



COLORADO YOUTH CORPS 2016 FACT SHEET

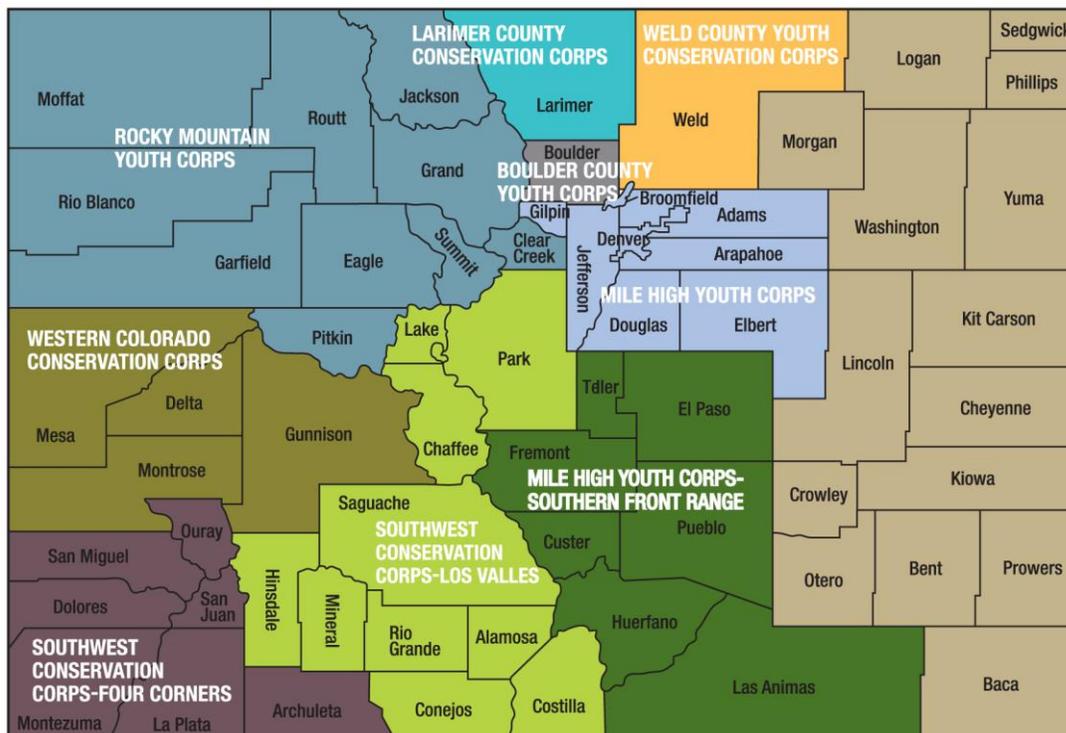
Youth corps employ and train youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects while cultivating in them civic engagement, leadership, and a desire to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Youth corps are a proven strategy for engaging young people in service to their communities and stewardship of their environment. Participants earn a competitive wage as well as technical training and experience. Youth corps participants improve Colorado's public lands, conserve natural resources and help the disadvantaged while building bright futures for themselves.



Youth corps also provide Colorado with critical conservation services. Corpsmembers:

- enhance and maintain Colorado's recreation infrastructure – in both urban and rural areas
- improve the health of Colorado's forests and prairies and help keep recreation users safe on trails, roads and in campgrounds
- maintain and enhance critical wildlife habitat and riparian areas
- save precious water and energy resources and provide cost savings to low-income Coloradans
- assist in the recovery from natural disasters, such as devastating floods and wildfires





Participation in a youth corps is a life-changing experience. Young people work hard for a purpose – and are better for it. Research shows that participants:

- are more likely to pursue careers and higher education in natural resource management than their non-participant peers
- are far more engaged with the outdoors than those who have not been in a corps
- are more likely to pursue careers and higher education in natural resource management than their non-participant peers
- have a remarkable increase in intended spending on outdoor recreation gear
- have a far higher rate of intended outdoor recreation participation
- have more positive attitudes toward public lands and environmentalism
- show improvements in educational and career aspirations
- show improvements in job readiness, leadership skills, and an interest and investment in their communities

2015 By the Numbers

- Ten accredited youth corps served 1,450 young people, young adults and military veterans
- CYCA and youth corps distributed \$1 million in AmeriCorps education awards to 830 young people.
- Over 500 corpsmembers trained in S-212 (Wildland Fire Chainsaw Use)
- 42 young adults and 4 military veterans served in paid internships with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service
- Urban corps assisted low income residents by completing energy audits, replacing toilets with water-saving new models, installing aerators on faucets, and installing compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Energy and water savings for these measures was equivalent to taking 179 cars off the road, resulted in savings of 2.7 million kW Hours, and conserved 6 million gallons of water
- Corpsmembers planted and protected more than 9,400 trees, seedlings, and grasses.
- Corpsmembers maintained 170 miles of pedestrian, off-highway vehicle, bicycle, and equestrian trails
- Corpsmembers removed 114 acres of beetle-kill, invasive, or hazard trees from forests and riparian areas

