



**The
CorpsNetwork**

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

FY19 Annual Report



www.corpsnetwork.org
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The Corps Network

Strengthening America through service and conservation

Dear Friends,

The Corps landscape looks a little different every year as Corps adapt to the changing needs of our country, and every year I am impressed and inspired by their ability to innovate and improve their programming to meet the needs of the communities and Corpsmembers they serve. In addition to more traditional project work, like building trails and campgrounds and creating urban parks and gardens, this past year we saw Corps working to address issues like our aging infrastructure, food scarcity and waste, youth homelessness, and natural disasters. We also saw an increasing number of Corps take deliberate and earnest steps to make their programming more equitable and accessible for young people who are under-served by the conservation and national service communities.

As Corps expand their project scope, we also see them expanding across the map. Over the past fiscal year, The Corps Network added four new member organizations and six of our existing members spread into new communities. The Corps Network now has a presence in parts of the Midwest and New England where we have not had members in decades.

As times change, Corps remain relevant. As proof, you only have to turn on the news: several presidential candidates have called for a significant investment in modern Corps programming. Also during 2019, after years of advocacy, the John S. McCain III 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act was signed into law. We start 2020 with plans to work with our partner federal land management agencies to implement this important legislation, which will help expand and improve Corps operations.

As we enter a new decade, and the 35th year of The Corps Network, I am pleased to report that the Corps community is strong and thriving.

Mary Ellen Sprinkel

Mary Ellen Sprinkel
President & 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.

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President & CEO, The Corps Network

Above: American Conservation Experience members hike to a project site at the Grand Canyon.
Facing Page: Sarah, a Corpsmember from Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, bucking and limbing trees in Iowa.
Photo credit: Open Window Productions

About The Corps Network

Established in 1985, The Corps Network is the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. Our 130+ Corps provide young adults and veterans the opportunity to serve our country through projects on public lands and in rural and urban 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. Every year, The Corps Network’s efforts enable more than 22,000 diverse young people and recent veterans to strengthen communities, improve the environment, and transform their lives through service in Corps programs.

Contents

Letter from President & CEO	1
Corps in Numbers	3
Programs & Projects	5
Events	13
Outreach & Advocacy	17
FY19 Financial Information	21

Corps in Numbers

A snapshot of the Corps Community in FY19



Mile High Youth Corps (CO)

Membership

730	Total
133	Service and Conservation Corps
121	Full Members
12	Emerging Corps
57	Affiliates
541	AmeriCorps Basic Members

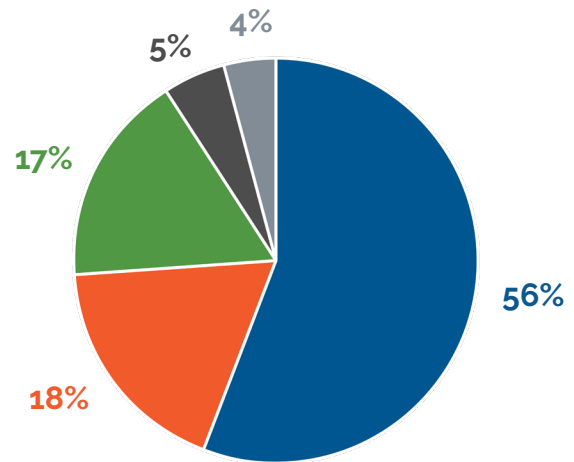
Corpsmember Race & Ethnicity

■	White
■	Other
■	Black, African-American
■	American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander
■	Asian

18% identify as Hispanic or Latino

Enrollment

22,287	Total number of Corpsmembers
52%	Identify male
46%	Identify female
~2%	Identify other



12,041
Number of industry-recognized certifications earned by Corpsmembers



2,393
Number of Corpsmembers enrolled in a Corps-related high school diploma or GED program (across 32 Corps offering such programs)



