

Opportunities for Military Installations to Collaborate with Conservation Corps Thursday, January 17 – 1:00-2:00pm EST



**The
CorpsNetwork**

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Webinar Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. History and Corps 101
3. 21st Century Conservation Corps
4. Partnering With Corps
5. Questions?



Part I:

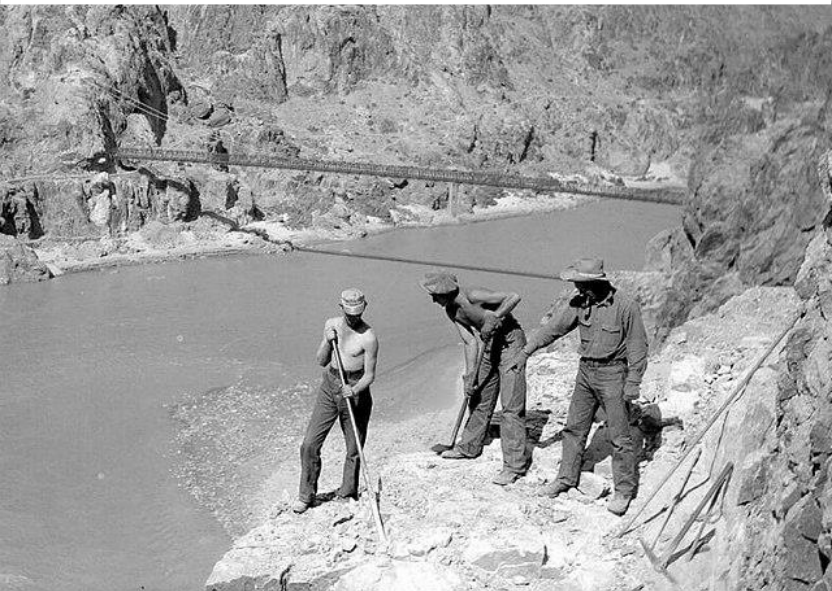
History & Corps 101

What is 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.
- We support Corps by advocating on their behalf, providing access to funding and projects, and offering expertise in Corps operations and programming.
- Based in Washington, DC



A History Stretching Back Over 80 Years



Modern Corps based on Civilian Conservation Corps

- Put > 3 million young men to work improving public lands infrastructure during the Great Depression
- Planted > 3 billion trees, built park infrastructure still in use today
- Provided stipend, education, job training, helped the military prepare for the call-up during WWII

CCC officially disbanded 1942

- Revival of Corps model in 1950's with Student Conservation Association
- Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson created the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) a decade later

The Corps Model



- **Service**
(Terms varying two months – a year)
- **Workforce Development**
 - Hands-on work experience
 - Credentials/certifications
- **Education**
 - HS diploma/GED, college readiness
 - Training related to specific career paths
- **Wraparound support**
- **Compensation**
 - Stipend/living allowance
 - AmeriCorps Education Award (when eligible)
 - Housing “benefits”



Part II:

21st Century Service and Conservation Corps

21st Century Service and Conservation Corps

The 21st Century Conservation Corps (21CSC) is a national initiative to grow the Corps movement by expanding and leveraging private-public partnerships. By giving more young adults and returning veterans the opportunity to work and serve on America's public lands and waters, the 21CSC seeks to improve our infrastructure, boost local economies, and train a new generation of American workers. - <http://21csc.org/>

**21ST CENTURY
CONSERVATION
SERVICE CORPS**

21st Century Service and Conservation Corps

Corps Today

- Primarily local, non-profit organizations working with land management agencies
- Crews & Individual Interns
- Currently completing \$50 million a year of critical work for DOI/USDA
- Corpsmembers also receive two years of non-competitive hiring eligibility, making them ideal candidates to meet federal hiring needs.



#CorpsWork: Detailed Project Capacity

Corps provide a broad range of project capacity – what are your needs?

Great Outdoors Stewardship

- Construct & maintain multi-use trails
- Invasive species remediation
- Fish & wildlife habitat improvements
- Water quality and species monitoring
- Watershed & coastal restoration
- Fencing installation
- Wildlife management & development
- GIS & environmental monitoring

Historic Preservation

- Foundation stabilization
- Masonry
- Carpentry
- Tuck-pointing

Disaster Resiliency, Response, Recovery

- Erosion and flood control measures
- Installing/maintaining storm water management infrastructure
- Volunteer management
- Wildfire mitigation and response
- Debris removal, Mucking/Gutting



Part III: Partnering With Corps

Partnering With Corps



Funding of Corps

- Corps are funded through a variety of sources and a mixture of federal, state, and local grants, in addition to private support.
- *Fee for Service*: Funding for a particular project is transferred from the land management agency to the Corps through a cooperative agreement or task order that includes a detailed scope of work and budget.

