

PRESS RELEASE

\$1.55 Million AmeriCorps Grant to be Used for Conservation across Colorado

Feb. 20, 2018, Denver, Colo. – The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) has been awarded \$1.55 million by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support the “Youth Corps for Colorado” AmeriCorps program in 2018. The grant will enable five youth corps organizations in rural and urban communities across the state to engage local youth, young adults and military veterans in a variety of conservation initiatives.

Statewide, the AmeriCorps “Youth Corps for Colorado” program will engage 414 service members in initiatives that address needs related to job readiness and education; disaster relief (especially for wildland fires and flooding); population growth and the commensurate increased use of public land and outdoor recreation infrastructure; and energy efficiency.

“This AmeriCorps grant comes at a time when youth corps, more than ever, are being relied upon to fulfill critical conservation needs in Colorado,” said Scott Segerstrom, executive director of CYCA. “Not only do youth corps members acquire essential job skills training, they are keeping Colorado beautiful and contributing to very important sectors of our state’s economy.

“We are so pleased to continue building on the momentum of this grant, which was first issued to CYCA in 2015,” he added.

The five youth corps organizations that will participate in this grant include Weld County Youth Conservation Corps, Larimer County Conservation Corps, Mile High Youth Corps/Mile High Youth Corps-Southern Front Range, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and Western Colorado Conservation Corps. The award is among the largest in the portfolio of [Serve Colorado, the Governor’s Commission on Community Service](#), which administers the grant.

Youth corps experiences help prepare corpsmembers for the workforce with high-quality, hands-on, job-readiness training. In addition to becoming eligible to earn AmeriCorps Education Awards worth up to \$5,815, which they can apply to future tuition or reduce existing student loans, service members will receive the benefit of participating in career training, life-skills training and environmental education activities.

The statewide impacts of this program have included the treatment of 1,521 acres of public lands; treatment or construction of 356 miles of trails or waterways; weatherization or retrofitting of 1,512 low-income housing units to improve energy and water efficiency, equating to the conservation of water that would fill 77.31 Olympic-sized pools and the removal of 127 cars from the roadways each year; and the engagement of 148 economically disadvantaged national service participants who were previously unemployed (of those, 69 enrolled in school and 40 secured employment within three months after their corps experience).

About Colorado Youth Corps Association

The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) is a statewide coalition of eight 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. Learn more at www.CYCA.org.

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