified</td>
<td>134</td>
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</table>

**TOP LEFT:** Great Basin Institute EAP members serving as archaeological field technicians at Eldorado National Forest in California helped record cultures that have lived on the land, surveying to find cultural artifacts and features.

**TOP RIGHT:** American Conservation Experience (ACE) EAP members in Hawai‘i helped protect native habitats and control invasive species.

**RIGHT:** Onondaga Earth Corps EAP members serving in Syracuse, New York, planted native trees, removed invasive plants, built erosion control features, reclaimed overgrown lots, and conducted other work to build resiliency and enhance outdoor access.
Opportunity Youth Service Initiative (OYSI)
Supported by AmeriCorps

Launched in 2013, The Corps Network’s Opportunity Youth Service Initiative is an AmeriCorps program designed to provide education and conservation service opportunities to young people facing barriers such as unemployment, economic disadvantages, past court involvement, or a physical or learning disability. During their term, OYSI members develop job skills, earn certifications, complete high school requirements, and receive assistance transitioning to further education or the workforce. During the 2019-2020 program year, OYSI engaged 791 AmeriCorps members across 16 Corps and 34 states and the District of Columbia. Many OYSI Corps shifted their project activities in 2020 to respond to COVID-19.

**Project Outcomes Snapshot**

| 32,000  | Food rations distributed to residents of Franklin County, Fl |
| 5,880   | Acres of public land improved |
| 4,130   | Recipients of disaster relief support |
| 340     | Volunteers recruited/managed |
| 56      | COVID-19 food distribution events |

**Training/Certification Snapshot**

| 252 | Tool safety training |
| 194 | Chainsaw/sawyer training |
| 186 | CPR certified |
| 171 | Leave No Trace certified |
| 170 | OSHA 10-hour |

**TOP LEFT:** OYSI members in **Wisconsin** with **Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps** work with Milwaukee Riverkeeper to wade into the water and remove log and debris jams that cause flooding and prevent recreation and fish passage.

**TOP RIGHT:** For the 2020 MLK Day of Service, OYSI members with the **Sustainability Institute** in **South Carolina** led volunteers in a community beautification project in downtown Charleston.

**RIGHT:** For AmeriCorps Week, new OYSI members with **Greening Youth Foundation** in **Georgia** built a 10-foot, ADA-accessible bridge on a nature trail. Corpsmembers trained in construction and helped draft the blueprint. They learned what it takes to build a bridge from start to finish.
Transportation & Infrastructure Program (TIP)
Supported by AmeriCorps

Launched in 2018, The Corps Network’s Transportation and Infrastructure Program (TIP) is an AmeriCorps program. Corps involved in TIP engage youth and young adults in public lands and transportation infrastructure projects. TIP members’ efforts focus on increasing access to public lands and waters and promoting transportation alternatives, enhancements and safety. During the 2019–2020 program year, TIP engaged 158 AmeriCorps members across six Corps and 15 states.

### Project Outcomes Snapshot

- **3,753** Acres cleared of invasive species
- **2,066** Acres of public land improved
- **729** Miles of trails and waterways improved
- **196** Number of structures built or improved

### Training/Certification Snapshot

- **112** Tool safety training
- **91** Leave No Trace certified
- **72** Chainsaw/sawyer training
- **46** Wilderness first aid certified

**TOP LEFT:** Members of a Flagstaff-based Saw Crew with Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) – In partnership with the City of Flagstaff Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service, TIP members with AZCC served on a hazardous fuels reduction project in Coconino National Forest in Arizona. Corpsmembers removed trees and constructed burn piles.

**TOP RIGHT:** Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) AmeriCorps members on a fencing project – TIP members with NYC went to Idaho for two weeks to partner with City of Rocks National Reserve to remove sage brush and over half a mile of existing fence to create space for new fencing.