From the Land Manager Perspective



- Are participants supervised?
- What are the costs?
- Who selects participants?
- Where are participants housed?
 - Corps provide for Crews
 - Partners providing housing or stipend for interns
- Are there engagement mechanisms?

From the Corps Partner Perspective



- Corps hire and train staff for crews, including leaders. Agency trains interns
- Provide gear, tools, and transportation (trucks and vans)
- Crew Leaders are also prepared to teach Corpsmembers the specific skills they will need for a particular project
- Corpsmembers come ready to work and usually require little oversight from the land management partner
- Corps carry liability insurance and provide members workers comp

Corps are Cost-Effective, Have High ROI

- NPS study done by Booz Allen Hamilton shows partnering with Corps saved an average of 65 percent on maintenance projects.
- Focus on 15 actual corps trail maintenance projects compared with NPS estimates
- Conservation Corps crews saved 83% (over \$130,000 per project) versus contract crews

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Park Facility Management Division



Conservation Corps Project Analysis, Fall 2012

The National Park Service (NPS) Park Facility Maintenance Division (PFMD) conducted a project analysis to determine how the costs of engaging a conservation corps to accomplish cyclic maintenance activities at national parks compared with the costs of using contractor or NPS crews. The project analysis determined that, on average, using conservation crews instead of NPS crews saved 65% with the minimum savings just 3% and the maximum savings 87%. The analysis found that the savings using conservation corps instead of contractor crews were even more significant with average savings of 83% and over \$130,000 per project.

The NPS PFMD together with the Public Lands Service Coalition (PLSC) performed an earlier analysis in the summer of 2011 which investigated the costs and potential savings from utilizing conservation corps crews to accomplish cyclic maintenance activities at national parks. Utilizing crew composition and costs provided by one typical conservation corps and some high level assumptions about the type of work in the NPS 5-year cyclic work plan, the analysis found that using conservation corps crews could save up to 44% over using NPS crews. The conservation corps are continually faced with the issue of being able to defensibly describe the benefits of corps projects so additional analysis that utilized specific projects to estimate savings was



“We recognize Conservation Corps as essential partners in meeting ongoing demands for natural resource management needs.”

-- Western Governors' Association

“The crews were courteous and friendly, also hard-working. The leaders, as always, were professional, businesslike, and yet friendly and personable. Everything was well-organized and the crew efficiently tackled each job that was assigned. I highly commend the Conservation Corps for its dependable and dedicated work crews and leadership.”

--U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Employee

Examples: DoD and Student Conservation Association (SCA)

The Student Conservation Association (SCA)

SCA has a Master Cooperative Agreement with the Department of the Navy and has placed over 100 Conservation Interns at Navy Facilities over the last 5 years. SCA also has a history of placing crews on installations as well.

Naval Air Station Pensacola

SCA Conservation Forestry Intern – January – July 2019

- Silvicultural projects to include marking timber for sale, firebreak establishment, prescribed burning, equipment maintenance and forest inventories
- Urban forestry projects and planning to include tree pruning, maintenance, mapping and inventories and Tree City USA programs
- Conducting projects and management planning for fish, wildlife, wetlands and protected species
- Outdoor recreation and public relations projects involving nature trails, beach clean-up areas and community conservation programs and events

Various Locations: Crew-based Project Work

- SCA has historically worked with Army, Airforce, Army Corps and Naval installations hosting conservation crews to do needed conservation projects on base.
- Cooperating partners included:
 - Jim Creek Naval Radio station (WA);
 - Indian Island Naval Magazine (WA);
 - Chief Joseph Dam (WA);
 - Crane Division Naval Base (IN);
 - Pease Airforce Base (NH); and others.



Part IV: Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead to Next Steps

1. Agreement mechanisms
2. Mutual identification of key projects that could show impact & could demonstrate success
3. Identification of funding sources
4. Additional conversations with DoD staff





Questions?

Questions?

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jay Satz – Sr. Director, Partnership and Innovation - Northwest Youth Corps

JaySatz@nwyouthcorps.org

Josh Tuohy – Government Affairs Manager - The Corps Network

jtuohy@corpsnetwork.org