5,029
Corpsmembers covered through The Corps Network Health Insurance Plan

Conservation, Recreation and Environmental Outcomes



1,400,404
Acres of habitat restored



66,929
Acres of invasive species treated



2,347
Miles of waterways restored



19,405
Acres of hazardous fire fuels treated



13,317
Miles of multi-use trails constructed/improved



31,582,000
Pounds of waste collected and recycled

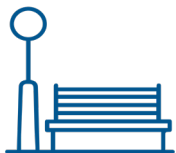


1,035,319
Trees planted



31,063
Low-income households educated about resource-efficiency practices

Community Outcomes



7,914
Community spaces/public facilities improved or constructed



223
Disasters responded to, including fires, floods and storms



336
Historic structures restored



199,915
Community members who benefited from educational programs provided by Corps



1,660,307
Square feet of graffiti removed



537,879
Volunteer service hours generated through Corps service opportunities

Programs & Projects

Learn about work made possible through partnerships and grants



Above: Corpsmembers and staff from Montana Conservation Corps' (MT) program for indigenous youth partook in the Corpsmember Liberation and Leadership workshop in 2019.

Moving Forward Initiative (MFI)

Supporting a More Equitable, Diverse & Inclusive Conservation Movement

Launched in 2017 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Corps Network's Moving Forward Initiative (MFI) seeks to expand career exposure and increase employment in conservation and resource management for young people of color. In partnership with professionals and organizations committed to promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, The Corps Network is providing tools and education to our staff, our member Corps, and to Corpsmembers to make all parties better prepared to recognize and address racism and injustice. Below are 2019 highlights:

Corpsmember Liberation and Leadership

Corpsmembers were the main focus of MFI in 2019. In collaboration with consultants Juanita C. Brown and Mahdi Davenport, The Corps Network developed the Corpsmember Liberation and Leadership (CLL) training. This full-day workshop is designed to help young people explore the impact racial discrimination has had on their lives and how internalized oppression can express itself. Unfortunately, research suggests that experiencing racial discrimination can contribute to anxiety, depression and other negative outcomes. In the CLL workshop, Corpsmembers learn how to acknowledge and begin to undo disempowering thoughts and habits. The workshop was presented to 160 Corpsmembers and Corps staff across six states. In response to requests for additional education on this topic, The Corps Network aims to expand the workshop to further examine the complex issues addressed. The Corps Network also looks to use a "train-the-trainer" model to bring the workshop to more Corps.

Core Skills Mastery and Career Adventure

The Corps Network partnered with Civic Works, a Baltimore-based Corps, to pilot the use of Core Skills Mastery (CSM) and Career Adventure. CSM is an online, competency-based math and literacy program that teaches skills through an approach that boosts students' confidence and self-esteem. Career Adventure is an online program through which users explore career options while also examining their interests, skills and goals. Both programs encourage a growth mindset and help Corpsmembers harness their own power to master skills for career and educational success.

2019 Conference Offerings

MFI was integrated into The Corps Network 2019 National Conference in numerous ways, including a keynote presentation by Dr. Heather Hackman on how to incorporate a "racial equity lens" into our daily lives; sessions on trauma-informed approaches to mentoring; and a screening and discussion of *Decade of Fire*, a documentary film that explores historic racial injustice in the Bronx.



Above: EAP AmeriCorps members with Texas Conservation Corps at American YouthWorks (TX).
 Below: EAP AmeriCorps members with Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (CA)

Education Award Program (EAP)



Supported by AmeriCorps

Since 2000, The Corps Network has operated an AmeriCorps Education Award Program (EAP) through a National Direct Grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. 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 FY19, EAP engaged 2,604 Corpsmembers serving in 27 Corps across 43 states and the District of Columbia. These AmeriCorps members had the potential to collectively earn over \$6.5 million in education awards.

Project Outcomes Snapshot

>3.2 M	Acres surveyed
84,709	Trees planted
55,165	Acres of public lands improved
8,022	Miles of trails/waterways improved
1,536	Acres of fire and flood mitigation

Corpsmember Training Snapshot

1,200	Wilderness First Aid training
655	OSHA 10-hour training
950	Emergency response training
318	Chainsaw/sawyer training
829	Leave No Trace training



Service Snapshot

Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (CA) - pictured left
 American YouthWorks (TX) - pictured above

In partnership with Sacramento Municipal Utility District, EAP AmeriCorps members with SRCC helped remove vegetation along a 75-mile-long gas pipeline, creating space to conduct an annual inspection of the pipeline. Corpsmembers underwent safety training and learned how to use power tools.

