

CONSERVATION
legacy

ANCESTRAL LANDS NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION 2018 REPORT

Connecting Utah Native American Youth to National Parks



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CONSERVATION LEGACY ANCESTRAL LANDS NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION 2018 REPORT

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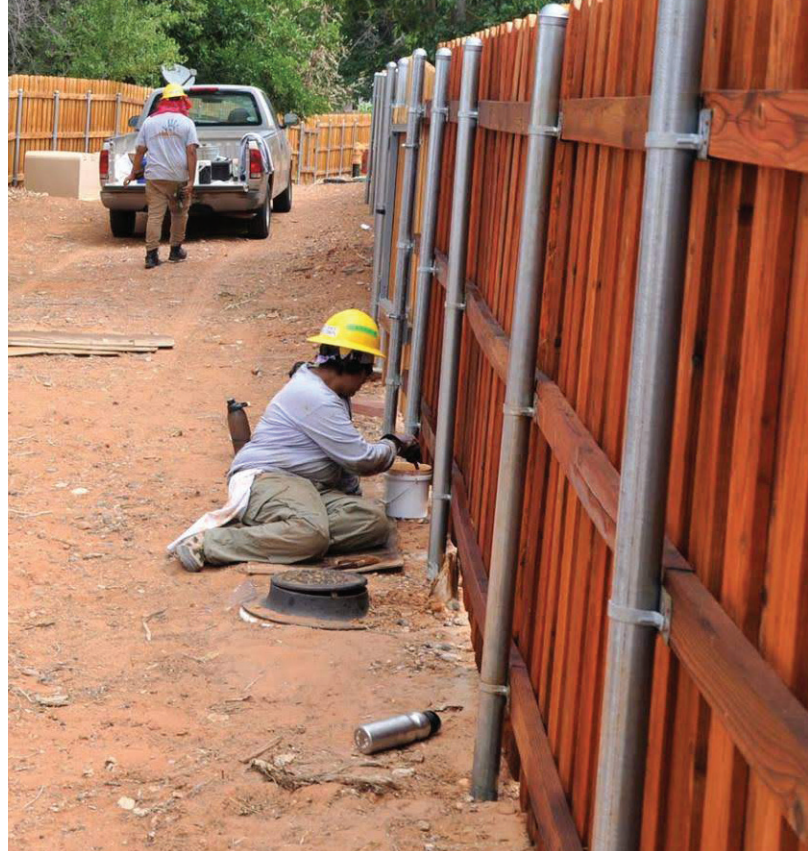


CONSERVATION LEGACY IS NOW IN ITS 20TH YEAR of operation, supporting local programs that provide conservation service opportunities for youth, young adults and veterans to work on public lands and in their communities.

Continuing the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and in the spirit of national service, Conservation Legacy regional programs include: **Arizona Conservation Corps** (Flagstaff, Tucson and Pinetop, AZ), **Conservation Corps New Mexico** (Las Cruces, NM), **Great Appalachian Valley Conservation Corps** (New Market, VA), **Southeast Conservation Corps** (Chattanooga, TN), **Southwest Conservation Corps** (Durango and Salida, CO; Gallup, Zuni, Acoma and Hopi, NM), **Stewards Individual Placements** (National; Durango, CO and Beckley, WV) and **Preserve America Youth Summit** (National).

In addition to these programs, Conservation Legacy manages signature program models such as Ancestral Lands and the Veterans Fire Corps.

NATIVE YOUTH LEADING OUR NATIONS BACK TO ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL WELLBEING.



ANCESTRAL LANDS OVERVIEW

Rooted in the culture and heritage of local tribal communities, the power and impact of Ancestral Lands programming is due to the community investment and support for each program tribally and locally, combined with the network of operational support from Conservation Legacy and its partners. Ancestral Lands supports local offices that are staffed and operating crews directly connected with a tribal community, external corps programs that are implementing tribal crews and VISTAs working to develop programs where there is interest and need.

The Ancestral Lands program has significant impacts on the individuals that participate in the program and the communities in which work is done. Participants learn about their history and the significance of the places they work, strengthen connections to their ancestors, culture, language, and traditions.

All participants participate in technical skills trainings that help prepare them for the service projects. This training can include chainsaw training, wilderness first aid trainings, CPR, leadership development and risk management. This program has helped individuals find their voice, create community and develop communication, leadership and job skills needed for a successful future.

