



2024

IMPACT REPORT

OUR MISSION

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa cultivates a community of emerging leaders in service to people and the planet.

OUR CORE VALUES

- › Safety
- › Justice
- › Stewardship
- › Community
- › Leadership

“I discovered that true leadership is rooted in service to others and the discipline to endure, growing stronger both in my profession and in my character.”

– Evan Boelter, Field Crew
AmeriCorps Member

Dear Friends and Supporters,

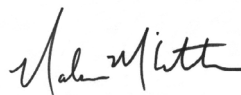
Last year, I wrote that Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa is in the “change business,” and that statement is true now more than ever. As we look to the future, uncertainty challenges us to think creatively, adapt quickly, and lean even more deeply into our mission of cultivating a community of leaders in service to people and the planet. It can be difficult to reflect on the joyful successes of the past while living in a world that feels increasingly uncertain. However, it is vitally important to celebrate the successes we create together as a community. Through community, we are resilient, we can adapt, and we can overcome hardships and uncertainty.

This report shows the value that Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa brings to our community. As you read it, I hope you see what I see every day: the dedication, energy, and leadership of emerging professionals who are ready and willing to serve people and the planet. Behind every number in this report is a person whose life and future were shaped by service—and a community that benefited. When you donate, partner with us, host a crew, or champion our work, you are part of the CCMI community. The accomplishments you read about here are **your** successes. You are helping to build a skilled workforce that is ready for a world that needs them.

When a young person decides to serve with us, they become part of our community too, and we invest in our community. We spend up to twenty percent of our time training Corpsmembers. We cannot expect the next generation of environmental leaders to spring forward without the cultivation, care, and training that comes from this community. The achievements we can report here are only half the story. Long after they finish their service term, alumni of our programs use the training and experience they gain here to positively impact the world.

We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished together in 2024, and we will keep going—because the need is only growing. We hope that seeing these accomplishments, you are reminded of the power of service and are energized to be part of this community. Together, we can continue to meet this moment—and the next—with purpose.

Sincerely,



Nalani McCutcheon
Executive Director



50 YOUTH
served **13,063**
hours

95
project
partners

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

303 AMERICORPS
members served **336,341** hours

INCREASING ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

The Northwoods Crew rebuilt a set of stairs at Judge C.R. Magney State Park in Minnesota. The staircase, which had been washed out by storm damage, provides access to a part of Devil's Kettle waterfall within the park. This project was noteworthy due to the popularity of the trail and waterfall.

The project had an extremely positive reaction from the community, with community members mentioning that

they are grateful for the hard work and the renewed ease of access to the park's waterfall. The crew of six Corpsmembers spent over 1,170 hours completing the project. They hauled tons of lumber and were able to design and implement much of the project themselves. Corpsmembers enjoyed being able to make a positive impact on the park and the visitors that enjoy it.



In 2024, Conservation Corps MN & IA received the Outstanding AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team Award during the AmeriCorps 30 Year Celebration.

RESPONDING TO FLOODING AND FIRES

Corpsmembers provide critical support to communities after natural disasters, thanks to our partnerships on AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams. In 2024, Corpsmembers deployed to North Carolina, where they organized, managed, and maintained a warehouse of donated goods in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Other members aided in cleaning up flood-damaged homes in northwestern Iowa. Still others responded by fighting wildfires in Minnesota. In total, 85 Corpsmembers

deployed during the year and spent 14,087 hours on emergency response and preparedness assignments.

Our members complete disaster and fire-specific training before going on deployments like these. 125 members earned their Incident Qualification Card, which they can take anywhere in the United States to work on a wildland fire-fighting crew. With their training and experience, our members are prepared to respond to disaster when it strikes and aid our communities when needed most.

SUPPORT THE CORPS

Donors directly fuel vital conservation work in Minnesota and Iowa through trail building, workforce development, wildland firefighting, habitat restoration, and more!