EAP AmeriCorps Members with American YouthWorks helped restore native habitat for the endangered pitcher plant and longleaf pine by removing brush in preparation for prescribed burns. Corpsmembers also had the opportunity to camp and canoe; a first-time experience for many participants.



Above: OYSI AmeriCorps members with Green City Force (NY).
 Below: OYSI AmeriCorps members with Operation Fresh Start (WI)

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 Corpsmembers develop job skills, earn certifications, complete their high school requirements, and receive assistance in transitioning to further education or the workforce. During the 2018-2019 program year, OYSI engaged 761 Corpsmembers across 14 Corps and 16 states.

Project Outcomes Snapshot

3,091	Acres of public land improved
3,056	Number of trees planted
1,892	Acres of invasive species treated
89	Acres of urban green space opened
59	Local gardens installed/maintained

Corpsmember Training Snapshot

351	OSHA 10-hour certified
215	Energy audit trained/certified
184	CPR certified
167	Tool safety certified
20	Lead renovation, repair, painting certified



Service Snapshot

Operation Fresh Start (WI) - pictured left
 Green City Force (NY) - pictured above

Through a partnership with the city, OYSI AmeriCorps members with Operation Fresh Start engage in Madison, WI's Greenway Invasive Species Management Initiative. Corpsmembers serve over 10 months per year helping remove invasive plants and establish native vegetation.

During the 2018-2019 seasons, Green City Force AmeriCorps members collected 8,000 lbs. of recyclables and 860 lbs. of compostable waste through door-to-door outreach. Some members also helped operate the Corps' six urban farms, growing thousands of pounds of produce.



Above: TIP AmeriCorps member with Northwest Youth Corps (based in OR) works on creating boardwalk planks.
Below: TIP AmeriCorps members with Utah Conservation Corps (UT).

Transportation and Infrastructure Program (TIP)

Supported by AmeriCorps



Launched in 2018, The Corps Network's Transportation and Infrastructure Program (TIP) is an AmeriCorps program funded through a National Direct Targeted Priority Grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Corps involved in TIP engage youth and young adults in public lands and transportation infrastructure projects. Corpsmembers' efforts focus on increasing access to public lands and waters and promoting transportation alternatives, enhancements and safety. During the 2018–2019 program year, TIP engaged 151 Corpsmembers across four Corps and 13 states.

Project Outcomes Snapshot

2,120	Trees planted
1,455	Acres of public lands improved
787	Acres of land surveyed using GIS
718	Acres treated for invasive species
186	Miles of trails/waterways improved

Corpsmember Training Snapshot

93	Tool safety certified
89	CPR certified
81	Wilderness First Aid certified
73	Herbicide application certified
24	Chainsaw/sawyer certified



Service Snapshot

Utah Conservation Corps (UT) - pictured left
Northwest Youth Corps (OR/WA) - pictured above

The extensive trail network in Utah's Weber County is a draw for visitors. TIP AmeriCorps members with UCC learned how to install drains, fix rutted sections, widen a trail, and envision how the trail would be used. As they worked, the crew enjoyed hearing feedback and support from horseback riders, cyclists and other trail users.

During their first weeks of service, TIP AmeriCorps members with NYC's Seasonal Stewardship Program camped at Mount Rainier National Park. Here they helped construct 13 bridges, brushed 3.2 miles of trail corridor, removed 40 fences, spread 20 square feet of gravel and removed a half mile of invasive plants.



The Gulf Coast has been affected by natural and man-made disasters, including devastating hurricanes and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Ecological damage has harmed communities that depend on the tourism and seafood industries. From our satellite office in Gulfport, MS, The Corps Network strives to expand Corps capacity across the region to address environmental damage, build resiliency, and prepare young people for the growing restoration economy.

Climb CDC Corpsmembers helping build and deploy more than 200 oyster cages in Hancock County, MS. Photo by Lauren Kissel.

Gulf Operations

Helping Build the Future of the Gulf Coast

Professional Development

In 2019, The Corps Network's Gulf Operations team introduced a workforce development framework that includes resources both for Corps staff and Corpsmembers. This effort has included: developing a 267-page professional development curriculum and training Corps staff on how it can be adapted and implemented; developing a program to help Corpsmembers explore their interests and set career goals; creating employee portfolios to help year-three Corpsmembers (more than 100 enrollees) obtain post-program employment; sending a regular newsletter with job opportunities and tips to help Corpsmembers develop workforce skills; and implementing a system to track Corpsmembers' trainings and accomplishments.