**RIGHT:** TIP members with Utah Conservation Corps served at Ashley National Forest, rerouting an eroded section of trail in order to maintain access to the High Uinta Wilderness.
Moving Forward Initiative (MFI)
Working towards a more equitable future

Launched in 2017 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), The Corps Network’s Moving Forward Initiative (MFI) seeks to confront racism and advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Corps movement. Failure to address systems and knowledge deficits that limit opportunities for Corps alumni would be antithetical to The Corps Network’s mission of helping Corps empower America’s young people. In 2020, The Corps Network was honored to receive a new three-year grant from WKKF to continue the critical work of MFI. Recent activities include:

“Silence is Not an Option” Seminar Series
In response to unrest following the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, The Corps Network launched a virtual seminar series facilitated by our staff. Using readings and other materials as a guide, these sessions provided space for our staff and Corps staff from across the country to have honest discussions about race in America. Participants learned from each other and discussed ways we can, as individuals and organizations, work towards racial justice.

Town Hall Sessions
With the help of guest presenters, The Corps Network hosted several Town Halls on topics related to centering equity during these challenging times. Among other topics, sessions explored the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, and equity, diversity and inclusion capacity-building at Corps. A session in early June honored Black lives that have been lost due to police brutality, and offered a space to hear the voices of those fighting for change.

Corpsmember Liberation and Leadership
The Corps Network developed a train-the-trainer model to expand “Corpsmember Liberation and Leadership”: a workshop for young people of color that explores the impact of systemic racism and oppression on the individual. Participants examine how they have absorbed negative messages, which can manifest as counterproductive thoughts and habits, and learn tools to identify these patterns and replace them with new life-giving patterns. Through this train-the-trainer model, 10 Corps will have at least one person on staff to facilitate the workshop.

Sending the Right Signal
The Corps Network worked with consultant Mahdi Davenport and his organization, Soul Focused Group, to offer Corps a workshop – “Sending the Right Signal” – that looks beyond implicit bias and aims to provide a deeper understanding of race and racism. This workshop serves as a precursor to Corpsmember and Liberation and Leadership, helping Corps staff and Corpsmembers develop common language and historical knowledge before diving deeper to address the effects of racism.

MFI was integrated into The Corps Network 2020 National Conference. Among other offerings, this included a session led by Marcelo Bonta (at left) on supporting equity work in environmental organizations, a keynote speech by Dr. Gail C. Christopher on the intersection of nature and racial healing, and sessions on the effects of incarceration cycles on young people. There was also a screening of Come Hell or High Water, a documentary film exploring environmental injustice in Mississippi.
The Gulf Coast has been affected by natural and man-made disasters, one of the most notable being the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The damage to coastal ecosystems has affected job prospects in communities that depend on fishing and tourism. The Corps Network’s office in Gulfport, MS, strives to expand Corps capacity across the region to address environmental damage, build resiliency, and prepare young people for the restoration economy.

Gulf Operations
Helping build the future of the Gulf Coast

**GulfCorps**
GulfCorps is funded by a RESTORE Act grant administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and The Nature Conservancy. Through this initiative, The Nature Conservancy works with The Corps Network and our member organizations to engage local young people in projects to protect and restore coastal areas in the five states bordering the Gulf of Mexico (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX). FY20 saw the completion of year-3 of GulfCorps.

**Snapshot: GulfCorps Year-3 Outcomes**

- 1,737 Acres of beach/marsh conservation
- 1,251 Acres of invasive species treated
- 62 Acres of marsh/wetland planted
- 92% Job placement for Year-3 alumni

**Professional Development**
The Corps Network’s primary role in GulfCorps is to support Corpsmembers’ professional growth. In response to COVID-19, The Corps Network’s Gulf Operations adapted this programming to be virtual. Services included:

- A twice weekly virtual professional development hour by video conference.
- A catalog of free certifications and trainings for professional development and conservation work.
- Virtual mock interviews for Corpsmembers.
- Train-the-Trainer courses for Corps staff.
- A professional development virtual career center

**Technical Assistance – MDEQ Projects**
The Corps Network is providing technical assistance to engage young people from CLIMB CDC Conservation Corps (MS) in two restoration projects funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and administered by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Corpsmembers assist with creek restoration efforts in the Turkey Creek Community Historic District, an area settled by African Americans after the Civil War.

**Turkey Creek 2020 Outcomes**

- 12,000 Pounds of debris removed
- 9,500 Native trees planted
- 30 Acres of invasive species treated
- 18 Acres of wetland restored

Since April 2020, Corpsmembers have engaged in restoration of the Biloxi Flats, an area of over 30,000 acres of coastal savanna located within DeSoto National Forest.

