SERVICE CORPS: WORKING WITH NATIONAL PARKS & NATIONAL PARK PARTNERS

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FACILITATORS & SPEAKERS

Mary Ellen Sprenkel
CEO
Corps Network

Chrystal Morris Murphy
Senior Vice President
Community Partnerships
National Park Foundation
SPEAKERS

Amy Sovocool
Co-CEO
Conservation Legacy

Christina Hausman
Executive Director
Voyageurs National Park Association

Monica Rhodes
Associate Director
HOPE Crew
National Trust for Historic Preservation
• Introduction to Corps

• Overview of Conservation Legacy and AmeriCorps

• Service Corps and the HOPE Crew Experience

• National Park Partners and Service Corps

• Q&A
WHAT IS A CORPS?

• Civilian Conservation Corps Model
• Service and youth/workforce development programs for young adults and veterans
• Earn credentials and gain skills while engaging in projects that address numerous needs
• Earn stipends, education award, high school diploma/GED
• Managed by nonprofits or units of state and local government

>120 Corps
• Corps located in rural and urban communities across the country
• Collectively Engage >25,000 Corpsmembers annually
ABOUT THE CORPS NETWORK

Who we are

• National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
• Founded in 1985
• Based in Washington, DC

What we do

• Advocacy; a voice for Corps
• Provide access to funding, and project opportunities
• Offer expertise in Corps operations, best practices
• Accreditation program
• Offer range of association benefits for members
58% identify male; 41% identify female
Corpsmembers represent a range of backgrounds and experiences
53%
18%
20%
5%
5%

• White
• Black/African American
• Other
• Native
• Asian
• 18% identified Hispanic/Latino
WHAT CAN CORPS DO?

- Trail maintenance & construction
- Park & campground maintenance
- Habitat restoration & invasive species removal
- Prescribed burns/fire mitigation
- Building weatherization
- Construction
- Volunteer management
- Community outreach, education, interpretation
- Monitoring, Research, Data collection

[PROJECT EXAMPLES]
- Erosion control
- Historic preservation
- Farm & garden operation
- Lot abatement
- Disaster cleanup
SNAPSHOT - 2017 PROJECT OUTCOMES

>1.6 million Trees planted
>13,200 Miles of trail built/maintained
>300,000 Acres of habitat restored
>2,500 Miles of waterway restored
> Nearly 7,600 Community spaces built/improved
>150 Historic structures preserved
>42,800 Acres of flood control
>566 Disasters responded to
>500,000 Volunteer hours generated
“Matchmaking” and Support role
- Helping match local Corps with Project Partners (government agencies, NGOs); supporting Corps through agreement process and project

BRINGING PARTNERS TOGETHER

Corps
Projects/Local Needs
Partners
Funders
Agreements, Contracting, MOUs
Technical Assistance
CONSERVATION LEGACY & AMERICORPS

Amy Sovocool
HOW TO ENGAGE WITH A 21 CSC CORPS

Conservation Corps Overview

**PEOPLE**
Youth, Young Adults, Veterans

**PARTNERSHIPS**
NPS, Friends Groups, CNCS, Other Funders

**CREWS**

**INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS**

**PROJECTS & TECHNICAL JOB SKILLS TRAINING**
- Trail Construction/Trail Maintenance (hiking, horse, biking, OHV)
- Fish & Game Habitat Improvement
- Battlefield/Military Park Conservation
- Visitor Use Data Gathering & Analysis
- Campground Improvement (campsites, facilities)
- Waterway/Lakeshore/Seashore Access Improvement
- Infrastructure Protection & Wildland Fuel Reduction

**STEWARDS, RECREATIONALISTS, FUTURE EMPLOYEES**
AMERICORPS AND CORPS

Why AmeriCorps and Corps?

• Leverages additional funding to support projects.
• Engage skilled young people on purposeful projects that help meet critical needs while engaging the next generation of stewards
• Value – corps are cost effective, AmeriCorps volunteers committed to project because of desire to serve.
• Members can help with community outreach, fundraising and outreach that helps build capacity and opportunity.
• AmeriCorps: National Service Connection, Education Awards, funding.
Crew Programs

Who & How
- AmeriCorps members focused on direct service
- 6-8 youth/young adults/veterans with professional supervision
- Transportation
- Tools, Gear. Camp equip., Project Management. Insurance

What
- Protect Wildlife Habitat & Preserve Public Lands/Waters
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
- Protect Communities from Wildfire
- Preserve Historic Structures
- Enhance Neighborhoods and Communities
Individual Placements

Who & How

- Focus on direct service or capacity building
- Public Education
- Recruitment by Corps; Selection by Partner
- Customized placements
- College
- Admin, payroll, insurance
- Year-long, seasonal

What

- Public Education
- Fire Prevention & Restoration GIS/GPS Data Management Technical Services (e.g. engineering and surveying)
- Environmental Education
- Data gathering and species inventories
- Historical/cultural resource management
- Volunteer recruitment & management
HOPE CREW: HANDS-ON PRESERVATION EXPERIENCE & SERVICE CORPS

Monica Rhodes
Train young people in preservation crafts, rehabilitate hundreds of historic sites each year, and open the world of preservation to a new group of young and diverse supporters.
"Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions... and more!"

- Foundation stabilization
- Masonry
- Painting
- Log replacement
- Roofing
- Window restoration
- Carpentry
NATIONAL TRUST CONTRIBUTIONS

- Sourcing pro bono preservation advisors
- Finding preservation craft experts as trainers
- Preservation education
- Public awareness
- Project coordination
FUNDING

- Repair/Rehab
- Cyclic
- Concessionaire
- Historic leasing funds
- Sec. 106 mitigation
- Friends Groups
- $4.5 billion maintenance backlog
Program Overview
- 6/7 NPS regions
- 7 National Treasures
- 150+ Projects
- 700 youth and veterans paid
- 3,000 volunteers
- 80,000 hours
- $18 million of preservation work
- 700 million media impressions

Participant Overview
- Youth and Veterans engaged
  - 700+
  - 40% women
  - 50% racially diverse
- 13 members hired by NPS or contractors
Voyageurs National Park
Association
Christina Hausman
History and Scope of Program

How & Why we applied to work with a DOI VISTA

- Underserved urban and rural youth
- Peer-to-Peer engagement
- Youth-NPS engagement
- Fostering Environmental stewardship
- Exploring career pathways on public lands
Benefits & Obstacles
- Return on Investment
- Capacity Building to DO
- Recruitment & Timeframes

Tips
- Sign up for trainings before they start
- Early goal setting and orientation
- Take advantage of VISTA Campus online and consultations
- Be flexible, make a commitment to mentor
Specific Projects

- Grants – tracking, research, writing
- Toolkits – volunteers, youth program curriculum
- Fundraising and outreach events
- Evaluation and community assessment
- Program and partnership development
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!