2018 was another incredible year for Ancestral Lands Programs. A total of 301 Native American youth and young adults were engaged through crew and individual placement programming. In wages, salaries, AmeriCorps Education Awards and living allowances alone, the Ancestral Lands program has provided over 2 million dollars in economic development throughout Indian Country in FY2018.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Program (SCC-AL) collaborated with Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC), Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB), and the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) to engage 79 Utah Native American youth and young adults with National Park Units in Utah.

Crews of Native young adults completed priority conservation projects in Utah National Parks. Interns through IIC provided additional capacity at NPS sites while learning valuable career-enhancing skills. Youth "hiking clubs" experienced beautiful Utah National Parks, shadowed NPS staff, learned of career opportunities and completed impactful service projects.

Southwest Conservation Corps and Canyon Country Youth Corps have the expertise for mobilization and training of crews that travel and complete important infrastructure, maintenance and stewardship work in partnership with land management agencies, including the National Park Service. A mix of eight and four person crews from these Corps spent a total of 40 weeks completing project work at NPS sites in Utah.

Each Corps program has existing connections with staff at National Park Sites throughout Utah. Corps were responsible for reaching out to new and existing NPS partners to align project needs with their crews schedules, conducting site visits, training and mobilizing crew leaders and collecting photos, accomplishments and testimonials needed for project reporting.



Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands

Crews: One crew of Native American youth worked at Dinosaur National Monument to improve and maintain the Dinosaur Trail. The crew built terrace steps and foundation, removed mud and debris from the trail, repaired eroded sections of the trail, and built drainage structures along the trail.

Hiking Club: SCC-AL ran a hiking club for youth in partnership with Utah Diné Bikéyah, who has substantial contacts with multiple Native American communities in Utah. UDB helped SCC-AL to recruit local youth to participate in the hiking club. The youth participated in a three week session that was repeated for three sessions throughout the summer. The hiking club visited five National Park Units in Utah, coordinated with staff to learn about careers and gained exposure to the park while also completing service projects where available.

A total of 39 Hiking Club members and two Crew Leaders participated in a Hiking Club to teach the youth about healthy living, expose participants to National Parks and engage in recreational and educational activities at National Park sites. The Hiking Club visited Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Mesa Verde National Park, and Natural Bridges National Monument.





Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative Interns

IIC is a program of Southern Utah University that partnered with land management agencies and tribes to place interns and mobilize crews. IIC engaged six interns for a total of 60 weeks at NPS sites and ran a six person crew program for 10 weeks and a five person crew for 10 weeks.

Facilities Management Intern: This grant allowed Cedar Breaks National Monument and the IIC to pilot a post-graduate internship focusing on facilities management. The intern was able to gain experience in facilities management in both Zion and Cedar Breaks. The intern left her work seeing facilities management as a viable career option. The IIC will continue to work with Cedar Breaks, Zion, and our local tribes to connect tribal youth with career tracks through internships.

Recreation Monitoring Intern: Chastiney Paul received the IIC's "Rookie of the Year" Award for her work monitoring recreation impacts at Bryce Canyon National Park. As part of their management plan, Bryce Canyon is developing a social impacts monitoring program in partnership with Southern Utah University professor Dr. Goonan. This internship was the first step in ritualizing this monitoring process.

Tribal Liaison Interns: Cedar Breaks National Monument hosted two interns through the IIC to develop plans and presentations to connect public lands to tribal youth in our region. These interns recruited diverse students, created outreach plans, developed a process for tribal scholarships and became advocates for national parks on campus. Mentoring included developing project plans, presentations and outreach skills such as creating fliers and organizing recruiting events.



Canyon Country Youth Corps

Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC) is a Conservation Corps based out of Monticello, UT and a part of the Canyon Country Discovery Center non-profit organization. CCYC has many years of experience running conservation crews, partnering with agencies to complete service work and engaging Native American youth and young adults. Through this grant, CCYC ran two crews with six native crew members in the summer, and one crew with six native members in the fall.

Crews: Our Summer Youth Ancestral Lands Crews was trained in backcountry skills, trail maintenance, and teamwork. These crews worked in Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef National Parks and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Within these parks crews helped to remove invasive species, maintain trails, build campgrounds, remove trash, and build fencing.

Our Adult Ancestral Lands Crew was trained in backcountry living, trail maintenance, fencing, and teamwork as well. This crew worked in Arches and Capitol Reef National Parks. This crew was able to aid these parks in invasive species removal, fencing and culling orchard fruit.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

Tribal Relations Interns

In cooperation with Cedar Breaks National Monument, IIC was able to hire two Native American Tribal Relations Interns. These interns have played an integral part in the IIC's continued effort to connect Native American students to the National Parks in our area.

