



The Corps Network

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Thursday, December 5, 2019

The Future of Transportation and Recreation Trail Projects

Utilizing Youth and Conservation Corps

What is The Corps Network?



**The
CorpsNetwork**

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

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What is The Corps Network?



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- 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

Photo: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps / Colorado

What are Corps?



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: American Youth Works / Texas

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 Do Corpsmembers Gain?



Job Training and Hands-on Work Experience



Stipend / Living Allowance



AmeriCorps Education Award



GED, High School Diploma / College Prep

Industry Recognized Certifications and Credentials



A Stronger Connection to their Community

Photo: KUPU / Hawaii

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



Photo: Appalachian Conservation Corps/ Virginia

Our Impact - Nationally

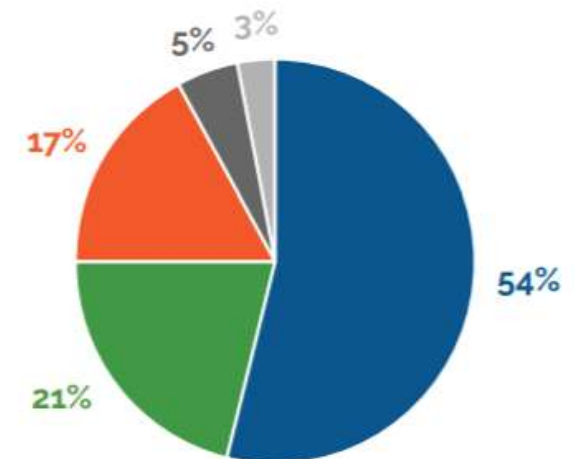


Corpsmember Demographics in 2018

Corpsmember Race and Ethnicity

● White
● Other
● Black, African-American
● American Indian, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander
● Asian

*15% Identified as Hispanic or Latino



Corpsmembers

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

Photo: Conservation Corps North Bay / California

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: WisCorps / Wisconsin

FHWA Partnership



Cooperative Agreement with FHWA Explained

The Corps Network and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are partnering to foster relationships and develop systems and resources that encourage state and regional transportation agencies to work with Service and Conservation Corps.

These local and state-level partnerships with Corps help transportation agencies complete critical transportation and recreational trail projects, and also help enhance career pathways for Corpsmembers.

Working together, The Corps Network and FHWA are producing a number of Corps and partner resources aimed to help support these partnerships:

- Corps best practice documents;
- Partnership toolkits;
- Partner trainings and workshops;
- Model contracts and agreements;
- Video series of corps project work;
- Transportation workforce pathway models.

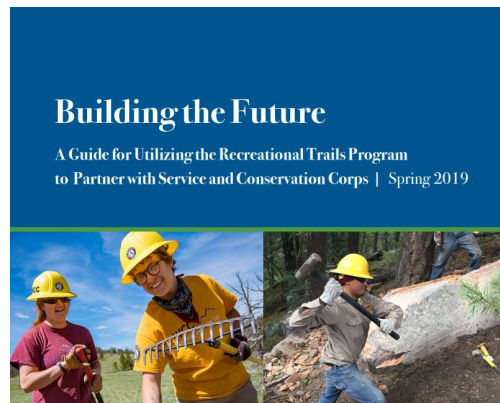
Photo: LA Conservation Corps / California

FHWA Partnership



Corps Partnership Guide

Produced in Spring 2019 in partnership with FHWA, the purpose of this guide is to acquaint state administrators and transportation agencies with the benefits of employing Corpsmembers on trail and transportation projects, and to encourage the use of Service and Conservation Corps in state-funded trail programs.



Partnership Guide features:

- 15+ Recreational Trail Program-funded project case studies performed by youth conservation corps;
- 15 Corps programs; 50+ public, private, and federal project sponsors;
- What is a Corps program and why partner with a youth service and conservation corps;
- DOT strategic plan priorities and goals

Photo: Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa / Minnesota

Recreational Trails Program



The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails for all trail uses.

- Usually administered through a State resource agency.
- Only FHWA program to support routine maintenance.

States solicit and select projects for funding.

States are encouraged to use Youth Corps.

