



The  
CorpsNetwork

**FY22**  
Annual Report



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**PHOTOS:** ABOVE – Northwoods Conservation Corps (VT) member James serves in Willoughby State Forest (Jason A. Frank Photography). FACING PAGE – Heart of the City Neighborhoods (NY) Corpsmember at a workshop with the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (Charnice McMillion-Martin).



# The Corps Network

## About The Corps Network

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Established in 1985, The Corps Network is the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps.

Our membership of more than 140 Corps across the United States provides young adults and veterans the opportunity to serve our country through projects on public lands and in communities.

The Corps Network supports Corps through advocacy, providing access to funding and project opportunities, and by offering expertise in Corps operations and programming.

## Letter from Our President & CEO

Dear Friends,

This past year offered an opportunity to start fresh. After experiencing a pandemic, and witnessing its uneven effects, many of us have emerged with a sharper focus on our priorities and a renewed commitment to address inequities.

I am proud to report The Corps Network received \$12.8 million in new AmeriCorps funding in 2022, helping engage thousands in national service. This investment significantly expands our Opportunity Youth Service Initiative, creating access for more young adults to overcome barriers to work and school while making a difference in their communities.

With support from the National Park Foundation, we also launched a new partnership with the National Park Service to identify Corps projects, primarily at small and mid-sized parks near urban centers. This initiative will help improve critical urban parks while providing local youth a path to rewarding careers in resource management.

The path to a job or education can be difficult, particularly for those without a safety net. Made possible with generous donations, 2022 marked the first full year of the Patricia Sagawa Corpsmember Relief Fund, which provides essential payments to those facing financial challenges during their service. We are grateful to offer this opportunity: with over 1,300 applications so far, it is clear the need is great.

While we have yet to see direct federal investment in a "Climate Corps," regional Climate Corps programs continue to grow; we proudly added nine new member organizations. In addition, the Civilian Climate Corps was included in the President's budget proposals and domestic policy agenda. There is also funding in recent legislation that can support Corps projects. Looking ahead, we are more committed than ever to providing all young people a chance to serve.

*Mary Ellen Sprenkel*

Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
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

Every young person in America has access to a meaningful Corps experience and an opportunity to make a positive impact on their lives and in their communities.

[corpsnetwork.org](https://corpsnetwork.org)  
[@TheCorpsNetwork](https://twitter.com/TheCorpsNetwork)



# FY22 Board of Directors

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Center for American Progress

**Bruce Saito**

California Conservation Corps

**Paul Schmitz**

Leading Inside Out

**Mary Ellen Sprenkel – EX OFFICIO**

The Corps Network

**PHOTOS:** ABOVE – AmeriCorps member with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (NM) on a historic preservation project. FACING PAGE - Operation Fresh Start (WI) participated in the Dane County Parks Prairie Seed Challenge. Seeds are processed and replanted to create more prairies throughout Dane County (Melissa Behling).



# Corps in Numbers

## Membership\*

- 825 Total Member Organizations
- 147 Full Members
  - 132 *Service and Conservation Corps*
  - 15 *Emerging Corps*
- 57 Affiliate Members
- 621 AmeriCorps Basic Members

\*Learn about membership at [bit.ly/TCNJoin](https://bit.ly/TCNJoin)

## Corpsmember Race, Ethnicity

- 57% White
- 14% Black
- 19% Other
- 3% American Indian
- 5% Asian
- 2% Pacific Islander
- 18% Latino, Hispanic

## Enrollment

- 22,195 Total Enrollment
- 53% Identify Male
- 44% Identify Female
- 3% Gender Non-Conforming or Gender Expansive