The Tribal Relations Interns were able to create and distribute a flier for scholarship funds intended to give Native American youth applicable skills, experience and knowledge in Natural Resources and Outdoor education. The Tribal Relations Interns have also been able to attend marketing events and create marketing materials that have helped us reach out to Native American students. They continue to work to maintain and facilitate relationships with the local tribes that will ultimately help us host another Native American crew in 2019.

Conservation Crews were able to work alongside NPS staff to learn about career opportunities with the National Park Service and to see firsthand what jobs are available with NPS.

ADJUSTMENTS TO ORIGINAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IIC's original plan was to hire six interns and one six person crew. This changed after discussing needs with the local Paiute Tribe. We learned there was a greater need to create opportunities for high school youth and made changes to align with the needs of the tribe.

Originally Conservation Legacy had partnered with Utah Conservation Corps to engage Ute participants in work at Dinosaur National Monument. UCC had challenges recruiting enough local Native American youth to fill their crews, and so SCC-AL worked with Dinosaur National Monument to send an existing crew to complete trail work at the monument.

FUTURE PLANS

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is coordinating a meeting with the IIC, Coconino County College and Glen Canyon NRA to discuss Native American Intern placements at visitor centers in Big Water and Page.

SCC-AL crews will work at Dinosaur National Monument in 2019, continuing work on the Dinosaur Trail, building upon this year's work. Conservation Legacy will also look for funding to continue the successful Utah Hiking Club model in 2019 due to community interest and success this year.

BY THE NUMBERS

DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 79

Southwest Conservation Corps: 46

Hiking Club Members: 39

Hiking Club Leaders: 2

Conservation Crew: 5

Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative: 17

Interns: 6

Conservation Crew: 11

Canyon Country Youth Corps: 16

Conservation Crew: 16

PROJECT AND PARTICIPATION HOURS

11,135 TOTAL HOURS OF NATIVE YOUTH ENGAGED IN THE OUTDOORS

Southwest Conservation Corps: 4,420 hours

Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative: 3,532 hours

Canyon Country Youth Corps: 3,183 hours

RACIAL IDENTITY

100% Native American

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAMPsites RESTORED: 89

TOTAL ACRES RESTORED: 17

TOTAL MILES RESTORED: 3.75

FEET FENCE CONSTRUCTED: 1,155

TRAILS IMPROVED:

By SCC-AL: .5 miles

By CCYC: .25 miles

Drains Constructed: 3

Rock Steps Constructed: 22

NATIVE SEEDS COLLECTED: 3 LBS

RUSSIAN THISTLE REMOVED

Acres: 4.7

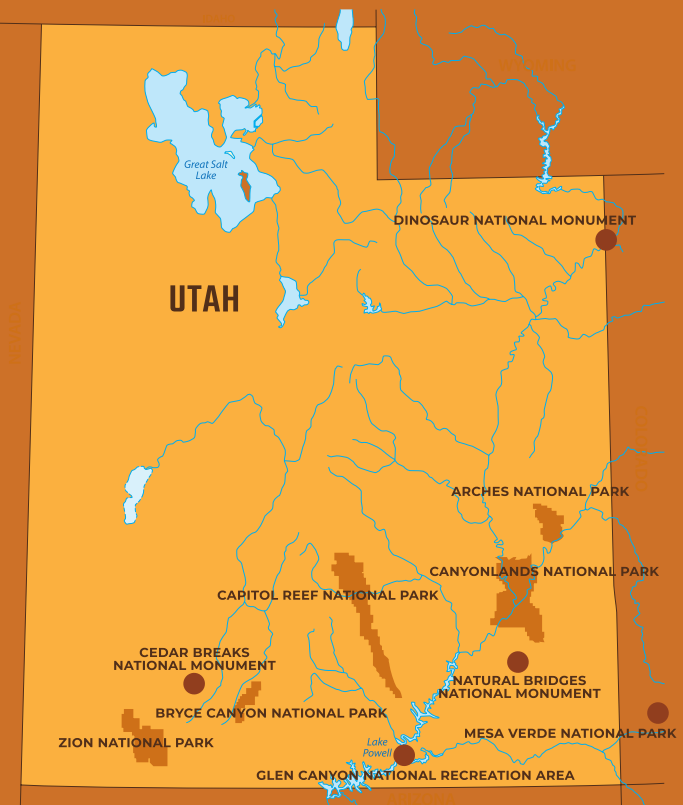
TRASH REMOVED:

Gallons: 60

Pounds: 100



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LOCATIONS



PARTNER AND PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

LLOYD MASAYUMPTWEA,
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT,
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
“The Ancestral Lands organization is an exceptional partner that provides avenues to provide work and learning for indigenous youth. They in turn provide much needed help for completing various projects in our park units. Without this type of assistance, some of the much needed work in the parks could not be completed.”

