



AmeriCorps

A full-page background image showing a person from the waist up, wearing a yellow hard hat, a yellow jacket, and dark pants. They are holding a pickaxe and are in the process of striking a dark, rocky surface. A large plume of white steam or smoke is rising from the point of impact, partially obscuring the person's lower body. The background shows a landscape with a field and some trees under a cloudy sky with a hint of sunset or sunrise.

2022 IMPACT REPORT

OUR MISSION

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa engages youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship.

OUR VISION

A world where everyone has equitable access to nature, is equipped to succeed in career and life, and is empowered to make a difference in conserving natural resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

- › Safety
- › Service
- › Respect
- › Equity
- › Community

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

Field Crews

Field Crews serve outdoors restoring habitat, managing natural resources, and occasionally responding to natural disasters or community needs. The **Veterans Corps** and **Iowa Monarch Habitat Project** are part of the Field Crew program.

Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC)

The IDEC program utilizes fellowship, mentorship, and internship opportunities to support underrepresented college students pursuing degrees in STEM/natural resources. IDEC is a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Individual Placements

Individual Placement members serve directly with nonprofit or government agencies focused on natural resource management, water quality, community outreach, and more.

Summer Youth Corps

Youth participants connect with the outdoors through paid hands-on conservation work during this summer residential program. AmeriCorps members spend the summer living outdoors while leading and supervising the youth. Summer Youth Corps is dedicated to accessibility for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community and runs ASL crews.

Youth Outdoors

Twin Cities youth connect with the outdoors through paid hands-on conservation work and community improvement projects. AmeriCorps members lead the youth in educational and service-learning activities and serve as Field Crews when not leading youth.



288,015
total service hours



85%

reported being better
prepared for their next job

29,857 ACRES
improved and restored



765 MILES

of trail constructed or maintained,
including water trail improvement



94%

developed workforce readiness skills
(i.e. work better on teams)

58,930

trees/shrubs/forbs planted



95%

more knowledgeable about
the environment



35,296 EDUCATION HOURS

including personal development training, technical skills
training, and professional networking

598 SITES

visited in 2021-2022 by our Iowa Monarch
Crews to collect monarch butterfly data for
the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program



LAUNCHING THE VETERANS CORPS

In 2022 Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa launched the Veterans Corps, a new AmeriCorps program for veterans to participate in non-military service on a Conservation Corps Field Crew. Members gain the skills needed for a career in natural resources and have access to support and resources for transitioning to civilian life.

Grace Anne, a 2022 Veterans Corps AmeriCorps Member, shared that *“AmeriCorps adds crucial volunteer experience in a civilian setting to your resume while simultaneously offering incredible experiences for the kind of service we crave, such as wildland firefighting and disaster response.”*

The Veterans Corps program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.



I learned during both my terms with CCMI that I want to work in the public sector and work in visitor services. Learning this, along with the training that was provided to me, was crucial for my career development.

– Jade Pederson, Individual Placement AmeriCorps Member



AIDING IN FLOOD RESPONSE

After historic flooding hit communities in Northern Minnesota, AmeriCorps members from Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa spent over 3,000 hours with volunteers and other responders filling sandbags and reinforcing sandbag walls around homes in the International Falls and the Kabetogama Lake area. Corpsmembers and crews came together from across Minnesota and Iowa to aid in the flood response. Austin Godwin, an AmeriCorps member on the Iowa Polk County Field Crew, described what it meant to be part of this team effort in a blog post *“We organized together and became one big team. Our team building and communication improved over the days and [we] became closer to one another.”*

Members served in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and alongside community members.



26 FELLOWS
participated in the Increasing Diversity
in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program



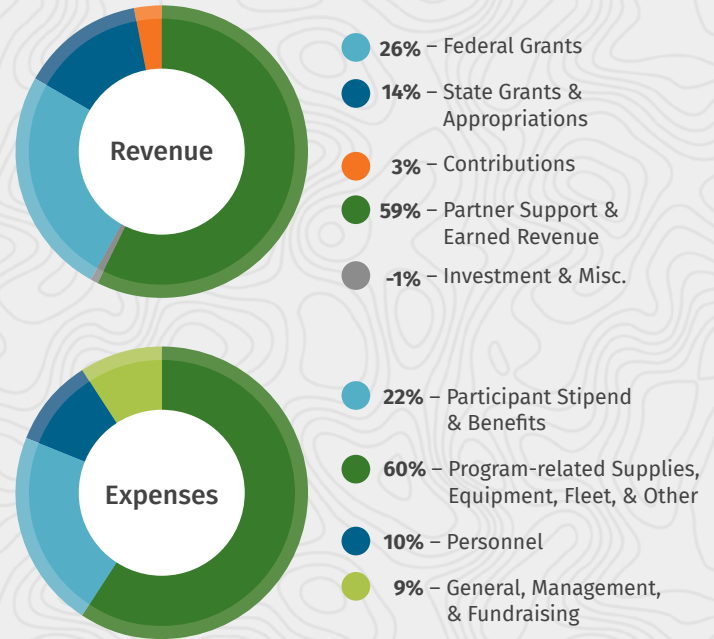
248 AMERICORPS
MEMBERS
served 272,632 hours