GulfCorps

GulfCorps, a program funded by the RESTORE Council and administered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and The Nature Conservancy, aims to create environmental jobs for hundreds of young adults along the Gulf of Mexico. Through this initiative, The Nature Conservancy works with The Corps Network and our member Corps 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). FY19 saw the completion of year-two of GulfCorps.

GulfCorps Year-2 Outcomes

84,000	Native plants installed
684	Acres of beach/marsh conservation
45	Acres of wetland restored
92%	Job placement rate for Year-2 alumni

Turkey Creek Restoration

The Turkey Creek watershed is located in the Turkey Creek Community Historic District, a settlement established by African-Americans after the American Civil War. As part of a project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and administered by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, The Corps Network is providing oversight and technical assistance to engage young people in enhancing the ecological function of Turkey Creek. Starting in September 2019, Corpsmembers from Climb CDC (MS) have engaged in invasive species treatment, native species planting, debris removal and creek bank restoration. [Outcomes below:](#)

60,000	Native seedlings planted
20,000	Pounds of debris removed
22	Acres of invasive species treated



Kupu's boardwalk repair project on the Alakai Swamp Trail on Kauai (HI) is one of the Recreational Trails Program-supported projects featured in The Corps Network's new guide for trail managers interested in working with Corps.

Federal Agency Partnerships

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The Corps Network and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) entered a cooperative agreement in 2019 to encourage state and federal agencies to utilize funding mechanisms, such as the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), to work with Corps on trail and transportation projects. The Corps Network produced several resources to promote the value of partnering with Corps. This included developing a detailed partnership guide with project examples and best practices and creating a video highlighting RTP projects involving Corps. Additionally, TCN staff hosted 12 presentations, teleconferences and webinars for federal, state, and local trail and transportation managers, resulting in **23 state trail programs** connecting with Corps and beginning efforts to incorporate Corps into their project planning.

Land and Water Management Agencies

The Corps Network has cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These agreements provide a mechanism for our member Corps to partner with federal agencies on various initiatives and critical projects within our national parks, forests and refuges.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative Agreement

The Corps Network signed a national cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). Under this agreement, Accredited member organizations of The Corps Network are eligible to complete mission-critical maintenance and improvement work on FWS properties. More Corps will also begin working with FWS to recruit participants for the agency's Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows Program (DRFP), a rigorous summer internship for students interested in pursuing a conservation career.

National Park Service, Cooperative Agreement

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (CO) and Larimer County Conservation Corps utilized The Corps Network's agreement for projects in Rocky Mountain National Park and Dinosaur National Monument.

Project outcomes include:

- **100+** wood and rock steps constructed
- **20+** bridge and trail structures constructed/restored
- **50+** sustainable trail drainage structures maintained
- **55** acres of fire fuel reduction



Left: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps-Colorado used The Corps Network's cooperative agreement to do fire fuel abatement work at Rocky Mountain National Park. Right: Larimer County Conservation Corps used the agreement to do trail work at the same park.

National Park Service, Northeast Region

2019 marked the fifth year of a partnership between The Corps Network and the National Park Service (NPS) to support a Youth Program Assistant position for the agency's Northeast Region (Region 1). The purpose of this relationship is to facilitate partnerships between Corps and parks from Maine to Virginia. By working with Corps, NPS sites can extend the capacity of park staff, address backlogged projects sooner, and can often save on project expenses. In spite of challenges faced by many Corps in 2019 due to changes in the federal agreement process, **429 young people** from member organizations of The Corps Network served at parks in the Northeast Region in 2019. This accounted for nearly **70 percent** of all youth engaged in service or employment in the Region for FY19. TCN facilitated these outcomes by, among other activities, 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.

U.S. Forest Service, Resource Assistants Program

The Resource Assistants Program is a rigorous, immersive, paid internship for individuals interested in conservation-related careers with the U.S. Forest Service. Resource Assistants (RAs) work under the supervision of Forest Service staff on mission-critical work. The Corps Network is one of a few national organizations granted a cooperative agreement to work with the Forest Service and facilitate the program. TCN collaborates with Accredited member 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 FY19, The Corps Network expanded its presence, engaging Resource Assistants in eight locations: AK, DC, HI, MS, NE, NV, UT, and WY.