The benefit of having Indigenous youth is that they have intimate connections to the area, which helps in having ownership of the things they work on. In all, this unique program provides many benefits to the parks and local Tribal entities.”

KANE,
CREW MEMBER “I feel much more connected to the park since I’ve spent a lot of time there, as well as taking a part in keeping this area clean. I think I will spend more time at NPS sites in the future to either work in these areas or to show other people how parks are exquisitely beautiful and how they are important to the environment.”

FARA WILLIAMS,
CREW LEADER “Being Native American, I feel the Ancestral Lands grant program is important because it helps support the land our culture believes is sacred. The program enables Native American youth to complete valuable projects that help them connect in positive ways to their surrounding community, gaining valuable job experience and skills, as well as exposes them to future careers with public land agencies”

AMARAN TSOSIE,
HIKING CLUB PARTICIPANT
“Yes I do feel more connected to the National Park and I do think I will spend more time at the NPS sites in the future to have lots of fun.”

THITIA,
CREW MEMBER “Yes, I feel more connected to the National Park sites near me because I learned much more about the environment, how people are trying to preserve these sites for future education. I strongly believe that I will spend more time at NPS sites in the future because I love nature and being in nature. I would most likely be exploring the land, learning more about it, and help to contribute to preserving the land. A career that I learned about in the National Park Service would be the Park Rangers, and I would be interested in pursuing such a career because I would have a great time being outdoors, seeing others enjoy the outdoors and also teaching them how to respect and cherish the landscape and all it has to offer.”

DARIUS STEWART,
CREW LEADER “I’m here for the kids, and it’s been great. I’ve gotten to see them connect with each other, come out of their shells, and be happy while outdoors. They’ve learned a lot about the landscape and the National Park Service. I’m glad they’re having fun, and actually enjoying the hikes in the summer heat. They’re excited about what they find and learn.”

FROM THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION JOURNALS:

WHICH NATIONAL PARK IS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST?

“Natural Bridges was my favorite because we got to hike down to sites and take in all the beautiful scenery. What I liked about it was it made me test my limits, I never expected that I would finish 6 miles, it was also pretty fun to hike.” -Jennifer Mark

“My favorite National Park I been to was Natural Bridges because it was a 6 mile hike and there were huge rock that looked like bridges and it was a nice day.” -Anthony Betsuie

WHAT CAREERS DID YOU LEARN ABOUT IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER WITH NPS?

“I learned about rangers, interns and conservationist, it would be interesting to pursue a career as a ranger because they get to really be hands on with the park.” -Kyrstyn Shields

“I learned about the interns, park rangers and conservationist, I would like to do an internship at a park.” -Morgan Whiskers

“Rangers, botanist, conservationist, I want to be a Ranger because I can help people find their way.” -Oscar Tsosie

DO YOU FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO THE NATIONAL PARK SITES NEAR YOU AS A RESULT OF THIS PROGRAM?

“Yes, because it is beautiful and great to be around, seeing different stuff every day and learning the history behind it.” -Tyra Descheny

“Yeah I feel I’ll come back in the future, I really enjoyed it, thank you for your hiking club.” -Marques John

“Yes I do feel more connected to the National Park and I do think I will spend more time at the NPS sites in the future to have lots of fun.” -Amaran Tsosie



“I feel more connected to the National Parks that surround me. I think that this program should continue into the future for all of our grandchildren to learn great things about their ancestors.”

-Eli Benally,
Hiking Club participant

CONCLUSION



FOSTERING CONSERVATION SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTION. ENDURING IMPACT.

These projects and the positive impact they have had on Native youth, the National Park service and communities in Utah and the Southwest were made possible with support from the National Park Foundation. With this partnership, 79 Native youth and young adults were able to work and recreate in ten National Park Service units in 2018. Conservation Legacy is extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue its partnership with the National Park Foundation to continue to create opportunities for young people to serve on public lands.

Conservation Legacy's Ancestral Lands program is invested in the long term success of the communities with whom we work. In this spirit, we are working to create a diverse array of partnerships to support our programs, innovate new program models that broaden our impact and continue to learn from our challenges and mistakes so that we can refine and improve our program and make an even greater impact on our participants and the communities that we serve.

“The program enables Native American youth to complete valuable projects that help them connect in positive ways to their surrounding community, gaining valuable job experience and skills, as well as exposes them to future careers with public land agencies. ”

—Fara Williams,
Crew Leader

