



## Resources Restored. Lives Changed.

The Conservation Corps provides meaningful work skills training and experience for 18-25 year olds in conserving our natural resources.

### How does it work?

- Conservation Corps Iowa is a program of the Minnesota Conservation Corps, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- The Conservation Corps operates in a crew structure; each crew includes one leader and 4 crew members (all 18-25 years old).
- Two 5-person crews are available for hire to complete natural resource-based projects on public land (or private land directed by public initiatives) throughout Iowa and the Upper Midwest.
- Projects can range from one day to several months.
- Crew members are enrolled in AmeriCorps, a national service movement to improve communities, and they serve a 10-month term.
- Crew members are considered participants (*not employees*) and receive a living allowance and an education award upon program completion.

### What is a crew's work schedule?

- Crews work 10-hour days, including drive time to and from project sites.
- 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday (other days as necessary).
- 10 months a year, mid-February to mid-December.
- Crews are available to camp on or near the work site for the duration of the project if the project location is far from a crew office.

### How much training do crews have?

- 20% of the term is dedicated to learning positive workplace behaviors and technical work skills.
- Through on-the-job training, the Conservation Corps prepares members for natural resource and other technical fields.
- Project sponsors are encouraged to provide on-site education through project site introductions or by teaching project specific skills.



### What can we do?

#### EROSION CONTROL

- Bio-engineering
- Slope stabilization
- Cedar tree revetments
- Coir blanket/roll installation

#### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Exotic species removal
- Planting
- Nursery activities
- Seed collection
- Shoreline & stream bank restoration
- Rain garden installation
- Restoration area maintenance
- Fire suppression
- Prescribed burning
- Timber stand improvement

#### SURVEYING & DATA COLLECTION

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

#### CONSTRUCTION & CARPENTRY

- Step, retaining wall, boardwalk or bridge construction
- Trail clearing and maintenance
- Basic carpentry
- Natural resource area facility construction & maintenance



## What equipment do crews have?

- Hand & Power Tools: Chain saws, brush saws, power pole saws, drills, saws, routers, generators, shovels, rakes, picks, pulaskis, post-pounders, hammers, wheelbarrows, etc.
- GPS handheld units (typically Garmin 76)
- Backpack sprayers and daubers for herbicide application
- Prescribed burn gear: Nomex, bladder bags, drip torches, fire shelters
- Personal protective gear: steel toe boots, hard hats, gloves, chaps, and safety glasses



## How much does a crew cost?

- Rates start at \$800 per 10-hour day, depending on crew size and the nature of the project. Rate includes labor and all necessary equipment.
- Additional cost for food and lodging (camping) of approximately \$200 per week may apply depending on project location.

## How do I hire a crew?

1. Fill out a project request form (available on the web site) and e-mail or fax it to the District Manager.
2. The District Manager will contact you with crew availability and negotiate the terms of the project.
3. A contract will be drafted and agreed upon by both parties.
4. The project will be scheduled and work can begin.

## Once the project has begun:

- The Crew Manager will provide project planning and logistical support if needed, including materials acquisition and project design.
- Project sponsor involvement will vary depending on the nature of the project. Initial oversight may be necessary to orient the crew.



### Contact Us

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