



# Marin Conservation Corps

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## *Our Mission*

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*Develop youth and conserve natural resources for a strong, sustainable community.*

We achieve our mission by:

- Providing a diverse group of youth and young adults with opportunities to transform their lives through education, employability, civic engagement, and leadership.
- Caring for our environment by conserving and restoring natural resources, and by improving recreational areas.
- Creating the environmental leaders of the future by teaching environmental ethics and behaviors to children, teens and adults.
- Making communities safer by reducing fire and flood hazards and by responding to public emergencies and disasters.

Founded in 1982, Marin Conservation Corps is the nation's first local nonprofit conservation corps. Since its inception, Marin Conservation Corps has shown more than 3,000 young people between the ages of 11 and 30 the way to a brighter future.

## *Investing in Youth*

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### **Corpsmember Education**

Participation in the Corpsmember Education Program is required of all corpsmembers. The core curriculum provided by Marin Conservation Corps focuses on project-based learning in the field and formal classroom instruction. MCC is a site of the John Muir Charter High School. Serving a corpsmember population with diverse needs, the education program includes or facilitates:

- Onsite, accredited high school classes
- College attendance
- English as a Second Language
- Professional internships

### **Career and Educational Guidance**

Corps-to-Career supports corpsmembers throughout their service in Marin Conservation Corps and for two years following their completion of service. Corpsmembers receive guidance with career development and résumé composition as well as with finding employment or placement in educational institutions. This comprehensive program also provides:

- Training in job-seeking skills
- Job-retention education
- One-on-one counseling and support services
- Help with accessing social and community services
- Follow-up with and tracking of alumni

## **Project ReGeneration**

Middle and high school students have the opportunity to participate in Project ReGeneration, a unique summer experience offered by Marin Conservation Corps. Open to 11- to 17-year-olds, the program combines educational and recreational activities with meaningful community service projects that concentrate on one or more of the following objectives:

- Recycling and waste reduction
- Energy conservation
- Habitat restoration
- Trail improvement
- Litter abatement

With the emphasis on an environmental curriculum, the educational component also includes team-building exercises, journal writing, and team discussions. Field trips, canoeing, sports, hiking, and drama round out the program, which each year, provides approximately 140 Marin youths with an exciting and fun, yet safe and educational, adventure.

## ***Conserving Natural Resources***

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### **Natural Resource Management**

Marin Conservation Corps' Natural Resources Program affords corpsmembers outstanding job-training opportunities in conservation, park improvement, and fire and flood prevention projects throughout Marin County. At the same time, Marin Conservation Corps provides an exceptional human resource to:

- Marin's national, state and county parks
- State and federal regulatory agencies
- Public lands managers
- Fire-protection agencies
- Homeowners' associations
- Nonprofit organizations

### **Ecosystem Restoration**

AmeriCorps members in the Restoration and Ecosystem Management Program are mentored by natural resource specialists from various park agencies that partner with Marin Conservation Corps to provide this opportunity. Serving with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin Municipal Water District, Point Reyes National Seashore and the Marin County Open Space District, the corpsmembers are responsible for:

- Assisting in the restoration of more than 100 sensitive, high-priority terrestrial and aquatic sites.
- Recruiting and engaging several thousand volunteers for a variety of environmental projects.

## *Serving the Community*

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### **Community Recycling**

Communities rely on the leadership and initiative of corpsmembers in Marin Conservation Corps' Community Recycling Program to help achieve state-mandated and municipal waste-reduction goals.

Partnerships forged with park personnel, community organizations and agencies, and county businesses and residents are the cornerstone of the program, which meets the following needs of the community:

- Collection of recyclables from more than 316 sites within Marin's parklands.
- Education of the public, including schools and businesses, about waste-reduction practices.
- Construction of recycling bins from recycled materials, which are then made available to park agencies and municipalities.
- Introduction of recycling education curricula to schoolchildren.

### **Recycling Education**

Thousands of Marin County school children each year receive instruction in the 4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot) and in natural resource conservation through Marin Conservation Corps' Recycling Education Program. Corpsmembers in the program visit schools, making presentations and engaging students in project-based learning activities. Teachers gain access to project ideas, project materials and environmental-science curricula through For Earth's Sake, a mobile resource library operated by corpsmembers. Housed in a van, the library distributes both environmental curricula and reusable materials collected from local businesses.

### **Service Learning**

The Youth in Environmental Service Program offers Marin Conservation Corps' AmeriCorps members the opportunity to teach environmental education to youth; to implement school recycling, gardening and conservation projects; and to lead youth in habitat restoration with partnering agencies.

Corpsmembers serve in Marin's middle and high schools, providing environmentally focused enrichment activities that include the coordination and hosting of on-campus eco-projects, the organizing of student environmental service clubs, and the creation of youth volunteer programs.

*Linking people to the community through environmental and community service increases their prospects and improves their lives by demonstrating that they can make a difference in restoring our natural systems and that they have vital roles to play in creating a strong, healthy community.*