



The Corps Network
Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Our Impact



What is a Corps?

Service and Conservation Corps are comprehensive youth development programs. They engage diverse and often disadvantaged young people (generally ages 16 – 25) in a variety of service projects designed to address important environmental and community needs. Through their service Corpsmembers develop job and leadership skills. They also receive a stipend or living allowance as well as an education award or scholarship. Additionally, many Corps provide Corpsmembers with access to mental health, career planning, and educational counseling.

Corpsmembers typically work on service projects like these...



Preventing wildfires

Restoring waterways

Operating recycling facilities

Weatherizing homes

Constructing hiking trails

Building parks & gardens



What is The Corps Network?

The Corps Network provides critical leadership to the Corps movement and our nation's Service and Conservation Corps as they harness the power of youth and young adults to tackle some of America's greatest challenges. Our 130+ member Corps operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each year they collectively enroll over 24,000 Corpsmembers ranging in age from 16-25.

Corps in Numbers - 2015

2,877,344 = number of trees Corps planted

17,984,000 = pounds of waste collected and properly disposed of/recycled

567,173 = acres of habitat restored

16,545 = number of low-income homes retrofitted to be energy efficient

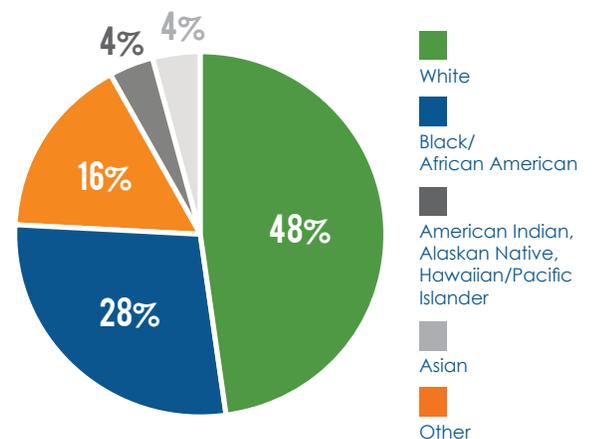
10,807 = miles of trail constructed or improved

8,120 = number of Corpsmembers who earned professional certifications

16,059 = number of public facilities/community spaces built or improved

24,631 Corpsmembers

55.2% male | 44.3% female



* 19% of Corpsmembers also identified as Hispanic

Did you know?

Today's Corps are the descendants of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); a federal program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to put unemployed young men to work creating parks and restoring America's public lands.



Corps Address Some of America's Greatest Challenges

▶ CHALLENGE: Deteriorating Parks and Natural Spaces

- Federal Public Land Management Agencies report backlogged maintenance needs totaling more than \$25 billion.
- As of 2012, a full 38% of the Department of the Interior's workforce, 35% of the Department of Agriculture's workforce and 25% of the Bureau of Land Management's workforce are eligible for retirement.

✓ Response:

Corps provide cost-effective service on public lands. Many programs train Corpsmembers to construct and maintain trails, build bridges, restore stonework, identify and remove invasive species, and control erosion. Corps train the next, more diverse conservation workforce.



▶ CHALLENGE: Youth Unemployment

- Americans age 16 – 24 experience unemployment rates over twice the national average: > 12% as opposed to ~5% (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

✓ Response:

Corps provide young people with the skills and credentials needed to succeed in the workforce. Through service to their communities, Corpsmembers gain job experience and develop leadership abilities and self-confidence. Many Corps programs help Corpsmembers receive professional certifications that help them obtain jobs in the expanding green industry.

Examples of certifications: forklift operation; chainsaw operation; ADA trail design; wildland firefighting; home energy efficiency specialist certification; HAZMAT certification



▶ CHALLENGE: America's Dropout Crisis and the Growing Opportunity Gap

- There are 5.5 million American youth ages 16 – 24 who are out of school and out of work (Opportunity Nation, 2016).
- More than 3 million young Americans drop out of high school every year (Education Week, January 2014).

✓ Response:

Through charter schools and partnerships with local colleges and other educational institutions, Corps help young people earn their GED, high school diploma, and/or postsecondary degree. Corps can provide more one-on-one attention in the classroom than a traditional high school, and offer comprehensive academic, career and personal counseling. Students receive ongoing support to help them transition to, and persist in, postsecondary education and training.



▶ CHALLENGE: Climate Change, Disasters, and Resource Shortages

- CO₂ levels in the air are at their highest in the past 650,000 years (NASA, 2015)
- The global population is expected to produce 3x as much municipal waste in 2100 as we do now (The World Bank, 2014)

✓ Response:

Some Corps operate recycling facilities and educate the public about proper waste disposal. Some Corps train Corpsmembers in disaster response and travel throughout the country to help communities recover after storms and floods. Some Corps train Corpsmembers in wildland firefighting and help prevent or mitigate dangerous blazes. Some Corps train their Corpsmembers to install energy-saving retrofits in businesses and low-income homes. Corps help communities prepare for, and react, to the realities of our time.



Get involved

When you support The Corps Network, you help young people experience life-changing service opportunities. You also help the environment and communities nationwide that benefit from the services Corps provide.

www.corpsnetwork.org | 1275 K Street, NW - 1050 Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 737 - 6272 | follow us on Facebook and Twitter