- **Hawaii** – An RA recruited through Kupu conducted a tree measurement census.
- **Utah** – An RA recruited through Utah Conservation Corps worked on a national GIS database to make it more user-friendly. Another UCC RA worked with herders on permits and grazing allotments, conducted compliance checks, and monitored the conditions of vegetation and soil.
- **Nevada** – An RA recruited through Great Basin Institute participated in community service by packing weekend meals for kids without access to healthy food outside of school.

Delaware North Partnership

Delaware North is a global hospitality concessionaire that manages lodging, attractions and dining services at national and state parks. The Corps Network facilitates partnerships between Corps and Delaware North to engage Corpsmembers in priority conservation and recreation projects on Delaware North-managed properties. A highlight in 2019 was a project in which the California Conservation Corps (CCC) deployed Corpsmembers to Yosemite National Park to prepare for the grand opening of new cabins. The CCC crew completed critical fire fuel reduction and vegetation management, clearing pathways in and around the property.



Corpsmembers with California Conservation Corps worked through tough weather conditions to help prepare a new cabin complex at Yosemite National Park. This project was done in partnership with Delaware North.

Capacity Building

Supported by the JPB Foundation

The Corps Network received a three-year capacity-building grant from the JPB Foundation in FY18. The objective is to expand The Corps Network's training and technical assistance offerings, which will, in turn, promote growth and improvement across our membership. Highlights from 2019 include:

- Developing an **interactive map** to show Corps presence across the U.S. on a county-level. This will help identify "Corps deserts" (areas of high need, but no Corps).
- Adding four **new organizations** to our membership. In addition, six Corps expanded to new regions and The Corps Network is working with several communities interested in starting a Corps.
- The Corps Network's **Accreditation** process is an important tool in strengthening the Corps movement. Six new Corps completed Accreditation in 2019, and at least seven new Corps are signed up to undergo Accreditation in 2020.

Accreditation

Promoting Excellence in Corps Operations and 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.

Corps that was officially recognized as Accredited in 2019

PowerCorpsPHL (Philadelphia, PA)

Corps that successfully completed the Accreditation process in 2019

■ = *Renewal* ● = *First-Time Accreditation*

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, Inc. (New Orleans, LA) ●

Mile High Youth Corps (Denver, CO) ●

Operation Fresh Start (Madison, WI) ●

Northwest Youth Corps (Eugene, OR) ■

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Steamboat Springs, CO) ■

Utah Conservation Corps (Logan, UT) ■

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (Richmond, VT) ●



Annual Events

The Corps Network's two main events are the Great Outdoors Day of Service and our National Conference. Both events take place in Washington, DC.



A crew from American Conservation Experience at the 2019 Great Outdoors Day of Service.



Scenes from the 2019 Day of Service: Sen. Lisa Murkowski with Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President & CEO of The Corps Network; volunteers helping replace rotten sections of a boardwalk; Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt poses with volunteers.

Great Outdoors Day of Service

Held in June, Great Outdoors Month is a national campaign to encourage Americans to explore and recreate on our lands and waters. In 2019, The Corps Network recognized this occasion with our fifth annual—and largest to date—Great Outdoors Day of Service (June 14). The event gathered well over 200 volunteers to participate in maintenance projects on and near Theodore Roosevelt Island in Washington, DC. Activities included boardwalk restoration, trail clearing, invasive species removal, litter abatement, landscaping and other facilities improvement projects.

Among attendees were friends and partners of the Corps movement, plus Corpsmembers and staff from nine different Corps. Notable speakers at the event included **David Bernhardt**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; **Vicki Christiansen**, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and Chester Spellman, Director of AmeriCorps. Also in attendance was U.S. **Sen. Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), who came to volunteer with staff and interns from her DC office. The Day of Service marked the culmination of Outdoor Stewardship Week, an online campaign led by The Corps Network to inspire people to **#ServeOutdoors**. The campaign garnered over 8 million impressions in less than one week.