**Biloxi Flats 2020 Outcomes**

- 100 Threatened & Endangered Species surveys completed
- 70 Acres of invasive species surveyed/inventoried
- 35 Acres of invasive species treated
Federal Agency Partnerships
Training the next generation of public lands stewards

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), The Corps Network provides guidance and resources to state transportation agencies and Corps to help strengthen existing relationships and make new connections.

In 2020, The Corps Network released a toolkit, *Trail and Transportation Projects for Service and Conservation Corps*, with information for navigating negotiations on projects funded through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). In cases where trail projects were canceled or postponed due to COVID-19, many Corps leveraged state RTP education grants to remain engaged with their partners. These grants were invaluable in providing Corpsmembers with trail-related trainings and certifications.

Additionally, The Corps Network hosted more than ten virtual presentations to disseminate information on topics such as developing strategic partnerships with Corps, engaging Corps in project planning, and developing career pathways for Corpsmembers. Learn more about Corps’ work in trails and transportation at [www.corpsnetwork.org/trails](http://www.corpsnetwork.org/trails).

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Resource Assistants Program  The Resource Assistants Program (RAP) is a rigorous, immersive, paid internship with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Corps Network is one of a few national organizations granted a cooperative agreement to work with the Forest Service to facilitate RAP. The Corps Network collaborates with Accredited Corps to recruit candidates and manage expenses, program engagement, and post-program transition. This model allows the Forest Service to reach a diverse pool of applicants across the country.

In FY20, The Corps Network began recruiting with a new Corps – Environment for the Americas – and engaged 14 RAs across the country, including in CA, CO, DC, IL, LA, MS, OH, UT, VT, WA and WV. All participants successfully completed their terms, earning Direct Hire Authority. Among other activities, RAs submitted articles for publication, wrote blogs, engaged in GIS work, and contributed social media content for official Forest Service sites.
Federal Agency Partnerships, Continued

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The Corps Network has a national cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): this provides a mechanism for our member Corps to partner with USFWS on critical projects and initiatives. In FY20, over $572,900 in federal funds were awarded to The Corps Network to support USFWS projects completed by two Corps.

Community Training Works  Corpsmembers assisted with a range of activities at Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge, including road repair and maintenance, hurricane levee repair, rock work, fire mitigation projects, invasive species removal, trail improvement, and sensitive habitat restoration.

Greening Youth Foundation  Greening Youth Foundation partnered with USFWS to engage 23 young adults in the USFWS Directorate Fellows Program: an intensive 11-week fellowship program for students pursuing a career in biological science or natural resources management. In 2020, fellows worked remotely to support 13 refuges and USFWS headquarters. They participated in various activities, including surveying, research, database management, GIS mapping, invasive species monitoring, and fisheries management.
National Park Service (NPS)

The Corps Network has a national cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS): this provides a mechanism for our member Corps to partner with NPS on critical projects and initiatives. In FY20, over $142,900 in federal funds were awarded to The Corps Network to support projects conducted on national parks by two Corps.

**Appalachian Mountain Club** Corpsmembers addressed storm damage and made improvements on the Mount Joy and Mount Misery trails at Valley Forge National Historical Park. Outcomes included designing and installing a pedestrian bridge, installing more than 35 water bars and check steps to control erosion, and removing a number of trees.

**Mile High Youth Corps** Corpsmembers made improvements on the Shooting Star Trail at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Outcomes included maintaining 4 miles of trail, building 28 feet of rock wall, constructing over 15 steps, and installing erosion-control features.

Youth Program Assistants

Since 2014, The Corps Network and NPS have had a partnership to support a Youth Program Assistant position for the park service’s Northeast Region (Region 1). Thanks to the success of this partnership, 2020 marked the start of a new collaborative Youth Program Assistant position in the Intermountain Region (Regions 6, 7, 8). The purpose of these relationships is to facilitate partnerships between Corps and parks in the given regions. By working with Corps, NPS can extend their staff capacity, address backlogged projects sooner, and can often save on project expenses.

