



ASL youth crew placing timbers for new bridge at Mount Rainier National Park

NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Offering Opportunities For Youth And Young Adults To Learn, Grow, And Experience Success

Letter from the **BOARD PRESIDENT**



“This program has helped me mature and grow as a human and I am so glad to have participated. I also learned how to identify doug fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine trees.”

- Anna, 2022 crewmember

Dear Friends,

Thirty-nine years ago, Northwest Youth Corps was founded to provide youth with an opportunity to develop work skills, practice conservation stewardship, and build community. That year, 58 motivated young people dramatically impacted the lands they served on, their communities, and their own lives. Since that auspicious launch, more than 29,000 members have made a huge investment in themselves while contributing more than 3.5 million hours of conservation service to the public lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest.

As we get ready to celebrate our fortieth year, I am very excited to share with you the following report of the accomplishments of the class of 2022. After three years of pandemic, a wildly fluctuating economy and unprecedented wildfire seasons, I am proud to say that the state of our organization is sound, and that the impact we are making is as relevant – and as critically needed – as ever.

As you read about the impressive work achieved, and the industry-leading programs which facilitated that work, please consider your own role in our success. Whether you are a land management agency or community partner, a donor, alumnus or friend, we simply could not have achieved all of this without you.

Thank you for your dedicated support of our youth, our communities, and our planet.

Sincerely,

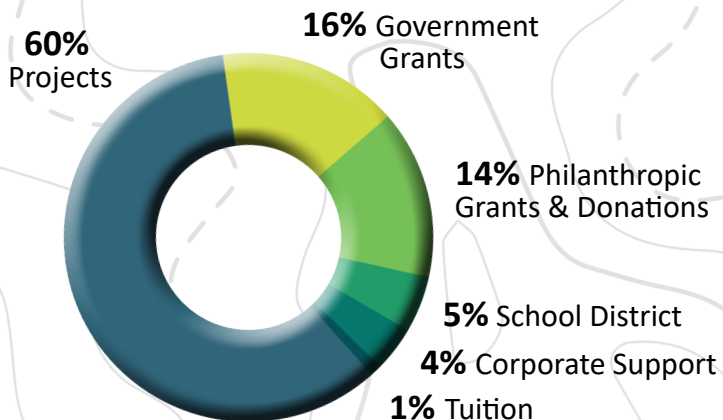
Jane Kammerzelt

Jane Kammerzelt
President of the Board

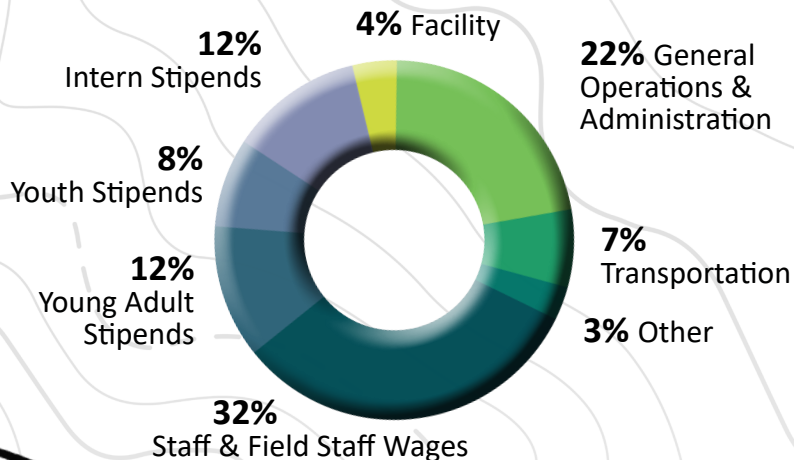


2022 | BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUES | \$9,603,601



\$9,501,058 | EXPENDITURES



695

Participants engaged



165,046

Hours of conservation service



239 miles of trail built/maintained

1,051 logs bucked off trails

4,451 trail structures built

13,260 acres of habitat restored

native flora planted **163,709**

acres of fuels reduced **254**

miles of fence maintained **45**

native seeds collected **138,000**



NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS



Since 1984, more than 29,000 youth and young adults have learned, grown, and experienced success through service in a Northwest Youth Corps program. NYC offers summer based 5-week residential (camping) and day crew programs for teens; crews for young adults lasting from two to five months; and individual internships for young adults lasting three to twelve months. We run these award-winning programs in partnership with nearly 100 federal, state and municipal organizations each year including regional and city parks, other nonprofit organizations, and agencies like the US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