Prior to the Day of Service, The Corps Network partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to host a professional development event for Corpsmembers. Through presentations and activities, the event focused on helping participants learn about the technical skills and processes to pursue a career in conservation, as well as how to leverage valuable traits they possess naturally.

Thank you to our 2019 Great Outdoors Day of Service sponsors and partners

Delaware North
 DowntownDC
 Guest Services, Inc.
 Nestlé
 Parks Project
 National Park Service
 U.S. Forest Service



Right: Scenes from The Corps Network's professional development and networking day for Corpsmembers, held at the USDA Whitten Building in Washington, DC.



Left to right: Corpsmember of the Year Jasmine Poole; a panel discussion on the future of national service featuring The Honorable Joe Heck and Barbara Stewart, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service; Corpsmember of the Year Justin Baker with Clarence Anthony, CEO, National League of Cities, and former Mayor of Philadelphia Michael Nutter.

The Corps Network 2019 National Conference

“Resilience” | February 10 - 13 | Washington, DC

Around 300 people attended The Corps Network 2019 National Conference in Washington, DC, making it our largest event to date. This annual gathering attracts representatives from dozens of Corps across the country, as well as other professionals from the fields of youth development, workforce development, and resource management. The theme for the 2019 Conference —“Resilience”—focused on exploring how Corps can help communities and landscapes become stronger and more sustainable. Among others, notable speakers at the event included **Clarence Anthony**, CEO, National League of Cities; **Denise Fairchild**, President & CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative; **Josh Kraushaar**, Political Editor, National Journal; **Ryan Hambleton**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; **Joe Heck**, Chairman, National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service; Former U.S. Representative (NV); **Michael Nutter**, Former Mayor of Philadelphia; **Will Shafroth**, President & CEO, National Park Foundation; and **Barbara Stewart**, CEO, Corporation for National & Community Service.

Thank you to our 2019 National Conference Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR Delaware North	
<p>GOLD-LEVEL SPONSOR USDOT, Federal Highway Administration Willis Towers Watson Relation Cigna</p>	<p>SILVER-LEVEL SPONSOR U.S. Forest Service National Park Foundation</p>
<p>BRONZE-LEVEL SPONSOR The Pew Charitable Trusts Conservation United National Trust for Historic Preservation REI</p>	<p>SUPPORTER National Parks Conservation Association</p>
	<p>SPECIAL THANKS W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>



2019 Project of the Year winners: Top - Bear Mountain Trails Project; Verde Community Impact Collaborative. Bottom - GulfCorps; Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Program.

Congratulations to The Corps Network's 2019 Awardees

Corpsmembers of the Year

Justin Baker, Green City Force (NY)
Paola Flores, San Jose Conservation Corps (CA)
Abdusalam Ibrahim, Weber Basin Job Corps (UT)

Jasmine Poole, Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LA)
Elamon White, Mt. Adams Institute (Nat'l)
Levi White, Trapper Creek Job Corps (MT)

Projects of the Year

Bear Mountain Trails Project, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
 Corpsmembers helped reroute a popular section of the Appalachian Trail, adding stone steps and switchbacks to make it more sustainable for decades to come.

Verde Community Impact Collaborative, Santa Fe YouthWorks
 Led by Santa Fe YouthWorks, this cross-sector partnership addresses multiple local issues, including food insecurity, climate change-related concerns, housing insecurity among youth and young adults, and high unemployment among youth and young adults.

GulfCorps, Multiple Programs
 Learn more on page 9. Corps involved include: American Conservation Experience (TX); Climb CDC Conservation Corps (MS); Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast (FL); Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast (FL); Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LA); Louisiana Conservation Corps (LA); Student Conservation Association (AL); Texas Conservation Corps (TX).

Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Program, Urban Corps of San Diego County
 Through this program, Corpsmembers take classes towards completing their high school requirements and undergo the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3), a comprehensive training for people interested in pursuing a building trades apprenticeship.

Legacy Achievement Awardee

T. Destry Jarvis, Consultant. Formerly of National Recreation & Park Association; National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (now The Corps Network); National Park Service; Department of the Interior; Student Conservation Association; National Parks Conservation Association

Outreach & Advocacy

The Corps Network is a voice for Corps on important issues in our nation's capital



Budget and Appropriations

The Corps Network participated in advocacy efforts for 20 different federal funding accounts important to Service and Conservation Corps.