**FY20 Region 1 Highlights** The COVID-19 pandemic affected planned conservation work. Despite challenges, however, 277 young people from Corps served at parks in Region 1. The Corps Network facilitated these outcomes by identifying appropriate projects for Corps; assisting in the redesign of the Region’s Youth and Volunteer Programs website; and developing new informational resources to help parks understand processes involved in working with Corps.
Accreditation
Promoting Excellence in Corps Programming

To be recognized by The Corps Network’s Accreditation program, a Corps must undergo an in-depth review of its operations and programming. The process involves a site visit as well as an assessment of the Corps’ administrative documents and policies. Accreditation is granted to Corps that demonstrate a high level of accountability to funders and donors, as well as the capacity to provide meaningful programming to Corpsmembers and quality results to project partners. Accreditation lasts for five years with the requirement that Corps provide an annual update to the advisory committee.

The accreditation process was postponed in 2020 for safety reasons; it resumes in 2021. After completing the process in 2019, the following Corps were officially recognized with Accreditation in early 2020.

- American YouthWorks
  Austin, TX
- Anchorage Park Foundation
  Anchorage, AK
- Environment for the Americas
  Boulder, CO
- Fresno Local Conservation Corps
  Fresno, CA
- Greater Miami Service Corps
  Miami, FL
- Limitless Vistas
  New Orleans, LA
- Mile High Youth Corps
  Denver, CO
- Northwest Youth Corps
  Eugene, OR
- Operation Fresh Start
  Madison, WI
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
  Steamboat Springs, CO
- Utah Conservation Corps
  Logan, UT
- Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
  Richmond, VT
The Corps Network 2020 National Conference

Thrive: The Power of Community  |  February 9 -12

The Corps Network recognized its 35th annual National Conference with the theme Thrive: The Power of Community. At Thrive, we examined the importance of strong community bonds; the global and local threats communities face; and the ways Corps can engage young adults in sustaining community health. The event attracted over 300 attendees for networking opportunities and more than 40 sessions on such topics as community-informed partnerships, youth mental health, and intersectional approaches to combating climate change.

#CorpsWork  In less than a week, the Conference hashtag had over 600,000 impressions online.

Speaker Highlights  Keynote: Dr. Gail C. Christopher, Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity; David Bernhardt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; Barbara Stewart, CEO, AmeriCorps; Debra Wada, Former Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Amy Walter, National Editor, The Cook Political Report; Vicki Christiansen, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; David Vela, Acting Director of the National Park Service

Thank you to our 2020 National Conference Sponsors

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2020 Corpsmembers of the Year

Luis Cabrales – Student Conservation Association (IL)
Rosy Chavez – Montana Conservation Corps (MT)
Alexa Hansen – American YouthWorks (TX)
Bex Love – Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VT)
Ryan Shelton – Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CA)
Harley Tijerina – California Conservation Corps (CA)

2020 Projects of the Year

Plan “Bee”
New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg
To introduce young people to the stages of the food production cycle, New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg began offering training in beekeeping. The program teaches environmental sustainability, helps Corpsmembers overcome fear of nature, and gives them a sense of responsibility and confidence. Corpsmembers harvested over 40 pounds of honey in 2019.

Rainbow Conservation Crew
Northwest Youth Corps
The Rainbow Conservation Crew provides a space for LGBTQ youth to find community. In addition to completing projects at several national parks, Corpsmembers participated in 450 hours of education. Single-identity programs like the Rainbow Crew help participants feel freer to share stories, discuss common challenges, and enjoy the company of others with whom they identify.

Los Naturalistas
Urban Conservation Corps
On the national forests of Southern California, most of the educational and interpretive services have only been available in English, creating a barrier for Spanish-speaking visitors. With support from the National Forest Foundation, UCC launched Los Naturalistas, a bi-lingual Spanish naturalist training and interpretative program. Twelve Corpsmembers trained to lead stewardship activities and tours in English and Spanish.

Adult Community Experience Corps
YouthWork
The YouthWork Adult Community Experience Corps (ACE Corps) offers an opportunity for young adults with mild cognitive impairments, autism, and/or other developmental disabilities to have an AmeriCorps experience. The ACE Corps program engages participants in community service projects, helps them earn certifications, and teaches skills in public speaking, independent living, and more.