**12,373**  
Industry-recognized certifications earned by Corpsmembers



**937**  
Corpsmembers who earned a high school diploma or GED while enrolled in a Corps program



**3,204**  
Average number of Corpsmembers covered through The Corps Network Health Insurance program each month

## Conservation, Recreation, and Environmental Outcomes



**445,021**  
Acres of habitat restored



**623,626**  
Trees planted



**124,206**  
Acres of invasive species treated



**93,871**  
Acres of hazardous fire fuels treated



**12,791**  
Miles of trail built or improved



**2,892**  
Miles of waterway restored



**14,908**  
Tons of waste recycled, properly discarded



**2,321**  
Number of homes weatherized

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## Community Outcomes



**1,946,743**  
Square feet of graffiti removed



**227,665**  
Volunteer service hours generated



**348**  
Disasters responded to (including >300 wildfires)



**108,839**  
Community members served by Corps educational programs



**337**  
Historic structures restored



**920**  
Community spaces improved



**1.25 million**

Linear feet of fence constructed or restored

PHOTO: Western CO Conservation Corps

**758**

Housing units constructed for people in need

PHOTO: Louisiana Green Corps



**3,036**

Water quality tests performed

PHOTO: X-Cel Conservation Corps

**111**

Pollinator projects completed

PHOTO: YouthBuild Louisville



**51,039**

Pounds of food grown

PHOTO: Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

**77,762**

Sandbags prepped and placed

PHOTO: California Conservation Corps

# Programs & Partnerships



**PHOTO:** A Corpsmember with Appalachian Mountain Club building a rock cairn above the tree line on the Mt. Franklin summit spur off of the Appalachian Trail in the Northern Presidential Range of the White Mountain National Forest, NH (Corey David Photography).





# Education Award Program Supported by AmeriCorps

Since 2000, The Corps Network has operated an AmeriCorps Education Award Program (EAP). Through partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, EAP members engage in environmental, public lands improvement, and disaster response and mitigation service projects. Members also have the opportunity to gain valuable certifications and job and life skills. In FY22, EAP engaged **2,027 AmeriCorps members** serving in **31 Corps across 38 states**. These AmeriCorps members had the potential to collectively earn over **\$5.4 million** in AmeriCorps Education Awards.

## Project Outcomes Snapshot

<b>192,712</b>	Trees planted
<b>120,282</b>	Acres of public land treated
<b>51,167</b>	Acres treated for flood/erosion control
<b>19,034</b>	Acres of invasives cleared
<b>287</b>	Disasters responded to

## Training/Certification Snapshot

<b>222</b>	Received training for green jobs
<b>176</b>	Gained employment during service or within 90 days of completion
<b>84</b>	Educational programs held to address community needs

### Impact Snapshots

**ABOVE LEFT:** Onondaga Earth Corps EAP members (NY) held a tree pruning demonstration.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps EAP members (MN) led a workshop to treat headstones damaged by vandalism.

"I used to help take care of my siblings and would miss a lot of work, but [the Corps] helped me see that while I am working, I get to make money for college. I never thought that was possible." – **Jonathan M.**  
Sequoia Community Corps (CA)





## Opportunity Youth Service Initiative Supported by AmeriCorps

Launched in 2013, The Corps Network’s Opportunity Youth Service Initiative (OYSI) is an AmeriCorps program that connects education and conservation service opportunities to young adults facing economic challenges and other barriers to work and school. While gaining work experience in community conservation projects, OYSI members develop job skills, earn certifications, complete high school requirements, and receive assistance to advance their education or career. During the 2021-2022 program year, OYSI engaged **647 AmeriCorps members** across **16 Corps and 18 states**. These members had the potential to collectively earn over **\$1.78 million** in AmeriCorps Education Awards.

### Project Outcomes Snapshot

<b>1,021,591</b>	Acres surveyed, mapped
<b>8,293</b>	Acres of public land improved
<b>1,231</b>	Miles of trail/waterway treated
<b>518</b>	Acres of fire fuel reduction
<b>120</b>	Housing units weatherized

### Training/Certification Snapshot

<b>169</b>	Received training for green jobs
<b>166</b>	Gained employment during service or within 90 days
<b>30</b>	Earned high school diploma or GED in service or within 90 days

### Impact Snapshots

**ABOVE LEFT:** OYSI members with Green City Force constructed a high tunnel in Brooklyn to grow fresh food.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** OYSI AmeriCorps members with green | spaces in Chattanooga, TN, plant trees.

“[We] enjoy and look forward to serving with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps. They are an excellent resource and we will do all in our power to continue this working relationship!”

**- Colleen M.**  
City of Albuquerque





## Gulf Operations

**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 Corps to engage local young people in projects to protect and restore coastal areas in the five states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. GulfCorps received a new four-year award from NOAA of \$11.9 million in September 2021. The Corps Network’s primary role in GulfCorps is to provide workforce development trainings and resources to build Corpsmembers’ professional development skills and prepare them for post-program placement in environmental and conservation jobs.

