



# Outreach, Leadership, & Career Development: Youth Programs on the National Trails System

## 2010

An overview of programs and partnerships engaging youth in trails stewardship, historical interpretation, and conservation initiatives.

Compiled by the Partnership for the National Trails System with the assistance of trail stewardship organizations, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.





# Youth Programs on the National Trails System

## A Glance at Outreach, Employment, and Volunteer Programs for Youth on the National Trails System

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A special thanks to our federal partners: NPS, BLM, USFS, USFWS, and the FHWA, for their dedication to youth programming and support of youth initiatives by partner trail organizations.

For further information about any of the programs listed in this report or to order additional copies, contact: [PNTSCommunications@gmail.com](mailto:PNTSCommunications@gmail.com)

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Much has been written about and discussed in recent years about the alienation of American youth and young adults from nature. Author Richard Louv compellingly described the growing problem and coined the term “nature deficit disorder.” With the great majority of Americans living in cities and automobile-dominated suburbs, fewer opportunities exist for today’s youth to directly experience and explore the natural world than there were for earlier generations. Public agencies and private organizations are mounting heroic efforts to try to connect the younger generations to the outdoors.

America’s National Scenic and Historic Trails provide countless opportunities for children and youth to experience the beauty, wonder, and mystery of our American landscapes. Young people can imagine and feel the drama, struggles, and discoveries of the Native Americans, explorers, traders, and immigrants as they traversed the continent on foot, by boat or by real horsepower, and better understand the quilt of many cultures that comprise our country. These trails also offer many options to involve our youth in wholesome community service projects. Through work along the trails, they can learn useful skills and work habits and are introduced to the great American tradition of community volunteerism. All the while, they will experience the sense of discovery and enjoy America’s great outdoors.

In the following pages, we offer glimpses of a few of the many creative activities involving youth that are happening through the auspices of nonprofit organizations and government agencies along the National Scenic and Historic Trails. Some of these programs have been established for decades, while others are just beginning. They all represent excellent opportunities for engaging youth and developing the next generation’s stewardship of public lands.

This publication also presents profiles of “Trail Apprentices,” highlighting young adults involved with the National Scenic and Historic Trails. Their stories provide examples of the many and varied ways young adults are developing skills to protect and interpret our National Trails System.

Employment Programs



Volunteer Programs



Outreach Programs



### YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Santa Fe National Historic Trail



### Program Title: Santa Fe Trail Trips

Program Inception Year: 1985 (1500 youth participants to date)

Student Participants per year: 80-100

Age of students: 11-12

Program cost per student: \$700 (raised by youth-led fundraisers)

Characteristics: History, Education, Youth Leadership, Overnight Experiences, Multi-Destination Travel



Since 1985, 11 and 12-year-old students from Wamego, KS have had the opportunity to participate in the biennial Santa Fe Trail Trips through the Pottawatomie County Extension 4-H Santa Fe Trail Trips program. Youth leadership plays an important role in this ten-day overnight program along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, as youth help raise their own funds to participate and work in small teams with a "Wagon Master," a fellow youth appointed for the day who ensures that each group's camping and travel needs are met.

By day, the youth travel the length of the trail by bus, visiting museums and historical sites along the way. They keep trail journals, learn about the history of the Santa Fe Trail, and stay at a different campground each night.

## Program Name: SKY (SERVICE-KNOWLEDGE-YOUTH) PROGRAMS

Program Administration: Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Youth Ages: 13-15 (Sky Ranger Corps)

16-20 (SKY Job Corps, Educational Program, and SKY Performance Crews)

Youth Participants in 2010: 82 (total across SKY Programs)

Year Initiated: 2001

Students reached since inception: 1,100

Program Features:

- Trail Construction and Maintenance
- Bridge Building, Masonry
- Crew Leadership

Funding:

ARRA, RAC-Title II, State of Washington Recreational Trails Program, Private Grants

Program Cost: \$55,000 per crew of 6 youth for each 8-week program

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail



### SKY Programs - An Overview

Through participation in several day-long outdoor education experiences and extended overnight camping and trail building/maintenance excursions, SKY participants achieve personal growth, have positive social experiences, learn teamwork and goal setting, and reap the rewards of personal and group accomplishment.

