



The
CorpsNetwork

Strengthening America through
service and conservation



Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development

August 2020

What is a Corps?

- **Service and workforce development programs**
- Operated by **nonprofits** or units of **state or local government**
- Engage in **public-private partnerships** on service projects focused on stewardship, community improvement
- Based on model of **Civilian Conservation Corps**

About The Corps Network

- National association of Service and Conservation Corps (**130 member organizations**)
- Based in Washington, DC (est. 1985)
- **Advocate** on behalf of Corps
- Provide Corps access to **funding and projects**
- Offer **expertise** in Corps operations, best practices



More Diverse Generation of Outdoor Professionals

- **25,000** Corpsmembers annually
 - 56% identify male | 43% identify female
 - ~50% identify as a person of color
- **Earn Certifications**
e.g. sawyer certification; wilderness first aid; Red Card; pesticide applicator;
- **Hands-On Experience**
Opportunity to work with outdoor professionals, learn about job opportunities and work environment
- **21st Century Skills**
Teamwork, communication, problem-solving
- **Ethic of Stewardship / Interest in the Outdoors**
Exposure to the outdoors, appreciation for the work that goes into maintaining recreation infrastructure



Beyond Trail Projects....

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
 - Wildland Fire Mitigation
 - Volunteer Field Management
 - Erosion and Flood Control
 - Storm Water Management
- **Snow**
 - Snow Removal and Emergency Services
- **Internship and Single Placements**
 - Trail Patrols
 - Trail Research
 - Interpretation and Educational Programming
 - Data Collection and Analysis
- **Habitat Restoration**
 - Invasive Species
 - Fencing
 - Water Quality and Species Monitoring
- **Historic Preservation**
 - Foundation Stabilization
 - Masonry
- **Neighborhoods and Community Spaces**
 - Pedestrian Walkways and Sidewalks
 - Construction of Park Facilities and Structures
 - Landscaping and Tree Care

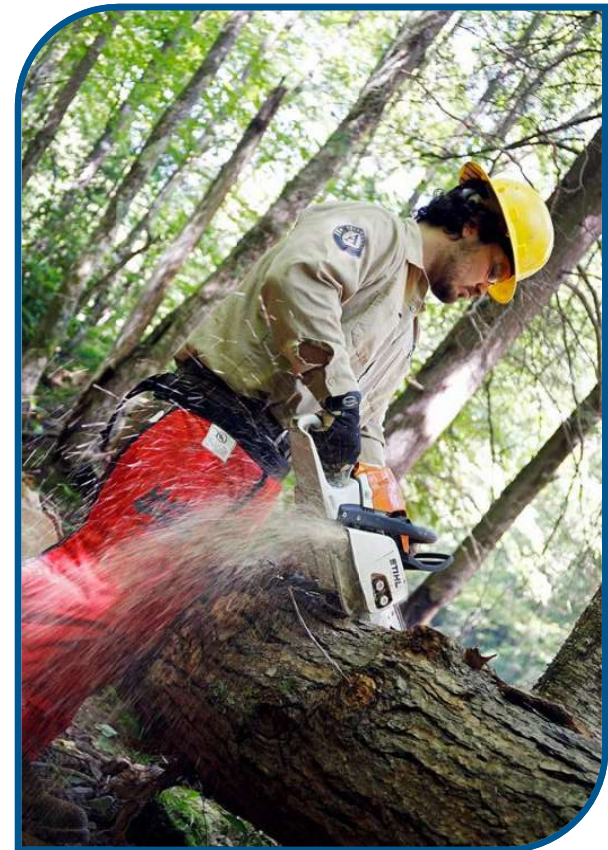
Maintaining & Improving Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure

- **Public-Private Partnerships**
 - Local, state and federal resource managers
 - Concessionaires
- **Why Choose Corps?**
 - Cost-effective
 - Insured, provide own supervision
 - Investing in next generation of employees and outdoor enthusiasts
- **Numbers Snapshot (FY19)**
 - >1.4 million acres of habitat restored
 - >66,900 acres of invasives treated
 - >13,000+ miles of trail built/restored
 - >2,300 miles of waterway restored
 - 1 millions trees planted



Contracting with a Service and 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





HIKE • BIKE • EXPLORE — SOUTH CAROLINA, FROM MOUNTAINS TO SEA

THE PALMETTO CONSERVATION CORPS



- Develops the conservation leaders of tomorrow through service and education, strengthens partnerships that address environmental challenges, and cultivates civically-engaged citizens.
- Completes work in trail building and maintenance, environmental education, and disaster response
- Two crews per year (2 crew leaders, 8 crew members)