Corpsmember Development Day
Thrive: The Power of Community  |  February 9 – 12

In keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols, The Corps Network cancelled our annual in-person Great Outdoors Day of Service. However, the spirit of this event continued with a virtual Corpsmember Development Day and “Celebration of Service.” The online event offered educational and career development sessions for Corpsmembers and an opportunity for them to interact with other Corpsmembers across the country. Attendees included friends of the Corps movement and Corpsmembers and staff from 22 different Corps. Presenters included: Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Jeff DeQuattro, Director of Restoration, The Nature Conservancy – Gulf of Mexico, and several other professionals from the U.S. Forest Service and conservation space.

Virtual Town Halls
Keeping Corps Informed

Starting in March, as communities went into COVID-19 shutdowns, The Corps Network started hosting virtual discussions to address timely matters in the Corps community. Topics ranged from applying for federal aid, to implementing safety protocols, to disaster preparation. As part of the Moving Forward Initiative, there were also several important reflections and discussions on advancing racial equity.

The Town Halls have taken several formats, including panel discussions with our federal partners; presentations from professionals in such areas as mental health and social justice; and open conversations with Corps leaders. During uncertain times, the Town Halls have offered a safe space for Corps staff to learn together and share information with peers. The Corps Network hosted 19 Town Halls over the course of 2020, with plans to continue these events as a member benefit.
Budget and Appropriations

Land Management Agencies
The Corps Network successfully included several key provisions and funding streams in the FY21 Department of the Interior spending bill. This included language that prioritizes funding for partnerships between land management agencies and Corps, as well as new seed funding for the Indian Youth Service Corps program, a key provision of the 21CSC Act signed into law in early 2019. There was also nearly $1 million allocated for funding Veterans Fire Corps programs, and across-the-board increases in key accounts that fund Corps project work.

National Service
The FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services spending bill, which funds AmeriCorps, included $40 million in additional funds for some of the programs under AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps State and National and State Commission support grants.

Apprenticeship Opportunities for Corpsmembers
The Corps Network successfully advocated for the inclusion of language in the explanatory statement of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services FY21 spending bill to expand the Department of Labor’s “in-demand industries” to include employment areas relevant to Corps. The industries included were first response; disaster resilience, response, and recovery; utility (energy and water) and resource management; transportation and infrastructure (including green infrastructure); and outdoor recreation economy-related employment. Although it was not included in the final FY21 omnibus spending bill, there is now legislative precedent for the inclusion of this language.

Legislation

21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Bills
In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress drafted proposals for short-term employment strategies to address rising unemployment. The Corps Network helped draft several proposals for creating a Civilian Conservation Corps-style program to address land management needs and employ thousands of youth. Several bills were introduced and considered in stimulus discussions.
Given the outcome of the presidential election and congressional races, there is hope that, under the new administration, a “21st Century Civilian Climate Corps” may be a realistic priority. Lawmakers have signaled a willingness to combine elements of various proposals. The Corps Network continues to provide draft legislative text and strategic guidance on how best to build a “Climate Corps” initiative through scaling the existing network of Service and Conservation Corps.

Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic through Service (CORPS) Act

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced the CORPS Act. Among other outcomes, this bill would increase the AmeriCorps education award and living allowance, and – for a three-year period – fund the maximum authorized level of 250,000 AmeriCorps positions annually. The Corps Network was referenced in the press release for the announcement of this legislation. It is anticipated that Sen. Coons will reintroduce a version of this legislation in the 117th Congress.

Administration Engagement

Great American Outdoors Act Implementation

On August 4, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – the most significant investment in public lands in decades. The bill will help address the multi-billion-dollar maintenance backlog on our national parks and public lands.

While most of the GAOA funding for FY21 was marked for high-cost transportation projects. The Corps Network is promoting the use of Corps as a primary partner on appropriate projects. Our strategy has included seeking support from Senate champions, as well as consistent dialogue with key Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service personnel tasked with overseeing planning for the new funding. We have marketed Corps as viable partners for both GAOA funding, as well as other operational dollars that are “freed up” by this new investment.

