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 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.

OUR CORE VALUES
› Safety
› Service
› Respect
› Equity
› Community

288,015 total service hours

29,857 ACRES improved and restored

765 MILES of trail constructed or maintained, including water trail improvement

85% reported being better prepared for their next job

58,930 trees/shrubs/forbs planted

94% developed workforce readiness skills (i.e. work better on teams)

35,296 EDUCATION HOURS including personal development training, technical skills training, and professional networking

95% more knowledgeable about the environment

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 CCMl 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.
FINANCIALS
For the year ended December 31, 2022

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

Thank you to our generous donors who contributed during fiscal year 2022 to support the next generation of environmental stewards! [conservationcorps.org/our-donors](conservationcorps.org/our-donors)

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

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.

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/](conservationcorps.org/our-partners/)

79 PROJECT PARTNERS
103 YOUTH SERVED
15,383 hours

Please consider making a gift today or joining our community of recurring Evergreen Circle donors with a monthly gift. [conservationcorps.org/donate](conservationcorps.org/donate)
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.
“
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

REGIONAL OFFICES

Bemidji, MN
Duluth, MN
Mankato, MN
Rochester, MN
Granger, IA
Waterloo, IA

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kelsi Klaers
Director of Youth Programs
Carolyn Llorens
Human Resources Director
Brian Miller
Program Director of AmeriCorps Field Crews

Mark Murphy
Executive Director
Michele Rohricht
Director of Finance
Nicole Zyvoloski
Operations & Impact Administrator

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During Calendar Year 2022

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AmeriCorps

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