### GulfCorps Snapshot

72,819	Project hours
18,140	Training hours
848	Acres of wetland improved
744	Acres of upland improved

### Impact Snapshots

**ABOVE LEFT:** Ronald (Rolo) Henderson, Conservation Corps of the Forgotten and Emerald Coasts (FL) – Rolo received many certifications, allowing him to transition to a job with North Florida Land Stewardship Program as a Conservation Practitioner.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Matthew Britz, Louisiana Conservation Corps (LA) – Matthew obtained certifications and training that helped him secure a position with Intertek PSI as a Geotechnical Engineering Technician.

### Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Technical Assistance

Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and MDEQ, The Corps Network provides support to CLIMB Community Development Corporation to engage Corpsmembers in restoring Biloxi Flats, a coastal savanna in DeSoto National Forest.

### MDEQ Snapshot

2,434	Project hours
1,698	Gallons of herbicide applied
366	Surveys completed
25	Acres mapped



## Delaware River Climate Corps Training a Climate Change-Ready Workforce

FY22 saw the launch of the Delaware River Climate Corps (DRCC) – an initiative supported by the William Penn Foundation to expand Corps programming within the Delaware River watershed across Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The goal is to **enhance climate resiliency and strengthen green career pathways**. TCN supported the creation of eight new programs and the expansion of two existing Corps. Corpsmembers are largely hired from underserved communities and learn skills in landscaping, horticulture, home weatherization, wetland restoration, environmental mapping, rooftop solar installation, and more. All ten pilots are slated to complete by March 2023. **The programs collectively enrolled 150 Corpsmembers who earned an average hourly stipend of \$14.76.**

### Impact Snapshots

**ABOVE LEFT:** Upper Delaware River Conservation Corps (NY): Corpsmembers assessed 1,100 culverts, which led to further improvements.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Trenton Climate Corps (NJ): Corpsmembers harvested 300 pounds of honey from local hives. Proceeds of honey sales help support programming.

**RIGHT:** Reading Climate Corps (PA): Corpsmembers planted 1,200 native saplings to mitigate flooding near the site of an aging dam. Pictured are Crew Leader William and Program Manager Haydeelin.

**NOT PICTURED:** Tabitha Corps Chester (PA): Corpsmembers cleared more than 80 blocked stormwater inlets, helping reduce flooding.





## Accreditation Promoting Corps Excellence

To be recognized by The Corps Network's Accreditation program, a Corps must undergo an in-depth review of its operations and programming. 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.

### Completed Accreditation in 2022

- AmeriCorps St. Louis (MO)
- Franklin's Promise Coalition (FL)
- Heart of Oregon Corps (OR)
- Student Conservation Association (National)
- The Sustainability Institute (SC)

### Renewed Accreditation in 2022

- California Conservation Corps (CA)
- Larimer County Conservation Corps (CO)
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (NM)

## Patricia Sagawa Corpsmember Relief Fund

Supporting the young  
people serving our  
country

FY22 marked the first full year of the Patricia Sagawa Corpsmember Relief Fund. Made possible by donations – including generous support from Shirley Sagawa, a member of our Board of Directors and daughter of the late Patricia Sagawa, the fund's inspiration – this program provides financial support to young adults facing barriers that could prevent them from completing their service in a Corps. Corpsmembers can request funds for essentials, such as childcare, clothing, medical bills, transportation, and utilities. In FY22, the fund **distributed thousands of dollars in relief payments to more than 50 Corpsmembers.**



LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS (CA)



OPERATION FRESH START (WI)

## Workforce Development

The Corps Network helps Corps provide young people with meaningful service experiences and quality training that can lead to fulfilling careers. Here are updates on how TCN advanced workforce development opportunities at Corps in FY22.

### Arboriculture/Urban Forestry

TCN partnered with American Forests to offer the Arboriculture Pre-Apprenticeship Curriculum to Corps. Geared towards those who face barriers to employment, participants obtain skills to enter tree care or related fields.

### Google Professional Certificates

TCN partnered with Jobs for the Future (JFF) to offer Corpsmembers IT training via Google Professional Certificates. The curriculum is targeted at populations underrepresented in tech. A pilot with five Corps was successful and will expand in 2023.

### Landscape Management

TCN worked with the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) to launch a pre-apprenticeship program to prepare young adults for employment or the Department of Labor-approved Landscape Management Apprenticeship.

### Better Buildings Workforce Accelerator

Through the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Workforce Accelerator, TCN worked with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on an analysis of energy retrofit training programs and certifications for Corps alums.

