

Hire an AmeriCorps Field Crew



Conservation Corps Minnesota provides meaningful work for young people in conserving our natural resources.

What we do...

Resources restored. Lives changed.

Conservation Corps AmeriCorps field crews are well-trained and equipped to complete habitat restoration projects throughout Minnesota and surrounding states. Conservation Corps serves primarily governmental, educational and nonprofit organizations for the common good.

How does it work?

- Conservation Corps crews are located throughout Minnesota.
- District Managers in Saint Paul, Brainerd, Duluth and Mankato schedule and oversee six to ten crews based in their region.
- Each crew includes one or two leaders and four members, all 18-25 years old.
- Crews complete natural resource projects throughout the Upper Midwest.
- Projects can range from one day to one week, up to several months.
- Projects should support a public resource using public funds. Projects on private land must have public support or public funds associated with the project.
- Corpsmembers are enrolled in AmeriCorps service for an 8-10 month term and earn a monthly living stipend and an education award. They are program participants (not employees) and join the Corps to give back to the community while gaining marketable skills for natural resource and other green-industry careers.

Crew schedule

- The program runs from February through mid-December. Crews are available for hire starting in late February after training.
- Crews typically work four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday.
- Corpsmembers report to their crew office at 7 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m.
- Equipment maintenance, drive time, load time and a 30-minute lunch break are included in the 10-hour day.

What if the project is far from a crew's home office?

- Crews are available for up to 12 consecutive days for longer term projects or projects requiring significant travel. With less drive time, more work can be accomplished.
- Crews can camp on or near the project site. Crews are equipped to camp in warm or mild temperatures. In cold weather, they stay in the least expensive hotel closest to the project site.
- Food and lodging costs will be negotiated in the project contract.

Erosion Control

- Bio-engineering
- Cedar tree revegetations
- Coir blanket/roll installation
- Slope stabilization
- Stream bank restoration

Vegetation Management

- Biomass collection for BTU analysis
- Exotic species management
- Fire suppression
- Nursery activities
- Planting
- Prescribed burning
- Rain garden installation
- Seed collection/dispersal
- Timber stand improvement
- Vegetation removal

Carpentry & Trail Improvement

- Basic carpentry
- Boardwalk & bridge construction
- Campsite maintenance
- Step & retaining wall construction
- Trail brushing/clearing
- Trail maintenance

Surveying & Data Collection

- Fish & wildlife surveys
- GIS/GPS mapping
- Man-made feature surveys
- Tree & plant surveys
- Water quality sampling & monitoring



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Training

- Approximately 20% of the AmeriCorps member service term is dedicated to technical and personal skill training.
- Trainings include: power and hand tool safety and use, first aid and CPR, GPS, defensive driving, trailer operation, ATV operation, herbicide application, trail construction techniques, wildfire suppression and prescribed burning (Red Card Certification).

How do I hire a crew?

- Go to conservationcorps.org “Hire a Field Crew” and download a project request form. Email the completed form to the District Manager closest to your project.
- The District Manager will contact you with crew availability and rates to negotiate project terms. A contract will be drafted and agreed upon by both parties. The project will be scheduled and work can begin.
- Crew rates vary depending on crew size and the nature of the project. Rate includes labor and equipment.

Once the project begins

- The District Manager will provide project planning and logistic support if needed, such as materials acquisition and project design.
- Project sponsors should check-in/meet the crew on-site the first day to provide a project orientation and review tasks.
- As an AmeriCorps service-learning program, sponsors should facilitate educational components when applicable. Education can be in the form of site introductions, ecological and social benefits and project-specific skills.

Equipment*

- 4WD pickup trucks with trailers to haul equipment or project materials
- Chain saws, brush saws, pole saws and power tools such as drills, saws and generators
- Hand tools such as shovels, rakes, hammers, wheelbarrows, pulaskis, post-pounders and picks
- Backpack sprayers and hand-held herbicide application equipment
- GPS hand-held units
- Rubber boots, chest waders and hip waders
- Prescribed burn gear including Nomex attire, bladder bags, fire shelters and drip torches
- Slip-on fire fighting units*
- ATVs, snowmobiles, six-wheel Gators or Rangers, motorboats and canoes*
- *Available equipment may vary by crew
- Personal protective gear including steel-toe boots, hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, chaps, ear protection and PFDs
- Camping supplies including tents, sleeping bags, stoves, coolers and water containers

Emergency response

- As an AmeriCorps National Service program, the Corps may need to pull crews from work locations to assist in emergency response activities.
- Crews may be in “on-call” status when fire danger is high or when a natural disaster has occurred and the likelihood of crew deployment is high.
- If project completion is time sensitive, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of project hosts.

Members join the Conservation Corps to develop natural resource management skills and get hands-on experience restoring native habitat.

By partnering with the Corps, you are making a difference in the lives of young people, shaping our future natural resource management professionals and community leaders.

Resources
restored.
Lives
changed.

Contact us

Crew locations

Northwest District

Bemidji, Brainerd, Fergus Falls

Anna Lipenga

NW District Manager

(218) 833-8606

anna.lipenga@conservationcorps.org

Northeast District

Tower, Grand Rapids, Moose Lake,

Tofte, Gooseberry Falls State Park

Chris Severson

NE District Manager

(507) 696-6702

chris.severson@conservationcorps.org

Central District

St. Paul, Metro area

Brian Miller

Central District Manager

(651) 209-9900 x 19

brian.miller@conservationcorps.org

South District

Rochester, Mankato, Kilen Woods State

Park, Camden State Park

Doug Ekstrom

South District Manager

(507) 345-4744 x 108

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