

COLORADO YOUTH CORPS 2018 FACT SHEET

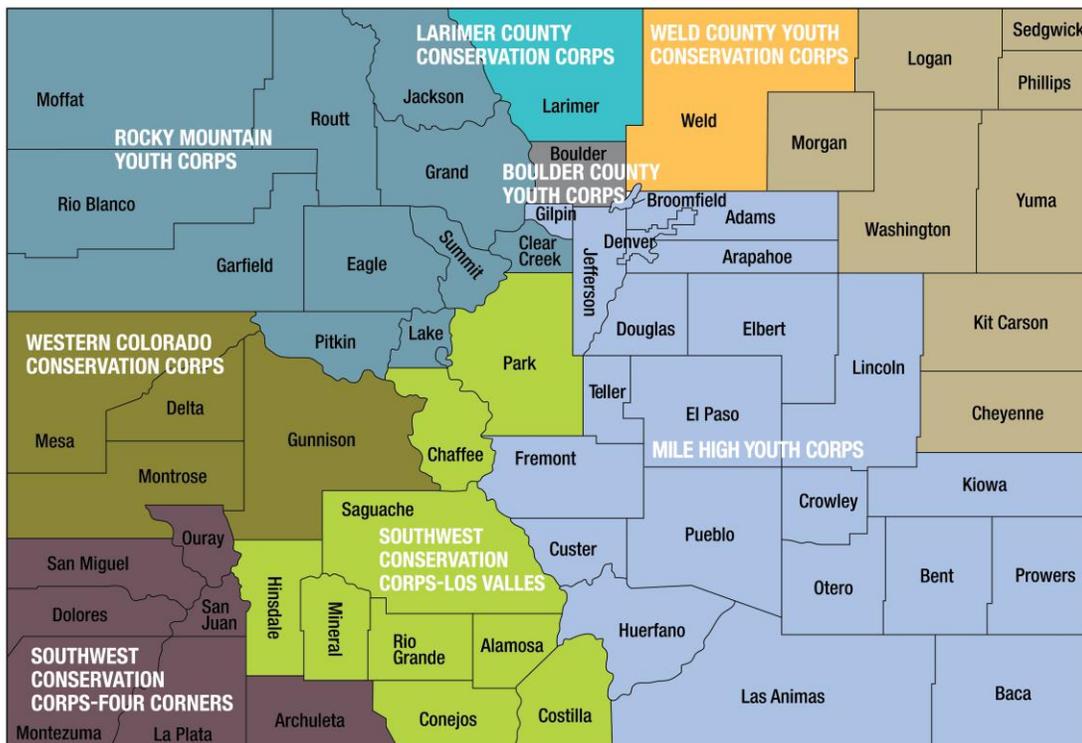
Conservation corps employ and train youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects while cultivating in them civic engagement, leadership, and a desire to steward our iconic public lands.

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. Our 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 larger than themselves. Research shows that participants:

- demonstrate improvements in job readiness, leadership skills, and investment in their communities
- demonstrate growth in critical thinking and self-responsibility
- have a far higher rate of outdoor recreation participation
- are more likely to pursue careers and higher education in natural resources

2017 By the Numbers

Changing Lives:

- Eight accredited youth corps served 1,597 youth, young adults and military veterans
- Youth corps distributed \$1.2 million in AmeriCorps Education Awards to 671 young people
- 28% of corpsmembers had no prior work experience
- 35% of corpsmembers belonged to an ethnic minority

Changing Landscapes:

Our Corpsmembers:

- built or maintained 295 miles of multi-use trails
- removed 22,174 invasive or hazard trees from recreation areas
- treated 1,726 acres for urgent risk of wildland fire
- installed 20,393 high-efficiency light bulbs that will result in lifetime savings of more than \$2.2 million
- served in 52 internship opportunities with the Bureau of Land Management, contributing more than 34,000 hours of service to communities
- moved more than 172,000 pounds of material