When they serve with NYC, crew members accomplish essential conservation projects, build community, learn key workforce skills, and earn certifications, high school credit and/or AmeriCorps Education Awards. NYC interns assist land management professionals in critical aspects of forest and park operations, scientific research, public education, and more. In many cases, they support our agency partners in building a workforce for tomorrow by obtaining full-time employment with the hosting agency after their service.

Our 39 year record of accomplishment continues to illuminate one of our founding principles – that on-the-job training, work experience, and education are key to helping youth build the capacity to invest in their own dreams. It is not accidental that the very same grit and leadership skills required to tackle conservation projects also facilitate our members' (and alumni) ability to overcome the challenges of everyday life. These committed young people gain a solid foothold toward their careers, while blossoming into competent, concerned, and engaged citizen stewards and leaders in their communities.

We are asking FOR YOUR HELP to increase our MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

For decades, Northwest Youth Corps' foundational partnerships with federal, state, and local land managers have allowed us to conduct a vast amount of public land stewardship. These "fee for service" projects primarily fund work stipends, education, and key operational costs for our crews – but not everything we need. As NYC prepares to launch our fortieth year of service, we want to do even more to transform the lives of the youth who participate in our programs, while increasing our value to the communities we serve.

Financial investment from you – our strongest supporters – provides essential resources beyond what we receive from our stewardship partners. This includes everything from scholarships, safety training, medical evaluations, and career and life skill development, to launching new programming. While our partner's financial support gets the project done, your transformational gifts help us deepen the experience of, and outcomes for, our members – to ready them for a successful life on whichever path they choose.

Please make the most generous gift you can, to make a "forever" impact, and support those young people who are leading NYC's important response to today's environmental and social challenges.

DIVERSIFYING THE OUTDOORS

At Northwest Youth Corps, we believe diversity is an essential source of strength for our communities, and we strive to create a safe and empowering environment for all participants and staff from the widest range of backgrounds and abilities. While we are privileged to facilitate conservation service on our public lands, with humility, we also acknowledge that injustice and violence was at the heart of acquiring these lands. Therefore, we are deeply invested in addressing this traumatic legacy by supporting youth and young adults of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, religions, sexual orientations, economic status, and/or other socio-cultural identifiers to learn, grow, and experience success in our programs, and beyond.

A key element of our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is fielding single-identity affinity crews and internships to support communities historically under-served in the outdoor space. These include NYC's community-based programs for urban teens; conservation crews for teens and young adults who identify as LGBTQ+; programs for Native youth; and American Sign Language inclusion crews. When it comes to DEI in the workplace, we are always striving to seek the next opportunity to best meet our goal for inclusion in the outdoors.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION CORPS

In the wake of the devastating Labor Day fires in 2020, the Oregon Legislature passed an ambitious bill which invested in several key initiatives to address the increasing risk that wildfire poses to our communities, natural resources, and economy. One of the initiatives launched in Senate Bill 762 was the Oregon Conservation Corps – a program with the purpose of reducing wildfire risk in our most vulnerable communities. To specifically meet these wildfire prevention goals, NYC established a new Community Wildfire Protection Corps (CWPC) program to train and deploy young adults ages 19-26 in fire prevention methods.

In CWPC's first year, 11 crews (64 young adults and staff) treated 144 sites (240+ acres) and assisted 360 community members through 13,696 hours of service-work. Crews reduced wildfire risk in high priority areas by conducting fuels reduction, specifically in a 100 ft. radius around homes and critical infrastructure. Members also received a total of 3,500 hours of education, including courses required for Entry Level Wildland Firefighter certification; chainsaw, pole-saw, brush cutter, chipper training; lessons on principles of wildfire prevention and conservation; and more. In this way we are training a cohort of young adults who can fill needed gaps in our wildfire workforce of tomorrow.



