

COLORADO YOUTH CORPS 2017 FACT SHEET

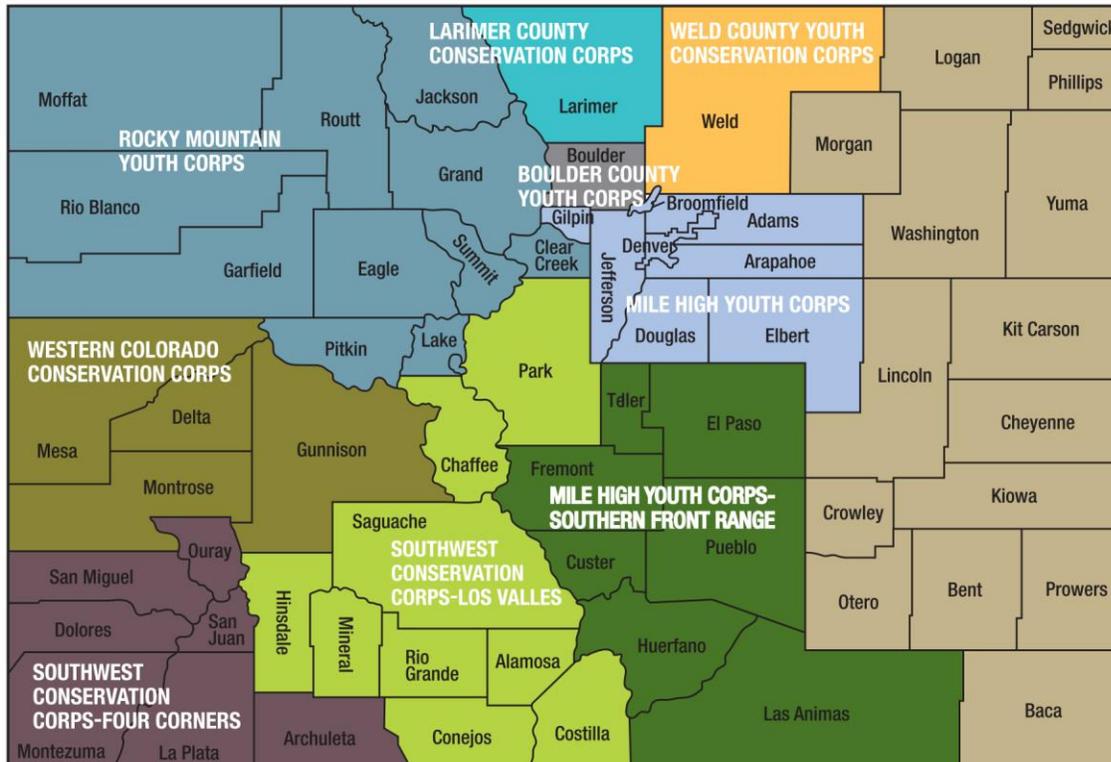
Conservation corps employ and train youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects while cultivating in them civic engagement, leadership, and a desire to steward our iconic public lands.

Conservation corps are a proven strategy for engaging young people in service to their communities and developing both personally and professionally. Participants earn a wage or living allowance as well as valued technical certifications and experience. Conservation corps participants improve Colorado's landscapes while changing the lives of our next generation.



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 open spaces and help keep recreation accessible for users 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 conservation corps is a life-changing experience. Our youth, young adults, and veterans 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

2016 By the Numbers

- Nine accredited youth corps served 1,535 youth, young adults and military veterans
- CYCA and youth corps distributed \$1.2 million in AmeriCorps education awards to 707 young people.
- Over 243 corpsmembers trained in S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Certification
- 40 young adults and military veterans served in paid internships with the Bureau of Land Management
- 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 184 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 46,564 trees and plants.
- Corpsmembers maintained 363 miles of pedestrian, off-highway vehicle, bicycle, and equestrian trails
- Corpsmembers removed 800 acres of beetle-kill, invasive, or hazard trees from forests and riparian areas