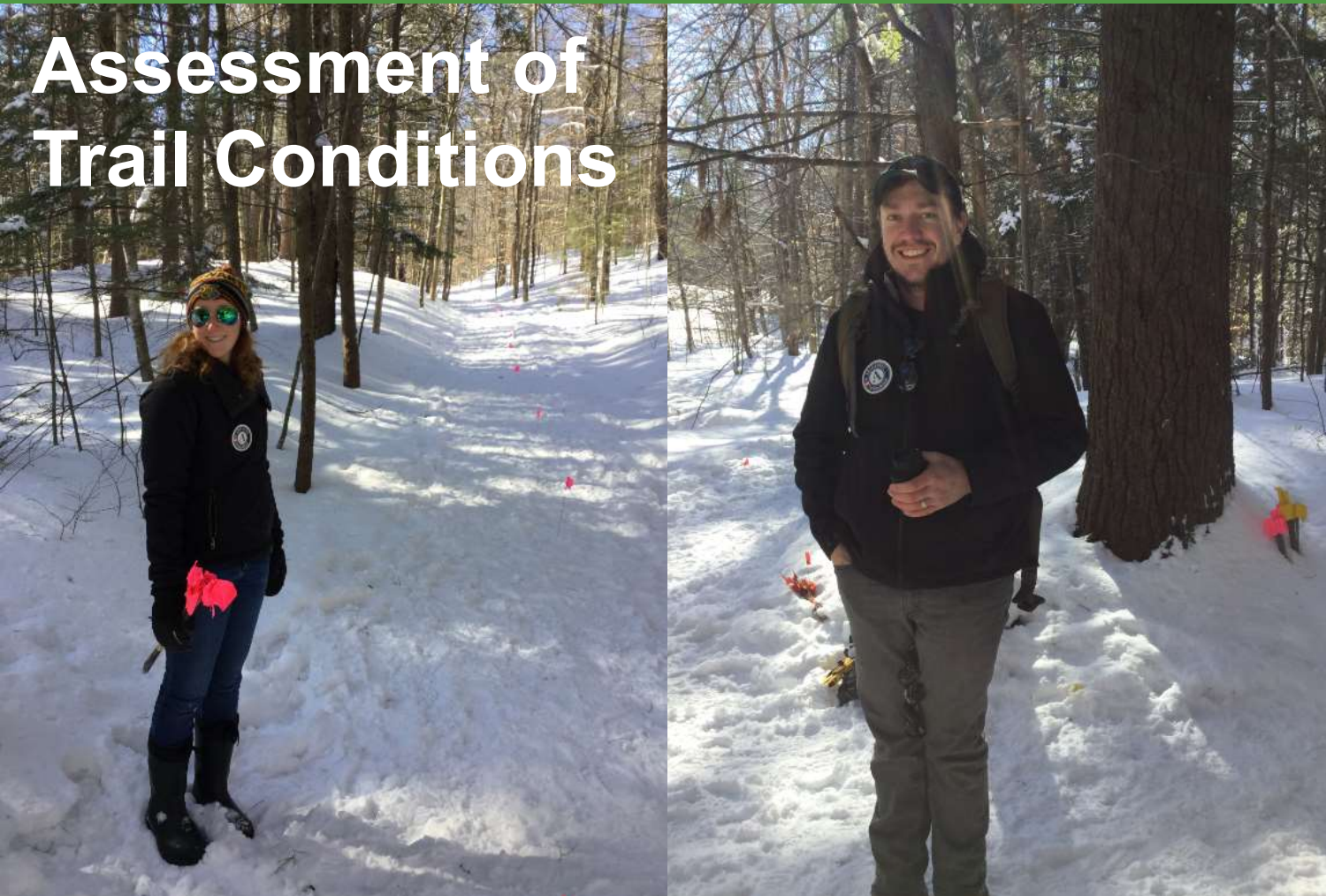
Represents a portion of the Federal motor fuel excise tax paid by OHV users (including snowmobilers).