TYPES OF SERVICE: TRAIL BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

- Flagging and route development
- Rock work
- Bridges and boardwalks
- Campgrounds
- Erosion control
- Invasive species
- Signing
- Chainsaw work
- Litter cleanup
- Public awareness/ education



SIGNATURE PROJECTS: STUMPHOUSE

- Major mountain bike park in Oconee County, SC
- Funding from SC RTP
- Very technical trail
- Corps participated in initial corridor clearing and grading



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SIGNATURE PROJECTS: ELEVATED BOARDWALK

- 4 year project
- Repurposed old Railroad trestles
- 0.75 miles long
- First suspension bridge on the Palmetto Trail



Equity Through Trail and Conservation Education

Examples of RTP Education Grant Uses:

- Trail planning, design, and construction courses
- Certifications (Wilderness First Aid, Leave No Trace)
- Environmental and conservation workshops
- Trail equipment safety courses, such as chainsaw, rigging, mechanized equipment, etc.
- Speaker or trainer fees and expenditures
- Designing and developing trail brochures, websites, and maps
- Trail interpretation and signage
- Trail patrols to monitor trail use, safety, environmental impacts, or provide emergency services



[Forest Service Home](#)[About the Agency](#)[Contact the National Office](#)[Inside the FS](#)

Learning Center

A Forest for Every Classroom

[Apply by December 6 for the next Len Foote Hike Inn Free Teacher Workshop: March 6-7, 2020!](#)

Across the nation, both formal and non-formal educators are finding that rooting their educational programming deeply in the local community, both physically and thematically, is an effective strategy for achieving high priority goals. Whether in schools, parks, forests or on the Appalachian Trail, as participants have become actively engaged in studying and responsibly addressing relevant local issues, the results have included higher levels of student engagement, stronger community support for education and conservation, and student civic engagement. [Download factsheet](#)





Appalachian Trail Conservancy Education RTP Project Examples



State: Virginia

Project: Ridgerunners

Years: 2014-2015

\$10,000.00 of support for Ridgerunners, seasonal employees hired to provide boots on the ground education to keep trail visitors and the trail itself, safe.



State: North Carolina

Project: Safety and Education for
Sawyer Certification

Years: Multiple

Training for Chainsaw and Crosscut
sawyer certification, and Wilderness
First Aid certification for Hike Leaders



State: North Carolina

Project: Education Workshop

Year: 2020

\$5,000 to support a workshop for educators focused on Place Based Service Learning.

Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development Pathways



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CCC Corps Facts:

- Established in 1976 by Governor Jerry Brown and modeled after the original federal Civilian Conservation Corps
- 1,529 Corpsmember positions
- Between the ages of 18 and 25, or Veterans up to the age of 29
- The CCC is about 74% men, 26% women
- Since 1976, the CCC has provided 74.1 million hours of natural resource work throughout the state
- Working for more than 250 local, state and federal agencies each year



Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development Pathways



CalTrans District 8 & 9 – Inland Empire

- 19,417 hours contracted annually for Highway Maintenance
- 8,100 hours contracted annually for Storm Water Projects
- 16,000 hours contracted annually on restoration projects with Caltrans Environmental Stewardship & Biological Monitoring department.
- Internship Program - 9,300 hours annually contracted
- Tree Crew Trainee- 1,693 hours annually contracted



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CalTrans Agreement and Contracting

- The CCC Trainee program is partially funded by the State
- Functions under an inter-agency agreement at a state-wide level; CCC commits to providing a certain amount of Corpsmember hours to CalTrans for project work in return for funding from CalTrans
- Each CCC region has its own local contracts for CCC intern and last a couple of years
- Agreements are a minimum of 6 months; Projects are typically 1-year but can extend to 3 years



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CalTrans Agreement and Contracting

The California Conservation Corps has two types of Contracts:

Statewide Contract:

- Highway Maintenance
- Storm Water Clearance
- Trainee Contracts (Tree Crew, Electrician, Maintenance Mechanic, and Bridge Painter)

Local Contracts

- Internships
- Mitigation
- Watering



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Corpsmember Transitions into CalTrans Careers:

- CalTrans gets Corpsmembers qualified on equipment and provides the training
- CCC hired a "navigator" or educational liaison - that makes sure CalTrans job applications are correct and align with what CalTrans is looking for.
- Corpsmembers can get "career credits/points" for being in the CCC for job announcements; these points are added to their state applications for jobs





The Corps Network

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