### Water Management Career Pathway

TCN began offering the Center for Watershed Protection Clean Water Curriculum, which seeks to provide underemployed individuals with training for the stormwater industry. TCN aims to pilot a program at Civic Works (MD).

### LiUNA

TCN and the Laborer's International Union of North America (LiUNA) are launching a building trades career pathway at Operation Fresh Start (WI) and Civic Works (MD). Those who complete the program will connect with local labor unions.



## Moving Forward Initiative

Launched in 2017 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Corps Network's Moving Forward Initiative (MFI) seeks to confront racism and advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Corps community. Failure to address systems and knowledge deficits that limit opportunities for Corpsmembers would be antithetical to The Corps Network's mission. MFI activities from FY22 include:

- Delivering a three-part virtual series that focused on helping Corps develop a **racial equity strategic plan**.
- The expansion of Corpsmember Liberation & Leadership (CLL), a workshop designed for Corpsmembers that **explores the impact of systemic racism on the individual**. Participants examine how they have absorbed negative messages, and learn how to practice new, life-giving patterns. Staff at six Corps participated in the CLL Train-the-Trainer workshop series. In particular, CLL expanded through GulfCorps, where it is now part of the curriculum for all members. All GulfCorps staff are also eligible to receive a Racial Equity Certification.
- The original CLL curriculum, comprised of seven lessons, is being enhanced with **deeper learning on trauma and healing**.
- Several Corps have completed a **Racial Equity Certification** through Soul Focused Group. This certification can help prepare them to begin introducing racial equity curriculum into their Corps.
- Soul Focused Group is adapting the Sending the Right Signal workshop, which is a precursor to CLL that provides a deeper understanding of race and racism, into a workshop specifically tailored for Corps. Its purpose is to help individuals develop **common language and historical knowledge** before they begin CLL.



# Federal Partnerships

## National Park Service

### Maintenance Action Team Collaboration

With support from the National Park Foundation, The Corps Network launched a partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) in June 2022 to work with regional NPS Maintenance Action Team (MAT) staff to scope Corps-appropriate projects at small and medium-sized parks that have been particularly affected by staffing and budget cuts. The goal is to **engage Corps in addressing backlogged work and exposing Corpsmembers to careers in resource management.**

Through reviewing documents and conducting interviews and site visits, a team of TCN employees are producing detailed reports of project opportunities at NPS sites across the country. In 2022, the team assisted NPS staff at **17 sites across three regions.** NPS intends to allocate an estimated \$3 million in FY23 for Corps-appropriate MAT projects; the reports produced by TCN will help inform important budget decisions.

## Northeast Region Youth Programs

The Corps Network and NPS have a partnership to support a Youth Program Assistant position for the park service's Northeast Region (Region 1). This relationship facilitates partnerships between Corps and parks to address project priorities. In FY22, Region 1 **hired 2,185 youth and young adults** and engaged more than **23,800 youth** across northeast parks, spanning Virginia to Maine. In addition, youth volunteers provided **21,394 volunteer service hours** to the NPS and partner organizations. Member organizations of The Corps Network were critical to these outcomes.

**PHOTO:** Utah Conservation Corps members combating invasive species at Zion National Park.



# Cooperative Agreement

The Corps Network has a national cooperative agreement with the National Park Service that provides a mechanism for Corps to partner with the NPS on projects. In FY22, The Corps Network was awarded \$799,000 in federal funds to support projects conducted by four Corps across seven national parks.



## Appalachian Mountain Club

*Acadia National Park (Maine); Minute Man National Historic Park (Massachusetts); Valley Forge National Historic Park (Pennsylvania)*

**Projects:** Trail maintenance, vegetation management, surveying, data collection, retaining wall construction, bridge construction, installation of drainage structures.



## BoriCorps / Franklin's Promise Coalition

*San Juan National Historic Site (Puerto Rico); Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida)*

**Projects:** Turf restoration, native plant installation, debris removal, fence and sign installation.



## Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps

*Voyageurs National Park (Minnesota)*

**Projects:** Painting and the repair and restoration of historic windows, siding, and roofing.



## Wyoming Conservation Corps

*Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming)*

**Projects:** Invasive species removal, native plant installation, seed collection, surveying and mapping, plant nursery work.



