



The Corps Network

Strengthening America through service and conservation

21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act



What is a Corps?

Conservation Corps are service programs that engage young people and veterans in important restoration, maintenance and community development projects on public lands, waterways, cultural heritage sites and in communities across the country. The difference between Conservation Corps and typical environmental engagement programs is that Corps participants are wholly engaged, building a personal investment in the outdoors through serving, working, recreating and learning for extended periods of time (from 4 weeks to 1 year).

Most Corps are non-profit or state-run programs that derive from the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. Corps engage young citizen and veterans in important projects while providing critical work-skills and pathways to employment.

Corpsmembers typically work on service projects like these...



Preventing wildfires

Weatherizing homes

Restoring streams and wetlands

Constructing hiking trails

Operating recycling facilities

Building parks & gardens



What is the 21CSC?

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) is a public-private partnership between federal agencies responsible for resource conservation and the management of public lands and the private sector that increases civilian national service positions and encourages those agencies to use conservation corps to meet their missions at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

**21ST CENTURY
CONSERVATION
SERVICE CORPS**

There is a large backlog of priority projects on public lands awaiting completion. There is also a high demand for national service positions, with applications to existing national service corps consistently exceeding the number of available positions.

The aim of the 21CSC is to address these two needs by **putting America's youth and returning veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors.**



The 21CSC Act

The bill establishes into law the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, with the aim of growing the 21CSC to 100,000 participants per year by 2018.

Movement on the 21CSC Act

The 21CSC Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate (**S.1993**) in August 2015 by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO). It was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (**H.R.5114**) in April 2016 by Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ) and Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA). Original co-sponsors in the House included Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY) and Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA). Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) is also a cosponsor.



Arizona Conservation Corps
Photo credit: NPS - Bryan Struble

If signed into law, the 21CSC Act would:

- Give relevant federal agencies and departments the authority to engage civilian Service Corps to complete pressing projects. Enlisting corps to do priority work has often proven to be more cost-effective for federal agencies.
- Encourage coordination across the federal government to identify ways agencies can leverage existing resources to expand the use of Conservation Corps to meet their missions.
 - **Participating Agencies and Departments:** the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce, and the EPA, Council on Environmental Quality, and Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Ensure efficiency, cost effectiveness and avoid government duplication with reporting requirements
- Streamline the federal hiring process by allowing relevant agencies to hire experienced, graduated Corpsmembers in an efficient manner, giving the agencies a tool to address the high level of employee retirement eligibility.

By efficiently allocating existing funding sources and creative funding strategies, including private support and crowd-sourcing, the goal of growing the 21CSC to 100,000 participants by 2018 will be accomplished without additional funding.

How land & water managers benefit from Corps:

- **1,498** nationwide Corps project partners evaluated the work that Conservation Corps completed in 2012. **90%** rated the quality of work as **"good or outstanding."**
- Virtually all federal project partners (**99.6%**) said they would work with Corps again.
- The National Park Service commissioned a cost evaluation which found that engaging a Corps resulted in a cost savings to the agency of **more than 50%**.

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