**The SKY Educational Program** works with youth ages 14-18 from local alternative schools that specialize in reaching students who are struggling socially, financially, or academically. It provides youth with an opportunity to spend time outdoors, learn about the environment and trail stewardship, and get an experiential education. Students can earn up to two school credits upon program completion, which helps them graduate, and all participants are required to make a presentation to the community about the significance of their experience working on the Pacific Northwest NST.

**SKY Performance Crews** arose out of demand from students who had previously participated in the SKY Educational Program. Students with the Performance Crews learn more advanced masonry, construction, carpentry, culinary management. Funding is provided exclusively by private grants, which currently limits the growth of this very high-demand youth employment opportunity.

**SKY Job Corps** youth work on either the Pacific Northwest NST or on an as-needed project basis for the USFS. The US Forest Service provides funding for individual projects on USFS land, though there are many projects on the PNT that also await their skills.

**SKY Ranger Corps** provides high school youth ages 13-15 with part-time summer employment. Each Corps works two days a week and focuses on developing trail building and maintenance skills, with a special emphasis on skill refinement and teamwork. The program was originally administered by the USFS but is now run by the Pacific Northwest Trail Association.

## ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK ON THE FLORIDA TRAIL

Program Inception Year: 2005

Youth Age Range: 18-22

Youth Participants in 2010: 30

Program Features: Trail Building and Maintenance

Each spring the Florida Trail Association hosts university students from around the country for an Alternative Spring Break volunteer trail building experience. The program is designed to engage youth with little or no trail experience. For some, this program provides a first glimpse of the great outdoors, and for others it cements a decision to pursue a career in land management, natural resource protection, or nature-based recreation.

The program, costing only \$4,500, is funded by the Florida Trail Association and USFS Challenge Cost Share. In 2009 trail work was completed in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and the Apalachicola National Forest.

The program is set to double in size for 2011, with 60 youth from five universities arriving in March and April to maintain the Florida National Scenic Trail in the Ocala National Forest.



## YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Florida National Scenic Trail



**YOUTH  
OUTREACH &  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**  
*Ice Age National  
Scenic Trail*



**Program Name: Summer Saunters**

**Program Inception Year: 2008**

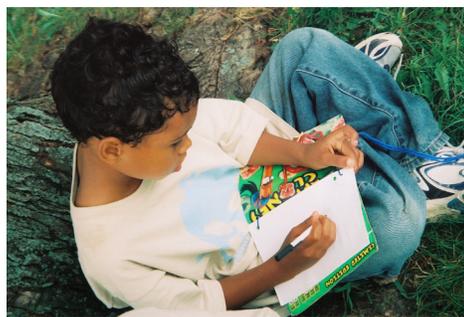
**Youth Age Range: 9-11, Mentors 12-16**

**Youth Participants 2010: 130 (up from 52 in 2009)**

**Program Features: Fitness, Youth Mentorship  
Summer Education, Math,  
Science, Literacy**



**Funding:** Funding for Summer Saunters is supplied by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, made possible through an NPS Challenge Cost Share grant. Summer Saunters also received a \$1,000 grant from the Natural Resources Foundation.



The brainchild of two elementary school teachers, Luke Klobberdanz and Chris McNeil, the Summer Saunters program was designed to help students develop healthy lifestyles that would combat child obesity and supplement an elementary school curriculum with topics such as glaciers, pioneers, and environmental science.

Summer Saunters strives to provide students with the resources to locate and experience an inexpensive and accessible form of exercise by walking the Ice Age Trail, and to provide this resource for every student at no charge to families. Older students, including those who had participated in the program the previous year, were invited along as mentors and role models for the younger students.

The program expanded significantly, now involving four teachers and 60 students for the regular week of Summer Saunters out of Lodi, Wisconsin. The program also added a service learning component, including a two-day family overnight trip to help with an Ice Age Trail Alliance Mobile Skills Crew trail construction project.