## U.S. Department of Transportation

Through a cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), The Corps Network is helping expand transportation career pathways and encourage partnerships between Corps and state and regional transportation agencies. Among other activities, The Corps Network is producing informational resources and working with trail programs and state agencies to identify infrastructure-related job training opportunities for Corpsmembers.

**Trails and Transportation Resource Library** TCN continues to expand a digital library of resources related to fostering successful partnerships between Corps and transportation agencies. In 2022, TCN produced two comprehensive guides: one focused on how state and federal trail and resource management agencies can use federal trail and transportation programs to work with Corps, and one focused on how agencies can partner with “Affinity Crews” at Corps to engage traditionally underrepresented groups in trail work.

## U.S. Forest Service

The Corps Network partners with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to help place participants in the Resource Assistants Program (RAP): a rigorous, immersive, paid internship operated by USFS. The Corps Network collaborates with Accredited Corps to recruit a diverse pool of applicants. In FY22, The Corps Network recruited with Utah Conservation Corps to engage three Resource Assistants at Chippewa National Forest (Cass Lake, MN). Among other activities, Resource Assistants provided community engagement programming, gained knowledge about forestry and timber sales, and participated in maintenance work on Forest Service lands.



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Corps Network has a national cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that provides a mechanism for Corps to partner with USFWS on critical projects. In FY22, The Corps Network supported USFWS projects completed by three Corps.

**Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative:** More than 10 members served as individual placements across the Southwest. These positions focused on engaging local communities, developing interpretive and educational programming, and supporting refuge operations.

**Conservation Corps of Long Beach:** The crew received a combined total of 1,100 hours of hands-on restoration experience and training while assisting Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge with vegetation management, trail restoration, creating nests for migratory birds, and tagging and monitoring sea turtles.

**California Conservation Corps:** Corpsmembers supported the maintenance and biology teams at Ellicott Slough and Salinas National Wildlife Refuges. Projects included invasive tree removal, vegetation management, creating firebreaks, mapping invasive weeds, and resetting sign and fence posts. All this work helps to protect an endangered species of salamander.

**PHOTO: FACING PAGE** – Urban Corps of San Diego County (CA) members learn about working with concrete while pouring a new sidewalk. American Conservation Experience (National) AmeriCorps members serve on the Pacific Crest Trail in the Angeles National Forest. **ABOVE** – Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CA) members serve at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge.

# Events & Awards



**PHOTO:** An AmeriCorps member with American Conservation Experience (National) participates in invasive species removal at The Corps Network 2022 Great Outdoors Day of Service in Washington, DC.



## 2022 Virtual National Conference We Are the Civilian Climate Corps

Held April 4 – 6, The Corps Network’s 37th annual National Conference was virtual to promote COVID-19 safety. Roughly 700 people participated, making it our **second largest National Conference ever**. The theme of the event, *We Are the Civilian Climate Corps*, sought to emphasize how the existing Corps community has been – and will continue to be – working to engage the next generation of conservation professionals in helping build more resilient, sustainable communities.

### Thank you to our 2023 National Conference Sponsors

**TITLE** Delaware North

#### **GOLD**

Cigna, Willis Towers Watson  
NOAA  
USDOT Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Forest Service

#### **SILVER**

Bureau of Land Management  
Ijaz Group  
NT Concepts  
The Corps Coop

#### **BRONZE**

Conservation United  
Interior Federal Credit Union  
Metamorpho-sys

National Park Foundation  
NALP  
Service Year Alliance

**PHOTOS: ABOVE** – 2023 Project of the Year winners. Left to Right: Austin Civilian Climate Corps; OysterCorps; Pallet Partnership. Learn more on the next page.



## 2022 Corpsmembers of the Year

[Martha Alva Velasquez](#), Civicorps

[Kalen Anderson](#), Appalachian Conservation Corps

[Aaron Conner](#), Southeast Conservation Corps

[Brianna Free](#), California Conservation Corps



## 2022 Projects of the Year

### **Austin Civilian Conservation Corps**

American YouthWorks

The Austin City Council created the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) – a workforce program to put Austinites impacted by COVID-19 **back to work**. American YouthWorks (AYW) launched an ACCC crew to complete projects focused on conservation and expanding outdoor access in traditionally underserved communities.



### **OysterCorps**

Conservation Corps of the Forgotten & Emerald Coasts (CCFEC)

CCFEC launched OysterCorps as a training program aimed at **coastal resilience, oyster habitat restoration, and economic diversification**. Since the program launched in 2020, Corpsmembers have collected over 18,000 tons of oyster shells, planted over 24,000 native plants, and grown over 21,000 farm-raised oysters.