Land Management Agencies: For FY20, The Corps Network secured language in the House and Senate Interior Appropriations bill prioritizing partnerships with Corps for the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior. TCN also successfully advocated for language in the House Interior Appropriations bill expressing concern about the burdensome process used to review partnership agreements between Corps and federal agencies.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS): Once again, CNCS—the agency that operates AmeriCorps—faced proposed budget cuts and elimination. TCN helped advocate for strong continued support of CNCS programs. The final bill included \$1.1 billion; this is \$20 million more than FY18 and includes record levels of funding for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

Reconnecting Youth Campaign: Reconnecting Youth Campaign is a coalition of more than 50 national organizations working to increase appropriations to funding streams proven to reconnect Opportunity Youth to education and employment. As a co-facilitator, TCN led federal government relations activity while the Campaign underwent a leadership transition. The Corps Network helped facilitate 15 Hill meetings and a full advocacy day. These efforts supported increased funding to WIOA, YouthBuild, Job Corps, Adult Basic Education and other key accounts in FY19.

Legislation

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act: A version of the 21CSC Act was signed into law in March as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019. Among other provisions, the bill added the Department of Commerce (NOAA) to the Public Land Corps Authority (PLCA); established an Indian Youth Service Corps; established an outline for new data collection processes; and created a requirement that federal resource management agencies under the PLCA have designated 21CSC coordinators.

Deferred Maintenance/Restore Our Parks (and Public Lands) Act: TCN participated in advocacy efforts that resulted in House and Senate versions of the bill clearing their respective committees. Notably, TCN co-led a group to advocate for the inclusion of the U.S. Forest Service in the legislation in order to address backlogged maintenance on national forests.



Facing Page: Blake, an AmeriCorps member with Rocky Mountain Conservancy, helps restore the Cub Lake Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Above Left: EAP AmeriCorps members with Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, based in Minnesota, work on reglazing an old window. Historic preservation is an important focus area for some Service and Conservation Corps.

Above Right: After the Museum Fire burned through vegetation, Flagstaff, AZ lay vulnerable to flooding. Corpsmembers from Arizona Conservation Corps and several other programs in the West and Southwest united in 2019 to create 3,168 pallets of sandbags, distribute and install 580 pallets of sandbags, and clear almost 60,000 square feet of water channels. Disaster mitigation and response projects are an increasingly important focus area for many Corps across the country.

Climate Resiliency Service Corps Act: In collaboration with the office of Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), TCN developed legislation entitled the Climate Resiliency Service Corps Act of 2019. This legislation would amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Climate Resiliency Service Corps. The legislation was introduced in November 2019 and discussions are being held with various Senate offices about introduction of a Senate companion bill.

Transportation Workforce Development Bill: TCN developed draft legislation that would create a pilot program at the U.S. Department of Transportation to focus on promoting engagement between state transportation offices and Corps in their communities.

Select Committee on Climate Crisis: TCN submitted recommendations to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis with recommendations for expanding Corps' reforestation efforts as a strategy for carbon sequestration, increasing the use of Corps across federal resource management agencies, and expanding the role of environmental stewardship programs within CNCS.

Administration Engagement

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs): In the spring of 2019, the Administration announced plans to close nine JCCCCs and transfer management of another 16 centers. TCN partnered with the National Job Corps Association and took swift action to engage Congress and halt the Department of Agriculture's decision to end their role in the program. Congress took a series of legislative actions and the USDA reversed their decision. We are also pleased to report that USDA is preparing a plan for improving center performance; TCN will help inform this plan in coming months.

Department of Labor: The Corps Network submitted comments for the record on the Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed rule for their Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP). These comments advised DOL to invest in the program across all industries; be mindful of the burden placed on program applicants; provide Corps flexibility when structuring IRAPs; consider a potential IRAP organization's history in workforce development during the application process; and allow IRAP organizations to set competency-based standards for program participants.



Left: Members of a Whitebark Pine Monitoring crew from Great Basin Institute establish a sample plot at Inyo National Forest in California. Right: For National Public Lands Day, LA Conservation Corps helped host a park beautification project at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park.

Events

The Corps Network presented at a Capitol Hill briefing hosted by the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ). TCN offered policy recommendations to support water-related workforce development, including increasing funding for workforce programs and establishing licensing standards for water and green infrastructure careers.