**New in 2010: Urban Outreach Expansion  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Using the Lodi program as a model, Leah Bradley of Goodrich Elementary School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin created a similar program for her urban students around an existing school camp program. Using the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Annual Conference to collaborate and help secure funds, Leah developed a program fitted to her school's needs. Students spent a day at school learning about the Ice Age Trail, what to expect out on the trail and basic hiker etiquette. They also made the journals that they would be using daily on the Trail to record thoughts and drawings.

Approximately 30 students ages 4-11 years old and several camp instructors went to the Ice Age Trail near the Milwaukee area, walking parts of the Holy Hill, Pike Lake State Park and Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest segments. The students were met by a DNR forest ranger one day and a local naturalist on another to further the learning experience. They also engaged in cleaning up part of the trail area one day to learn about giving back to nature. This program represented a first hiking experience for most of the students involved.



## Program Name: John Smith Trail Expeditions

Youth age range for day trips: 8 - 18,

Youth Age Range for overnight trips: 11-14

Number of Youth Participants in 2010: **1000**

Program Features: **History & Ecosystems  
Environmental Health  
Canoeing/Fitness**

Hosted by Sultana Projects, Inc., of Chestertown, MD, this program explores three Eastern Shore rivers with plans to expand to other waterways. The John Smith Trail Expeditions program utilizes a mobile fleet of canoes and kayaks for single and multi-day educational trips where participants learn about early European settlement, Native American cultures of the Chesapeake Bay region, and current environmental conditions in the region. Stewardship is emphasized, and hands-on activities include searching for marine life, conducting water quality tests, and examining maps of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Participants explore shoreline environments, read excerpts from Smith's original voyage logs, and paddle through pristine wetlands.

### YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

*Captain John Smith Chesapeake  
National Historic Trail*



In the summer of 2011, the John Smith Trails Expeditions program is expanding to include five separate week-long kayaking trips for children ages 11 – 14. Each week, students will paddle on the Sassafras and Chester Rivers on the upper Eastern Shore during the first half of the trip, and on the Nanticoke River, Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, and Fishing Bay on the Lower Shore on the latter half of each expedition. Trips are limited to 10 participants and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Photo: NPS

## Program Name: Iditarod Educational Trail Mail Program

Program Inception Year: **1989**

Youth Age Range: **6-14**

Youth Participants **634 classrooms (approx. 15,850 youth)**

Program Features: **Long-Distance Classroom Participation  
Trail History and Heritage  
Student Project Collaboration**

### YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

*Iditarod National  
Historic Trail*



The Iditarod Educational Trail Mail Project, developed and administered by long-time National Trails System supporter Leo Rasmussen, collects educational projects from classrooms all over the country. Projects are signed and dated by mushers participating in the famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race, and projects are carried across the entire trail throughout the annual race. Classrooms are informed as to which musher carries their projects and use the race as a way to explore the geography and history of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.



Photo courtesy of Lynne Witte, Classroom Instructor.

# Youth Programs on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



## Environmental Charter High School



At the Environmental Charter High School of Lawndale, California, each of their 330 students provides community service every semester. Interested students work on special trail maintenance projects in Southern California. In 2010, a total of 36 students, up from 20 students in 2009, volunteered their time on the PCT. These students, most who had never been camping, worked diligently to clear brush, re-establish washed-out tread, construct rock check steps, and improve drainage.



## NAACP Partnership

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Urban Youth program of Vancouver, Washington worked on two 3-day projects on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington in 2010. Approximately 30 youth from the program performed maintenance including cutting back brush and constructing rock check steps.

