



Overview Hearing
MN House Environment and Natural
Resources Finance Division
Jan 29, 2019

Resources restored. Lives changed.

Conservation Corps Minnesota

Mission:

The Conservation Corps provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while accomplishing natural resource management, conservation and emergency response work.

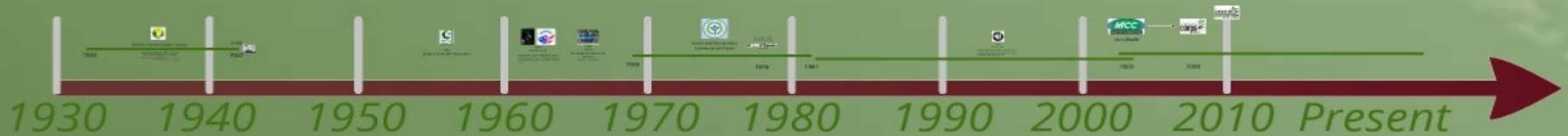


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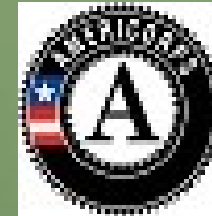
Rich history dates to the 1930's



History



Formerly a part of the Department of Natural Resources, the Conservation Corps has a decades long legacy of building Minnesota's trails and campsites, managing public lands, and developing natural resources professionals.



Youth Program



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What We Do

- **Improve access to outdoor recreation:** build and maintain trails, boardwalks, campsites, facilities, structures.
- **Habitat Restoration on public lands:** invasive species, prescribed-burns, native trees and plants.
- **Restore and protect water quality:** waterways, shorelines, buffers, rain gardens, debris, pollutants.
- **Respond to natural disasters:** support relief and recovery efforts regionally and nationally

Programs at-a-glance 2018

Young Adults served – age 18-25

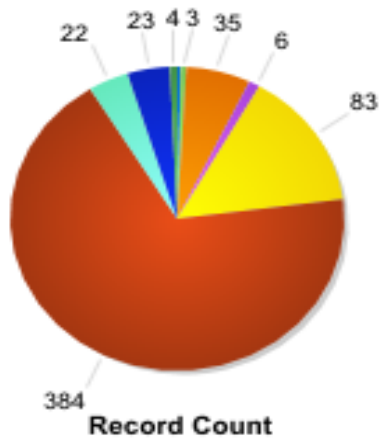
- 325 AmeriCorps members – field crews across the state
- 18 Individual Placements – single placement positions in state agencies
- 30 Summer Apprenticeships- summer placements in SWCDs
- 49 Youth Leaders – young adults serve as youth leaders for summer and afterschool

Youth served – age 15-18

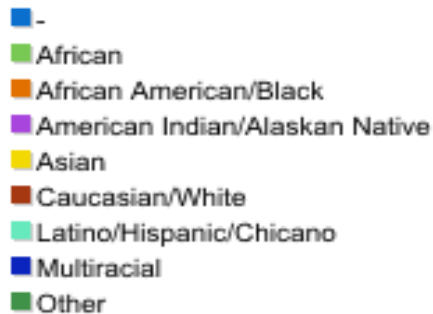
- 255 Youth participants – earn stipend, restore resources, gain job skills
- 137 Summer Youth Corps – rural residential 4-week (x 2) youth corps
- 118 Youth Outdoors (50 Spring; 25 summer; 43 Fall) – urban high school students in job training, science learning, outdoor service-learning

Member demographics

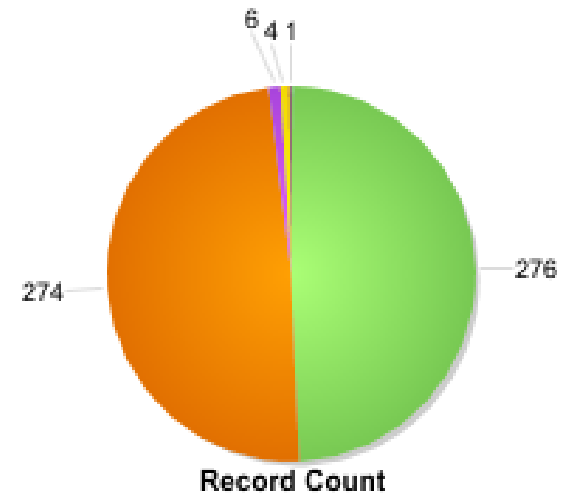
Race, 2018



Race



Gender, 2018



Gender



Program Results

Performance Measures	2016	2017	2018**
# of youth and young adults engaged in jobs skills training, education and natural resource and conservation work	586	647	580
Hours of education / training provided to young people	63,771	63,264	55,266
Acres of habitat restored	48,700	38,380	32,639
Miles of trail restored	1,704	1,360	1,517
% of young people who gained workforce readiness skills	92%	90%	91%
% of young people who gained an appreciation for natural resource stewardship	96%	96%	95%

Financial

000s	2019**	2018*	2017	2016
Revenue	\$10,050	\$9,377	\$9,796	\$9,401
➤ Federal	13%	12%	12.5%	13%
➤ State	12%	11%	10%	9%
➤ Indiv & Pvt Fndn	2%	1%	2.5%	3%
➤ Fee-for-Service	73%	76%	75%	75%
Expense	\$10,023	\$9,633	\$10,459	\$9,003
➤ Staff	28%	26%	24%	23%
➤ Pgm. Participant	43%	43%	43%	45%
➤ Direct Program	17%	19%	21%	19%
➤ Mgmt/Admin	12%	12%	12%	13%

** Budget

* Projected



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Opportunities and Challenges

- **Long-standing and Loyal Partners** – State and Federal agencies, SWCDs, Municipalities, Ed. institutions, Non-profits
 - Over 350 project hosts
 - 99 % of which report interest in partnering with the Corps again
- **Growing Demand for services** – More opportunity than capacity
- **Increasing recruiting challenges** - Attracting corps members
- **Economic realities** - Robust job market, minimum wage, need to improve value proposition, increase service rates.
- **Societal externalities** – Changing demographics and cultural norms and perspectives towards nature and conservation

THANK YOU !



Mark Murphy, Executive Director
mark.murphy@conservationcorps.org



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