### **Pallet Partnership**

LA Conservation Corps, Civicorps, San Jose Conservation Corps

California has the highest state population of unhoused persons. Throughout 2021, LA Conservation Corps (LACC), San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) and Civicorps worked with the company Pallet to build **more than 960 tiny home shelters** for people experiencing homelessness. This project exemplifies how Corps can collaborate to create an impact across a larger region.

**PHOTOS:** Corpsmembers of the Year in order listed at the top of the page.



## 2022 Great Outdoors Day of Service Celebrating Service on Our Public Lands

After a two-year hiatus, The Corps Network's Great Outdoors Day of Service returned in June 2022. Launched in 2014, the Day of Service brings together the Corps community and supporters to volunteer at a national park site. The event celebrates service and seeks to raise awareness about the critical role of service in maintaining public lands and waters. In 2022, more than 100 volunteers, including Corpsmembers and staff from eight different Corps, gathered at Fort Dupont Park in Southeast Washington, DC, to remove invasive species, clear debris, and perform other maintenance projects. Distinguished guests included senior officials from AmeriCorps and several federal resource management agencies.

## 2022 Corps Rendezvous Learning and Networking

In partnership with Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), The Corps Network hosted the first in-person Corps Rendezvous since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event brought together 60 emerging leaders from the Corps movement to discuss topics related to field management and Corpsmember development. Convening at AMC's Highland Center in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest, Corps staff took the opportunity to recharge, learn, and grow.

**PHOTOS:** Left - Volunteers at The Corps Network 2022 Great Outdoors Day of Service. Right - Corps staff and members of The Corps Network staff at the 2022 Corps Rendezvous in New Hampshire.

# Government Relations



**PHOTO:** AmeriCorps member Charlie with Montana Conservation Corps constructs a fence for the Bureau of Land Management near Helena, MT. This area, The North Hills, is a local public lands access site that traditionally gets heavy use by hikers and hunters. It is also part of a grazing allotment. There was a fire here in 2019 that destroyed fencing. The crew helped construct 500 feet of wooden jack legs and around 3/4 mile of barbed wire fencing and braces.





## Budget and Appropriations

### Budget Reconciliation

- The House passed the Build Back Better Act in November of 2021, which contained around \$30 billion for a Civilian Climate Corps that would go through the Department of Labor, AmeriCorps, and federal land management agencies. After stalling in the Senate, the bill ultimately did not pass.
- In late July 2022, H.R. 5376 was introduced – a new reconciliation bill that would address climate, healthcare, and inflation. Known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the bill devoted around \$369 billion to clean energy and climate change programs. While the CCC was not included in the text, TCN identified a **substantial amount of potential Corps project funding** in the bill, which was signed into law.

### Appropriations

President Biden signed the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023” into law in December 2022. This \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill funds the federal government for the 2023 fiscal year. Of note to Corps, the law includes:

- **\$1.3 billion** for AmeriCorps; a \$162 million increase from FY22.
- **\$13.8 billion** for the Department of Labor; \$652 million increase from FY22.
- **\$14.7 billion** for the Department of the Interior; \$574 million increase from FY22.
- **\$3.9 billion** (non-fire) for the U.S. Forest Service; \$222.7 million increase from FY22.

**PHOTO:** Corpsmembers with the California Conservation Corps at the Oak Fire (Axel Rene Rodriguez).



## Legislation and Partnerships

### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

In November 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending, with \$550 billion going to new investments and programs. TCN put together a document that reduces the law to 129 pages to highlight **sections with potential Corps-friendly funding streams**.

### Administration Engagement and Partnerships

- TCN worked with the Biden Administration on the **Civilian Climate Corps** (CCC), regularly engaging with the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy as well as the main departments and agencies involved in the creation of the CCC.
- The Corps Network is a lead in the **Partnership for the Civilian Climate Corps** (PCCC), a non-partisan collection of national, state, and local organizations working toward implementing a national service Corps to tackle climate change.
- On behalf of Corps programs, TCN submitted comments to the Federal Register in response to AmeriCorps' request for feedback. These comments regarded recordkeeping, match, and background checks.
- TCN developed **draft Secretarial Orders** on Youth Engagement for the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.
- TCN developed a proposal for the Department of Defense about a partnership between the military and Corps to **bolster recruitment** numbers in both spheres.