Photo: Limitless Vistas / Louisiana

State-wide Trail Inventory / Maine

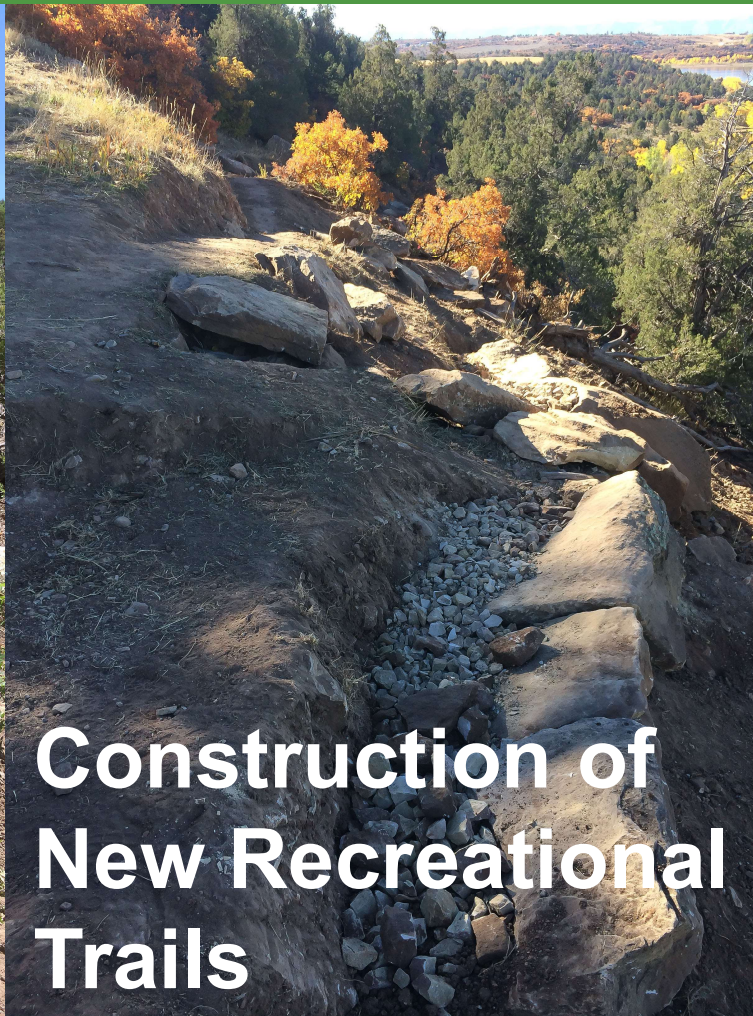


Assessment of Trail Conditions



Two AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards served in collaboration with a Maine CC Conservation Planner, Director, and an external evaluator to establish a system and means for assessing the current environmental conditions, qualities, and structures of Maine recreational trail systems.

McPhee Overlook Trail / Colorado



Construction of New Recreational Trails



The Corpsmembers performed very technical trail work involving the use of grip hoists to move large boulders to build massive switchbacks on steep slopes, as well as cutting the trail through a narrow sandstone canyon to connect to the Forest.

Bear Mountain / New Jersey



**Education for Safety
and Environmental
Protection**



Corpsmember work involved hardening the trail with more than 1,300 granite steps from the bottom of Bear Mountain to its summit, primarily done by hand. The project included building the first ADA-compliant section of the Appalachian Trail, and developing the *Trails for People*, the first outdoor interpretive exhibit aimed at teaching park visitors how trails are made.

Lassen Volcanic Park / California



Trail Maintenance and Restoration



The Corpsmembers widened of the trail and replaced rock structures. Over 6,000 sq. ft of dry-stone walls were reconstructed and replaced along a 1.8 mile stretch of the Lassen Peak Trail.

Next Steps



Photo: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps / New Mexico

Next Steps



TCN Trails and Transportation Page



- Documents and Resources
- Webinars & Presentations
- Recreational Trail Videos
- Listserv

Our Impact
Trails And Transportation
Outdoor Stewardship Week
Programs & Initiatives
Workforce Development

Building America's Infrastructure & Trail & Transportation Professionals

Many Corps across the country engage Corpsmembers in building and maintaining trails and other transportation infrastructure for walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, off-road motorized vehicle driving, and other uses. Corps perform quality work, routinely winning awards from the Coalition for Recreational Trails.

Trails and Transportation Listserv

The Corps Network manages regional listservs to facilitate the transfer of information among Corps and state trail and transportation administrators.

Midwest

IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Name:

Email:

Northeast

CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

Name:

Email:

South

AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

Name:

Email:

West

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

Name:

Email:

Photo: Montana Conservation Corps / Montana



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