

November 1, 2013

Please accept this as a letter of interest from the [REDACTED] requesting interest in 21CSC membership designation.

Name of Organization: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Point of Contact: [REDACTED], E-mail: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Program Description: We provide service and work opportunities for a diverse group of individuals to complete important conservation and community projects for the public benefit. We were founded in 1998 to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. Our employment, service and educational projects are sponsored primarily by land and water management agencies, municipalities and tribes throughout the [REDACTED] of the U.S. Our mission is to empower individuals from traditionally underserved communities to positively impact their lives, and the environment. Our mission is realized on two ways: First, we employ, engage and trains a diverse group of young women and men. In this past year we engaged 820 young people, veterans and crew leaders in residential and day service programs providing them with paid work, job training, education, life skills and the opportunity to make a difference. Secondly, we complete conservation projects for the public benefit. Our participants completed over 300,000 hours of service maintaining recreational trails and open space, protecting communities from wildfire, preserving wildlife habitat, and more. Our program activity aligns directly with the goals and principles of 21CSC, as outlined below.

Alignment with 21CSC Principles

- 1. Population Served.** Our youth programs are for 16-20 year olds; our training programs are for 18-25 years old and our Veterans program are for Veterans ages 21-35. We do have other programs that engage individuals younger than 15 and older than 35, but we would not enroll them for 21CSC membership. The vast majority of our participants are youth between the ages of 15 and 25 years old, and Veterans ages 21 to 35.
- 2. Participant Eligibility.** All of our program participants are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, lawful permanent resident aliens of the U.S., and/or tribal members.
- 3. Diversity and Inclusion.** Our programs not only are open to people from all backgrounds, but we make deliberate recruitment efforts to reach traditionally underserved or underrepresented communities. This past year, 19% of our participants were Native American, 16% were Hispanic and 13% identified themselves as “Other”. Additionally, 40% were female and 10% were Veterans. We specifically aim to represent the communities we serve and beyond. Our commitment to diversity includes, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, social- economic status, veteran status, and disability.
- 4. Term of Service.** We offer a wide range of programs that each have different terms of service. Each of our programs has a minimum term of 140 hours (summer) or 300 hours (non-summer) and is less than the maximum of 3,500 hours. Most of our programs are seasonal and operate from eight to twelve weeks long, with a small number of year-long programs. All of our program participants receive some form of compensation. Typically conservation crew members receive a stipend of around \$275 and slightly more is earned for Veteran programs and internships.
- 5. Organization of the Work.** Most of our program participants work in crews or small teams to accomplish significant conservation projects on public lands. Typically, each team has

six participants and two crew leaders. Additionally, our regional offices may occasionally engage individuals as interns who work under the guidance of public or tribal land, or water professionals.

6. **Types of Work.** Most of our projects are centered on hands-on work on public lands. Some of these direct impact activities include constructing new trails, trail maintenance, constructing fencing, removing harmful plant species, urban gardening, and tree planting. Some of our interns complete advanced technical and research projects, for internal or external use.
7. **Participant Outcomes.** Our programs work to ensure that each participant develops job skills, community skills, and conservation skills. Our programs offer education days, leadership opportunities, specific technical training, as well as career development training. The result is participant interest in natural resources management education, outdoor industry education, and natural resource management careers.
8. **Leveraged Investment.** We understand that 21CSC membership designation is not a commitment funding. Therefore, we have developed strategic partnerships at the federal, state and local level to help support our efforts via in-kind matching. We are able to make our funding obligations through a variety of public and private sources and through unique public-private partnerships. We continue to make outreach and development efforts to non-profit organizations and foundations alike in order to secure funding for some of the superior services and opportunities we provide.

Thank you for your consideration. If any further information is needed, our leadership can be contacted via the information provided above.