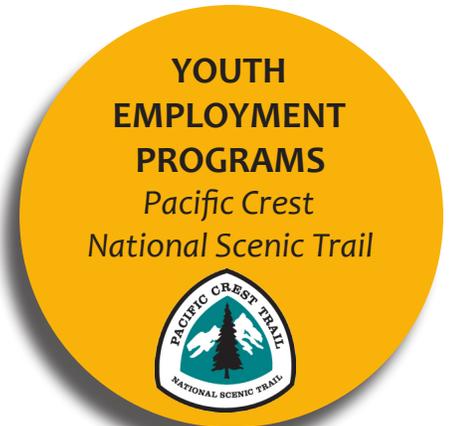


## Trailblazing Program

The Trailblazing Program at the William S. Hart Union High School in Santa Clarita, California, provides a unique work opportunity for its underserved student population. The program gives youth experience in forestry and trail maintenance, as well as workforce preparation. In 2009, the crew contributed more than 1,000 hours of PCT maintenance. PCTA provided the majority of the training in trail crew leadership, including conflict resolution, trail assessment, working with agency partners, and volunteer recognition, as well as training in wilderness first aid and CPR.

## AmeriCorps

PCTA has developed a program with the Northwest Service Academy's AmeriCorps, utilizing crews to lead trail maintenance projects on the PCT since 2005. In 2010, four separate crews from the Northwest Service Academy devoted more than 18,000 hours of work on 63 trail maintenance projects on the PCT. The program provides work training for AmeriCorps crew members, and volunteer opportunities on each crew project. The crew is instrumental in leading other volunteers, including students from such the Environmental Charter High School.



## Warm Springs Youth Crew - Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and the Workforce Development Office of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs collaborated on a grant that was fully funded by the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative. The grant funded an eight-week, ten-person Native American trail crew tasked to reconstruct and restore proper drainage on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) where it passes through the Warm Springs Reservation. The eight crew members and two crew leaders were trained in first aid, food handling, *Leave No Trace* wilderness ethics, and trail skills. By the end of the eight weeks, work accomplished included careful maintenance and tread reconstruction on five miles of the PCT through the reservation.

Photos courtesy of the PCTA.

# Arizona National Scenic Trail Youth Organization Stewardship Partnerships

**Number of Youth: Several hundred**

**Program Features: Trail Building & Maintenance, Organizational Partnerships**

Youth involvement on the Arizona National Scenic Trail consists of a series of mutually beneficial partnerships with established community and youth organizations. Trail stewardship groups along the trail collaborate with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other youth organizations. One of these partnerships has led to



the creation of a Boy Scout patch program that requires Scouts to both hike and work on the AZT. The advantage of these partnerships is that administration and funding requirements are kept to a minimum and youth organizations often feel more comfortable engaging youth within their existing program structures.

**YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**  
Arizona National Scenic Trail

## Classroom Outreach Programs

**Number of Youth Participants: Several hundred**

The Arizona Trail Association has made a regular practice of visiting schools to talk about Arizona Trail. In 2010, the Arizona Trail Association expanded its existing program of classroom visits to include development and sponsorship of an Earth Day event out on the trail. The event drew 261 students and many parents from

multiple schools. The Arizona Trail Association developed and featured outdoor exhibits, guided hikes, and learning stations. The event was made possible through Arizona Trail volunteer efforts and partnerships with other outdoor organizations.

*Photos courtesy of the Arizona Trail Association.*

**YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS**  
Arizona National Scenic Trail



**Program Name: Archaeological Petroglyph Recording**

**Program Inception Year: 2001**

**Youth Age Range: 13- 18**

**Number of Youth who participated in 2009: 15**

**Program Features: Archaeology, History and Culture  
Digital Photography & Documentation**

In this annual program, youth participate in a two-week petroglyph recording project on public lands of Mesa Prieta near Velarde, New Mexico. Vecinos del Rio, a local nonprofit group, recruits and trains local teenagers who are signed up as BLM volunteers and supervised

by BLM archaeologist Paul Williams and other adult members of Vecinos del Rio and the Taos Archaeological Society. Students include Native Americans from the Ohkay-Owinge and Taos Pueblos, as well as youths from Taos, Velarde, Dixon and the Espanola area. The youths use GPS, digital photography, and extensive written documentation to record petroglyphs that they discover during the inventory.

*Photos courtesy of Paul Williams, BLM archaeologist.*



**YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**  
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro  
National Historic Trail

## Student Conservation Association

The SCA is the nation's largest youth conservation organization. The SCA provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, including the National Trails System.