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 2024, of whom we are grateful for their partnership. conservationcorps.org/our-partners/



Make a gift today or join our community of recurring Evergreen Circle donors with a monthly gift.

conservationcorps.org/donate

A LASTING LEGACY AFTER THE CORPS

Our Corpsmembers go on to do great things after their service term. In 2024, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of our Iowa Program. We connected with several Iowa Program alumni to hear how the Corps impacted their career paths and what they did after their service term. Many members went on to work for other conservation-focused organizations across the U.S., others pursued higher education and have research careers, and others went on to start their own businesses.

“A lot of the skills that I gained while with the Conservation Corps, I still use as a scientist. We worked super hard. We had to develop project management skills. We learned to communicate with lots of different people. And really, all of these skills that you learn translate to any field that you get into later on,” said Dr. Win Cowger when reflecting on his service with the Corps.



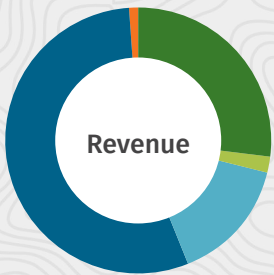
Discover more alumni stories in this video.

conservationcorps.org/iowa15

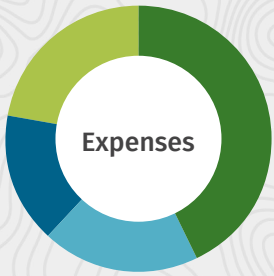
FINANCIALS

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Support and Revenue	Total
Federal Grants	\$4,020,489
Contributions	\$243,659
State Grants and Appropriations	\$2,313,851
Partner Support and Earned Revenue	\$8,226,570
Investment and Miscellaneous	\$131,456
Total Support and Revenue	\$14,936,025
Expenses	Total
Programs	\$10,564,249
General, Management, and Fundraising	\$2,963,510
Total Expenses	\$13,527,759
Organizational Totals	Total
Change in Net Assets	\$1,408,266
Beginning Net Assets	\$6,607,088
Ending Net Assets	\$8,015,354



- 27% – Federal Grants
- 2% – Contributions
- 15% – State Grants and Appropriations
- 55% – Partner Support & Earned Revenue
- 1% – Investment & Misc.



- 43% – Participant Stipend & Benefits
- 19% – Program Supplies, Equipment, & Fleet
- 16% – Personnel
- 22% – General, Management, & Fundraising

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



Thank you to our generous donors who contributed during fiscal year 2024 to support the next generation of environmental stewards! conservationcorps.org/our-donors

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

Field Crews

Field Crews served outdoors restoring habitat, managing natural resources, and occasionally responding to natural disasters or community needs. The Field Crew program also included **Veterans Corps** and **Iowa Monarch Habitat Project**.

Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC)

The IDEC program utilized 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 served directly with nonprofit or government agencies focused on natural resource management, water quality, community outreach, and more.

Summer Youth Corps

Youth participants connected with the outdoors through paid hands-on conservation work during this summer residential program. AmeriCorps members spent 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 connected with the outdoors through paid hands-on conservation work and community improvement projects. AmeriCorps members led the youth in educational and service-learning activities and served as Field Crews when not leading youth. The **I Can! Outdoor Skills Program** was a seasonal AmeriCorps opportunity within the Youth Outdoors program.

Energy Corps

Members audited energy efficiency in public buildings and increased awareness of options for lowering energy costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Members were paid to gain the skills and experience needed to be successful in a clean energy career.

349,404
total service hours

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



Like walking from Des Moines, Iowa to Duluth, Minnesota!



84%

of AmeriCorps members reported being better prepared for their next job

29,268 ACRES
improved and restored



That is almost as big as Itasca State Park!

95%



of AmeriCorps members are more knowledgeable about the environment

91%



of AmeriCorps members developed workforce readiness skills (work better on teams)

64,332

trees/shrubs/forbs planted



Same number as the population of Burnsville, Minnesota!

14,087 HOURS

providing emergency response and preparedness

49,693 EDUCATION HOURS

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



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During Calendar Year 2024

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Youth Programs
Director

Carolyn Llorens
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Field Crew Programs
Director

Bin Zhu
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Nicole Zyvoloski
Operations & Impact
Director

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During Calendar Year 2024

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Waterloo, IA