Also in the vein of workforce development, The Corps Network partnered with the National Youth Employment Coalition, the National League of Cities Reengagement Network, and the Institute for Educational Leadership to co-host “All Youth Working,” a two-day forum in Oakland, CA focused on exploring ways to authentically support Opportunity Youth.

In addition to in-person events, The Corps Network hosted important webinars in 2019. This included: presenting to the Department of Defense (DoD) Natural Resources program about ways Corps can partner with the agency; working with the Department of Labor to present on the mutual benefits of partnerships between Corps and local Workforce Development Boards; and working with the National Heritage Areas (NHAs) program to present about ways Corps and NHAs can collaborate.

Credits *(cover photo credits on page 22)*

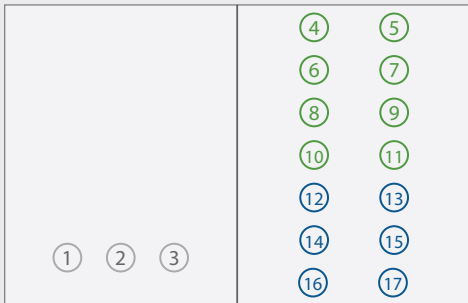
Photos on opposite page

- Row 1 = Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (NM); Greater Valley Conservation Corps (CA); SEEDS (MI)
- Row 2 = Vermont Youth Conservation Corps; Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps (CA); American Conservation Experience (Nat'l)
- Row 3 = Greater Miami Service Corps (FL); American YouthWorks (TX); Mile High Youth Corps (CO)
- Row 4 = Maine Conservation Corps; X-Cel Conservation Corps (MA); Student Conservation Association (Nat'l)

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Statement of Financial Position - September 30, 2019

	<u>2019</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	894,432.21
Accounts Receivable	802,088.56
Grants Receivable	1,295,819.97
Other Current Assets	35,322.50
Prepaid Expenses	48,081.99
Total Current Assets	<u>3,075,745.23</u>
Long-term Assets	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	66,309.00
Lease Improvement	10,074.20
Accumulated Depreciation	(30,908.00)
Accumulated Amortization	(4,732.20)
Total Long-term Assets	<u>40,743.02</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>3,116,488.25</u></u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	1,768,372.51
Deferred Revenue	481,583.22
Other Current Liabilities	29,038.95
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,278,994.68</u>
Non Current Liabilities	<u>183,433.35</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>2,462,428.03</u></u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	534,502.06
Change in Net Assets	119,558.16
Total Net Assets	<u>654,060.22</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>3,116,488.25</u></u>

Statement of Activities - September 30, 2019

	Period Ending <u>09/30/2019</u> Actual
Core Revenue	
Grant Revenue	2,416,665.96
Membership Dues	415,606.00
National Conference Revenue	199,746.00
Health Insurance Commissions	105,327.10
Accreditation Fee Revenue	30,765.00
Donations	<u>23,974.95</u>
Total Core Revenue	3,192,085.01
Grant Revenue - Passthrough	<u>5,704,915.72</u>
Total Revenue	<u>8,897,000.73</u>
Expenditures	
Personnel Expenses	1,691,448.35
Contracted Services	544,738.04
Office Expenses	247,910.50
Rent Expense	231,136.39
Travel Expenses	217,529.79
Meeting Expenses	<u>142,213.24</u>
Total Core Expenses	3,063,976.31
Subgrantee Expenses - Passthrough	<u>5,713,466.26</u>
Total Expenses	<u>8,777,442.57</u>
Change In Net Assets	<u><u>119,558.16</u></u>

Front Cover

Pictured is Bryant, an AmeriCorps member from Southwest Conservation Corps (CO). This photo was taken by the Los Pinos river in Colorado. The crew built a stone retaining wall to support a bend in the trail.

Back Cover

Left = Corpsmembers Chuey and James moving tires to be recycled. Photo by Joe Burull for Conservation Corps North Bay (CA).

Middle = EarthCorps (WA) member Devyn at Lake Twenty-Two.

Right = Operation Fresh Start (WI).

Bottom = A crew from Rocky Mountain Conservancy hikes to their project site in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Photo by Sophia Lemen.



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