The Corps Network secured commitments to engage Corps via newly formed Regional Maintenance Action Teams (MATs). We are also looking at opportunities to engage multiple Corps on larger projects, and we are promoting a role for Corps in local and state projects made possible through GAOA’s investment in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
Department of the Interior Youth Data Collection

The Corps Network is pleased to report that the Department of Interior’s National Park Service (NPS) has made substantive progress on developing a data collection portal for all youth programs. The Corps Network coordinated with NPS and their contractors to provide critical feedback that will help alleviate burdens on Corps. Data collected within the new system will be valuable for reporting requirements mandated by Congress.

Engagement with President-elect Transition Team and New Officials

The Corps Network has been making connections and securing meetings with key transition team officials and incoming administration staff. Among other accomplishments, we developed a proposal for a 21st Century Civilian Climate Corps that has been reviewed and well-received by several key players in the new administration. We are positioning the existing network of Corps as a leading partner in developing the Civilian Climate Corps initiative called for in Sec. 215 of President Biden’s January 27 Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

Events

House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee Public Witness Day

On February 6, 2020, Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO of The Corps Network, testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies about the need to invest in addressing deferred maintenance and historic preservation projects on public lands.

House Natural Resources Committee Forum

On July 7, 2020, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a forum entitled, “The Restoration Economy: Examining Environmental and Economic Opportunities.” Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO of The Corps Network, participated as a panelist. Her comments referenced the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, expansion of Corps under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the lessons learned from both the CCC and the ARRA expansion, and recommendations on how to expand Corps today in an equitable manner. Dwayne Lefthand, Taos Pueblo Conservation Program Coordinator with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in New Mexico was also a panelist. His testimony focused on the challenges faced by Tribal Youth and the support and training that Corps can provide.
The Corps Network’s 35th Anniversary
1985 - 2020

For The Corps Network’s 35th Anniversary, Leslie Wilkoff, Director of AmeriCorps Programs, sewed a quilt featuring patches and fabric from Corps uniforms. Thank you to all the organizations that contributed to this project, and thank you for 35 years of Strengthening America through Service and Conservation.

Credits

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Photo on front cover:
Idaho Conservation Corps

Photos on back cover:
ROW 1: Canyon Country Youth Corps
ROW 2: X-Cel Conservation Corps | Conservation Legacy
ROW 3: Maine Conservation Corps | Mile High Youth Corps
ROW 4: Green City Force | PowerCorpsPHL

Thank you to all the Corps that contributed photos for this document.
## Statement of Financial Position - September 30, 2020

### Assets

#### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>1,472,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>31,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
<td>2,306,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>44,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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</table>

#### Long-term Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment</td>
<td>67,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease Improvement</td>
<td>34,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(36,528)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Amortization</td>
<td>(7,681)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Deposit</td>
<td>49,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-term Assets</strong></td>
<td>107,413</td>
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#### Total Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,961,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities</td>
<td>1,572,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable Advances</td>
<td>290,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>29,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Liabilities</td>
<td>22,904</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,915,112</td>
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#### Non Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2,058,501</td>
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#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>941,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>961,392</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,903,349</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,961,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of Activities - September 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Revenue</th>
<th>Period Ending</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/30/2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Revenue - HQ</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>2,412,132</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>390,637</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Conference Revenue</td>
<td>208,814</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Commissions</td>
<td>102,766</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Fee Revenue</td>
<td>3,635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>21,170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>326,700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Core Revenue</strong></td>
<td>3,465,854</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Revenue - Passthrough</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,898,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10,363,911</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenditures                           |               |        |
| **Expenditures without Indirect Cost** |               |        |
| Personnel Expenses                     | 1,988,624     |        |
| Contracted Services                    | 386,471       |        |
| Office Expenses                        | 252,938       |        |
| Rent Expense                           | 236,995       |        |
| Travel Expenses                        | 93,531        |        |
| Meeting Expenses                       | 158,450       |        |
| **Total Core Expenses - HQ**           | 3,117,008     |        |
| **Subgrantee Expenses - Passthrough**  |               | 6,959,008 |
| **Total Expenses**                     |               | **10,076,016** |

| Change In Net Assets                   |               | **$ 287,895** |