WOMEN IN CONSERVATION



Northwest Youth Corps' all-women's crews and internships provide women – who have historically been under-represented from conservation and outdoor careers – the opportunity to gain job-skills and exposure to careers in parks and natural resource management.

In 2022, NYC was awarded a grant from the National Park Foundation to fund a career-pathway for young adult women into the National Park Service. Through NYC's Leadership Development Program, young women served at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument; Oregon Caves National Monument; and Crater Lake National Park, where they worked alongside the Crater Lake fire crew. During the final three weeks, participants served at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park where the crew cleared invasive plants, thinned trees, collected native seeds, and enjoyed a Ranger-led interpretive kayak tour of the Lewis and Clark River.



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really, really, really like
just being in a women's only crew.

WATCH WOMEN'S CREW VIDEO



NYC also partnered with Mount Rainier National Park to host two interns through a Women's Climbing Fellowship Program. The goal of this program is to engage qualified young women to prepare for and conduct a broad range of emergency service activities, and eventually gain a paid position within the Mount Rainier climbing program. Over the course of the summer, two Interns (Clara M. and Rachel F.) performed climbing patrols of Mount Rainier and other peaks within the park; staffed high camps and ranger stations; responded to emergency incidents; issued permits to climbers; and monitored commercial service operations and impacts on wilderness character. They also experienced helicopter crewmember training as well as search and rescue, high angle rope rescue, and emergency medical training.

NYC also operated two all-women's Portland Community Crews with Girls Inc. A partner of NYC since 2015, Girls Inc. inspires young women ages 6-18 to be strong, smart, and bold. Each Girls Inc. member needs to complete two summer internships, requirements which are fulfilled through participation in NYC's program. Last year, 16 members carried out priority projects in east Portland, after which they engaged in daily education. For their efforts, participants earned a stipend, academic credit, and a solid job reference, and became better prepared for "non-traditional" careers in resource management, conservation, and outdoor recreation.



"I have learned to adapt and persevere when times get hard. Beyond learning trail building methods, crosscut and nursery operations, I also learned about the importance of an expedition mindset. Overall, I learned not only physical skills but interpersonal crew skills."

- 2022 All-women's LDP crewmember

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NYC's Intern Program has grown and matured rapidly during its eight-year history. Last year, Drew Slaney (Nez Perce Tribe Nimiipuu), who grew up in his Tribe's traditional homeland, enrolled with NYC to become a Tribal Affairs Liaison Resource Assistant with Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington State. Since his NYC internship, Drew has pursued a master's degree in environmental studies at Western Washington University.

He is currently working to complete his Master's thesis, and has just accepted a full-time position on the Olympic National Forest to combine his awareness of the importance of taking care of the land, his passion for native history, and teaching youth. NYC is so proud to be a part of Drew's story and cannot wait to see what lies ahead.

Since most members who serve in NYC's Intern Program are still finishing their undergraduate degrees, it is incredibly rewarding for us when these interns later gain permanent positions with their hosting agencies. Such is the case with Kayla Fermin, whose NYC internship placed her with Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Astoria, Oregon. During her service, Kayla worked to convert 10 years of Columbia River Estuary botany survey data from paper records to a more dynamic and effective digital format. Kayla's work has come full circle. She is now a permanent staff member at Lewis and Clark NHP where part of her responsibilities are to mentor and supervise interns that the park hosts every summer. Her own experience in the NYC intern program has given her perspective on how transformative a single summer's experience can be. She and other staff at Lewis and Clark NHP create an incredibly supportive learning environment for interns and crews from NYC and other conservation corps. Kayla is a stellar example of why we do what we do here at NYC.



[WATCH INTERNSHIP VIDEO](#)

TWIN RIVERS CHARTER SCHOOL

Twin Rivers Charter School (TRCS) opened in 2016 following an 18-year history as a private alternative Outdoor High School operated by Northwest Youth Corps. Now, as a Charter School, Twin Rivers serves 8th-12th grade students who are excited for a robust and less traditional educational experience, and who are ready to make positive change in the world.

