



The Corps Network
Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Get Work Done



Partnering with Corps

For decades, America's Service and Conservation Corps have partnered with local, state and federal transportation and resource management authorities to complete critical trail and transportation infrastructure projects. The Corps Network, the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, recently entered into an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration to promote the ***use of Corps to complete important work in a cost-effective manner and help develop the next generation of transportation workers.***

What is a Corps?

Corps are locally-based organizations that engage young adults (generally ages 16 – 25) and veterans (up to age 35) in service projects that address recreation, conservation, disaster response, and community needs. Through a term of service that could last from a few months to a year, Corps participants – or “Corpsmembers” – gain work experience and develop in-demand skills. Corpsmembers are compensated with a stipend or living allowance and often receive an education award or scholarship upon completing their term of service.

In partnership with local, state and federal agencies, Corps have done work to help build, maintain, and improve:

- Accessible, ADA-compliant pathways
- Bike trails
- Equestrian trails
- Bridges and Boardwalks
- National Scenic Trails
- Multimodal trails
- OHV and ATV trails
- Tribal trails and roads
- Cross-country ski and snowmobile trails
- Trailside and Trailhead facilities

DOT Strategic Plan Priorities

Corps complete projects that align with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) strategic goals:

- **Safety:** Reduce Transportation-Related Fatalities and Serious Injuries Across the Transportation System.
- **Infrastructure:** Invest in Infrastructure to Ensure Mobility and Accessibility and to Stimulate Economic Growth, Productivity and Competitiveness for American Workers and Businesses.
- **Innovation:** Lead in the Development and Deployment of Innovative Practices and Technologies that Improve the Safety and Performance of the Nation's Transportation System.
- **Accountability:** Serve the Nation with Reduced Regulatory Burden and Greater Efficiency, Effectiveness and Accountability.

Cost-effective & reliable:

A study by Booz Allen Hamilton found that one federal resource management agency saved an average of **65%** on project costs by partnering with Corps. Another study showed **90%** of Corps project partners rated the quality of work as “good or outstanding,” and **99.6%** of federal partners said they would work with Corps again.

Corps Project Examples

Accessibility: The All-Sensory Trail

Maryland Conservation Corps | DOT Priorities: Safety, Innovation

Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) members designed and constructed the All-Sensory trail at Patapsco Valley State Park in Catonsville, MD. This ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and ABA (Architectural Barriers Act) compliant trail enables visitors of all abilities to interact with and experience the great outdoors and actively engage multiple senses through a series of interactive natural experiences. The project was funded by an RTP grant, as well as by various sponsors via a federal grant from the National Park Foundation. MCC Corpsmembers still maintain the trail today to keep it free from downed limbs, poison ivy, and invasive plants.



Economic Development: Mogollon Rim

Arizona Conservation Corps | DOT Priorities: Infrastructure

Arizona Conservation Corps' Ancestral Lands Crew worked on the Mogollon Rim for five weeks with a crew of tribal youth from the local community representing the White Mountain Apache and Navajo. The project was made possible by an RTP grant secured by Arizona State Parks and a partnership with the Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The project entailed building a sustainable downhill trail into a canyon, with the crew constructing an equestrian-friendly switchback, accomplishing 3,963 feet of trail maintenance, building a rock retaining wall, and installing 14 erosion control structures.



Resiliency: Appalachian Trail Re-route on Bear Mountain

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC)

DOT Priorities: Safety, Innovation

Through an RTP grant, and in partnership with the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, New York State Office of Parks, and various State partners, NYNJTC initiated the Bear Mountain Trail Project to build a better, safer, more sustainable trail for park visitors and develop a pool of trained volunteers to support the vast network of the trails in the Hudson River Valley. Project work was primarily done by hand and involved hardening the trail with more than 1,300 granite steps, building the first ADA-compliant section of the Appalachian Trail, and constructing an outdoor interpretive exhibit. Several former Corpsmembers now work with NYNJTC.



Fact: In 2018 alone, Corps collectively built or restored nearly 14,000 miles of trails.

Fact: Through their service, Corpsmembers gain hands-on experience. They also often complete OSHA 10 or 30-hour training, and earn certifications, such as in heavy equipment or chainsaw operation.

Learn more:

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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 projects, and offering expertise in Corps operations and programming.