



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five Colorado Youth Conservation Corps Earn National Accreditation

March 20, 2013 Denver, Colo. – The Colorado Youth Conservation Association (CYCA) announces that five youth conservation corps in the state have received national provisional accreditation status from the Corps Center of Excellence (CCE). They include the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, which serves northwest Colorado; Mile High Youth Corps, serving the Denver-metro and southern Front Range areas; Larimer County Conservation Corps, serving Larimer County; Southwest Conservation Corps, serving southwest Colorado and the San Luis Valley; and Western Colorado Conservation Corps, serving the Western Slope. All five of these organizations are also accredited by the Colorado Youth Corps Association. In total, 19 corps across the nation earned CCE accreditation.

The CCE accreditation is an independent program of [The Corps Network](#) and is governed by an independent advisory committee comprising retired or former conservation corps leaders, federal land management agency staff and other experts. The advisory committee oversees the accreditation process and the review of applications. Independent reviewers determine whether youth conservation corps meet the CCE accreditation standards and make accreditation status recommendations to the advisory committee.

Because 2013 is the first year in which the CCE has granted accreditation, all accreditations are considered “provisional,” a status that will last for one year and may be extended by the CCE. Provisionally accredited corps can apply for full accreditation status in future years.

“We are very pleased with the number of programs qualifying for accreditation,” said Ira Okun, chair of The Corps Center of Excellence advisory committee. “It speaks to the willingness of youth corps to do what it takes to continuously improve their programs, commit to best practices and better serve the young people and their communities. Corps, by their adherence to high standards, enable corpsmembers to become more successful in their life and career choice.”

The CCE is dedicated to the promotion of high quality programming and standards for conservation corps across America. It ensures that programs have the capacity to meet the desired outcomes for youth, young adult, and military veteran participants as well as meet the high quality and service project requirements of resource management partners. The CCE accreditation standards are modeled after those recommended as part of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, an emerging program of President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative.

“We are very proud of the five corps in Colorado who have achieved this milestone,” said Jennifer Freeman, executive director of the CYCA. “Accreditation by the CCE is a result of many years of hard work – and the recognition is very well deserved. Kudos to these youth corps for earning this honor.”

About Colorado Youth Corps Association

The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) is a statewide coalition of 10 accredited youth conservation corps that engage and train youth, young adults, and military veterans on land, water and energy conservation projects. Youth corps is a proven strategy for engaging young people in service to their communities and

stewardship of their environment while cultivating valuable skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century. For more information about CYCA or the statewide youth corps coalition, visit www.CYCA.org.

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