Twin Rivers is a small school environment with classes of no more than 20 students. A big part of its success is driven by the use of bi-weekly "field studies" which act as a practicum for the learning that occurs each day in the classroom. For example, on Earth Day, students and staff conducted an Invasive Species Removal Marathon. For 24 hours, teams of high school students and staff, as well as the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, pulled invasive weeds at Log Jam State Park. The project helped raise awareness about the importance of conservation and restoration efforts in Oregon State Parks and improved habitat for native species of plants and animals.

Twin Rivers Charter School uses a Community School approach to assist students in earning credits needed for graduation through one-on-one academic coaching, case management, and college and career services. TRCS students and staff also take part in four camping trips around the state each academic year to learn, explore, play, and gain inspiration from the great outdoors.



WASHINGTON STATE



In 2022, 134 youth and young adults served more than 28,800 hours in Washington crew-based programs, while 20 Interns provided another 13,233 hours of conservation service to Washington public lands. One of NYC's largest partners in the state is Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which currently manages more than 3 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, and commercial lands, as well as 2.6 million acres of aquatic areas. Our partnership with DNR has doubled each year since 2021, with 29 project weeks anticipated for 2023. Projects NYC crews worked on with DNR include trail maintenance and brushing along the White Ridge Trail network in the Ahtanum State Forest and the construction of new mountain bike trails with the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, at the Naneum Ridge State Forest.

"Through my experience with NYC, I've learned to work better as part of a team, by problem-solving and organizing the workload. I've also developed better leadership skills through my time as a Leader of the Day. And, I've also learned to use new tools."

- Cecelia W., 2022 crewmember

Continuing Northwest Youth Corps' 25 year partnership with the US Forest Service, Washington based crews conducted more than 100 weeks of work in forests such as the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests. On the Entiat Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest NYC youth crews conducted invasive plant removal, trail construction, brushing, and tread stabilization to restore trails after the 2018 Cougar Creek and Crescent Creek Fires. Crews also helped to re-open a 30-mile segment of the Pacific Northwest Trail in the Pasayten Wilderness. Several NYC crews also served with the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Chief Joseph Dam (central WA) and John Day Dam (along the Columbia River.)

Since 2017, NYC's Sound to Summit program has completed work closer to the South Puget Sound. This program serves urban teens and gives them an opportunity to gain experience and serve in the cities of Olympia and Tacoma parks and wild spaces. Participants capstone their experience spending their final week camping, working, learning, and recreating with our partners Mount Rainier National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. We're excited to be expanding into Olympic National Park this year!



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WATCH SOUND TO SUMMIT VIDEO



IDAHO CONSERVATION CORPS

In 2022, 92 youth and young adults served more than 22,626 hours in Idaho crew-based programs. We also fielded 32 Interns who provided 17,961 hours of conservation service to our public lands. Our work is made possible through the support of 7 National Forests, 15 Ranger Districts, 1 National Historic Site, 2 BLM Districts, 2 US Army Corps Districts, and 9 State/Municipality/NGO partners.

Some highlights consisted of building wildlife-friendly fencing at Lake Cascade in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Fish and Game, and Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. The new fencing is designed to keep cows from grazing in the sensitive riparian areas around the lake while still allowing wildlife to access the water. Another project, in partnership with the remote St. Joe Ranger District, was the reopening of the Sawtooth Creek Trail, which had only been maintained once in the last two decades due to its difficult accessibility. One ICC crew hiked seven miles in the backcountry. Using brush cutters and chainsaws, they cut through the overgrown brush and fallen trees to reestablish the original path. Afterwards they came through with hand tools to dig out narrow or nonexistent tread. Accomplishing this work helps fly fishermen, campers, backpackers, equestrians, and others to sustainably access the St. Joe River, a designated Wild and Scenic River since 1978, and keeps a trail on the map that would have otherwise been retired permanently from use.

“I was able to explore parts of my home state I didn’t know existed. I hope that my time here with ICC will propel me into a career in forestry and resource management. I learned that I am capable of much more than I believed myself to be.”

—2022 ICC crewmember



2022 | DONATIONS AND GRANTS

DONATIONS

Northwest Youth Corps sincerely appreciates the generosity of all our donors. The donors listed below made gifts or grants totaling \$50 or more during the 2022 calendar year.

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