FINANCIALS

For the year ended December 31, 2022

Support and Revenue	Total
AmeriCorps Grants	\$ 2,254,955
Contributions	\$ 219,823
State Appropriations	\$ 1,213,066
Partner Support and Earned Revenue	\$ 5,155,322
Investment and Miscellaneous	\$ (72,308)
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 8,770,858
Expenses	Total
Programs	\$ 7,501,098
General and Administrative	\$ 1,706,102
Total Expenses	\$ 9,207,200
Organizational Totals	Total
Change in Net Assets	\$ (436,342)
Beginning Net Assets	\$ 6,215,241
Ending Net Assets	\$ 5,778,899

View our latest audited financial report and 990 online at conservationcorps.org/about/impact/



Thank you to our generous donors who contributed during fiscal year 2022 to support the next generation of environmental stewards!

conservationcorps.org/our-donors



SUPPORT THE CORPS

Donors help leave a lasting impact on the lives of our Corpsmembers, in the communities we serve, and on our public lands.



Please consider making a gift today or joining our community of recurring Evergreen Circle donors with a monthly gift.

conservationcorps.org/donate

Our impact is amplified through collaborations with government entities, nonprofit organizations, individuals, and other key partners. Visit our website for a full list of our project partners from 2022, of whom we are grateful for their partnership. conservationcorps.org/our-partners/



79
PROJECT
PARTNERS

103 YOUTH
SERVED
15,383 hours

OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

Highlights from our progress toward our JEDI goals:

- » All staff members and 10 AmeriCorps Field Specialists completed a Racial Equity Certification in 2022 facilitated by the Soul Focused Group and Workforce 180. New staff members continue to complete the certification as they are onboarded.
- » The CCMI board and senior leadership staff completed the Intercultural Development Inventory assessment which revealed an opportunity for improvement in engagement, empathy and understanding of each other's cross-cultural competence.
- » Staff created and strengthened relationships with Tribal Nations and Native-led organizations to increase the number of projects completed with these partners. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa created a dedicated Indigenous Conservation Corps Crew in partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa - known as the Maajii-akii-gikenjigewin Crew.

Learn more about our progress and read our full Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) statement at conservationcorps.org/about/jedi/

SUPPORTING OUR ASL CREWS

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa has run various iterations of American Sign Language (ASL) crews since the late 1970s through our Summer Youth Corps (SYC) program. Even through evolving program models, inclusive programming and a sense of community have always been important to the SYC experience.

In 2022, for the first time in a decade, SYC ran an ASL backcountry Wilderness Crew, in addition to the usual first-year ASL crews who complete front-country projects. Using only hand tools, the ASL Wilderness Crew completed five miles of trail rehabilitation in Isle Royale National Park.

The crew was made up of 3 AmeriCorps Crew Leaders and 5 returning youth that included Deaf, Hard of Hearing,

CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), and hearing members, and one ASL interpreter. Everyone on the crew was expected to communicate in ASL as part of this immersive experience. Members found this model to be educational and empowering, as it offered enhanced communication and support for Deaf members through a three-leader model and daily activities focused on practicing ASL for the hearing youth.

We continue to foster and grow the SYC community, and work towards our vision of creating a world where everyone has equitable access to nature. This not only includes improving our ASL Crew model and program experience, but finding more ways to make all of our programming more accessible and building valued partnerships.



Check out a day in the life of the 2022 ASL Wilderness Crew.

[instagram.com/reel/CouPx25s8IN/](https://www.instagram.com/reel/CouPx25s8IN/)

REGIONAL OFFICES

Bemidji, MN

Rochester, MN

Duluth, MN

Granger, IA

Mankato, MN

Waterloo, IA

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kelsi Klaers

Director of Youth Programs

Mark Murphy

Executive Director

Carolyn Llorens

Human Resources Director

Michele Rohricht

Director of Finance

Brian Miller

Program Director of
AmeriCorps Field Crews

Nicole Zyvoloski

Operations & Impact
Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During Calendar Year 2022

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(In Memoriam)

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PROUD MEMBER OF

The Corps Network

Strengthening America through
service and conservation



AmeriCorps

“

*I've learned so much, met
awesome people, and
overcome challenges I never
thought I was capable of.
Believe me, I wouldn't trade
this year for anything.*

– Madeline Peterson, Field Crew
AmeriCorps Member

Headquarters

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