## Events

### Climate Action Summit

In March 2022, TCN convened a **Climate Action Summit in Washington, DC**. Among other topics, sessions at the Summit looked at options for funding climate service projects; opportunities to engage new partners; priority projects to address; barriers to expanding Corps; and the necessity of centering equity and environmental justice in efforts to meet the goals of a Civilian Climate Corps.

Participants at the Summit included leaders from Corps, as well as representatives from the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and numerous federal agencies and departments. The Summit also provided an opportunity to celebrate successes. Among others, Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ed Markey (D-MA), as well as members of their staff, were recognized for their leadership on efforts to fund national service and a Civilian Climate Corps.

### Public Lands Roundtable Meetings

In a follow-up to the Climate Action Summit, TCN held meetings with several Corps directors and federal agency staff in mid-September. This forum allowed Corps and agencies to **discuss challenges and problem-solve**. The meetings focused on project funding, Corpsmember recruitment and career pathways, and a living wage for Corpsmembers. The agencies expressed a commitment to working with TCN on the challenges presented.

**PHOTO: FACING PAGE** – Student Conservation Association. **ABOVE** – Texas Conservation Corps, a program of American YouthWorks (Lisa Woods Photography).

## Statement of Financial Position

### As of September 30, 2022

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,540,200
Accounts Receivable	232,034
Grants Receivable	2,890,875
Prepaid Expenses	49,389
Total Other Current Expenses	5,712,499
 <b>Long-Term Assets</b>	
Furniture and Fixtures	67,581
Lease Improvements	34,187
Accumulated Depreciation	(48,276)
Accumulated Amortization	(13,897)
Security Deposit	44,144
Total Long-Term Assets	83,739
 <b>Total Assets</b>	 <b>\$ 5,796,238</b>
 <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Account Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 1,906,382
Deferred Revenue	11,055
Total Current Liabilities	1,917,437
Non-Current Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	114,576
	2,032,013
 <b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	1,863,981
Restricted	1,900,244
Total Net Assets	3,764,225
 <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	 <b>\$ 5,796,238</b>

*Unaudited*

## Statement of Activities

### For the Year Ended September 30, 2022

	<b>Period Ending</b> <b>9/30/22</b>
	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	
Core Revenue - HQ	
Grant Revenue	\$ 3,610,163
Membership Dues	437,344
National Conference Revenue	132,289
Health Insurance Commissions	71,312
Accreditation Fee Revenue	38,565
Donations	112,044
Other Income	1,500
<b>Total Core Revenue - HQ</b>	<b>4,403,218</b>
Grant Revenue - Passthrough	6,403,680
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>10,806,899</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Expenditures Without Indirect Cost	
Personnel Expenses	2,417,284
Contracted Services	638,942
Meeting Expenses	154,152
Office Expenses	299,931
Rent Expenses	256,392
Travel Expenses	95,011
<b>Total Core Expenses - HQ</b>	<b>3,861,711</b>
Subgrantee Expenses - Passthrough	6,403,680
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,265,392</b>
<b>Net Change in Assets</b>	<b>\$ 541,507</b>

*Unaudited*



## Credits

Thank you to all the Corps that contributed photos for this document.

- **Front Cover Photo:** New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg members pose with a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) statue. 2023 marks the 90th anniversary of the CCC.
- **Back Cover Photo:** San Jose Conservation Corps
- **Above:** EarthCorps
- **Right (Top Row):** Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Heart of Oregon Corps
- **Right (Middle Row):** Utah Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- **Right (Bottom Row):** Northwest Youth Corps, Mile High Youth Corps

## Icons

All icons adapted from graphics from [flaticon.com](https://flaticon.com).

### Page 4

**Certifications:** Freepik; **Diplomas:** kerismaker; **Health Insurance:** Freepik

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**Icons 1, 5, 14:** Smashicons

**Icons 2:** Gajah Mada

**Icons 3, 4, 11:** Freepik

**Icon 6:** kerismaker

**Icon 7:** Aranagraphics

**Icon 8:** Surang

**Icon 9:** Good Ware

**Icon 10:** Kirill Kazachek

**Icon 12:** Alkhalifi design

**Icon 13:** Bert Flint





# The Corps Network

1275 K Street, NW - Suite 1050  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 737 - 6272