Youth can get involved with the SCA through a variety of SCA programs ranging from three weeks to 12 months.



Photo courtesy of the SCA.

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The National Trails System



### How does the SCA work?

**Position Development:** Each opportunity for interns or conservation crews/corps is initiated by an agency or an organization that identifies a need and prepares a position description.

**Recruitment:** SCA members are nationally recruited by SCA staff. Students use the SCA website to search and apply for thousands of internships and corps opportunities based on length, focus, and location of the experience.

**Administrative Oversight:** SCA provides complete administrative oversight for all field-based programs and positions. Included are background checks, travel and living allowances, and, where appropriate, medical insurance and the AmeriCorps Education Award.

Every year, over 4,000 SCA members contribute 1.6 million hours of service to more than 500 natural and cultural sites. SCA members work in all 50 states in a variety of natural and cultural resource areas including:

- Backcountry & Wilderness Patrol
- GIS/GPS Mapping
- Habitat Restoration & Preservation
- Inventory & Monitoring
- Trail Maintenance & Restoration
- Visitor Services & Interpretation
- Wildlife & Fisheries Management

### The SCA on the National Trails System

In 2010, the SCA placed members on ten different National Scenic and Historic Trails as interns or as part of crews. These positions were developed through careful partnerships with federal agencies and trail stewardship organizations.

<b>National Trail -2010</b>	
Appalachian NST	24
Florida NST	10
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	3
Natchez Trace NHT	12
North Country NST	23
Overmountain Victory NHT	1
Pacific Crest NST	48
Pony Express NHT	6
Potomac Heritage NHT	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>

## Youth Corps (Numerous Nationwide)

Across the Country, youth corps engage young adults ages 16-25 in employment and volunteer positions on trails, including the National Scenic and Historic Trails. There is no current record of exactly how many of the youth involved with the over 40 youth corps nationwide are working on the National Trails System. However, several trail organizations do note the participation of certain youth corps, including (but not limited to):

- AmeriCorps
- Southwest Conservation Corps
- Coconino Rural Environmental Corps
- Northwest Youth Corps
- Washington Conservation Corps
- Utah Conservation Corps
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
- Montana Conservation Corps

The many different youth corps across the nation provide a crucial opportunity for hundreds, if not thousands, of youth to learn valuable job skills, spend time in the outdoors, gain a better understanding of preservation and conservation, and build leadership and teamwork.

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The National Trails System



Program Name: **CDTA Youth Corps**

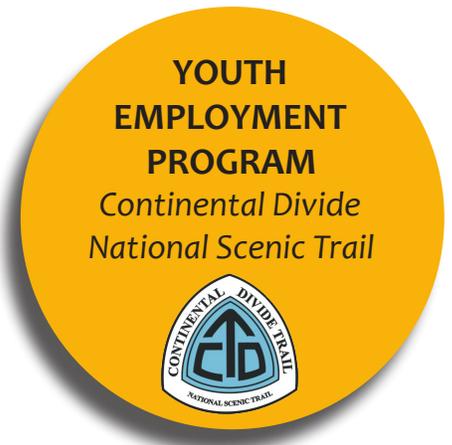
Program Administration: **Continental Divide Trail Alliance**

Youth Ages: **18-25**

Number of Youth Participants: **40-50**

**Program Features:**

- **Trail Construction and Maintenance**
- **Habitat restoration**
- **Crew leadership**
- **Community Outreach Presentations**



CDTA Youth Corps members are part of a functioning crew of workers taking part in a group living and educational experience. Projects consist of trail construction, trail maintenance, fence construction, habitat restoration, noxious weed eradication, campground cleanup and other conservation work. The work is physically demanding and requires sustained effort. Educational hours, 7-10 per week, are accrued through activities and discussions facilitated by Conservation Corps Mentors.

The CDTA Youth Corps delivers presentations to youth groups, schools, and service organizations throughout Colorado during the month of August every year. These presentations include descriptions of the crew's personal experiences living and working on the primitive and challenging CDT. This is an opportunity to find out first-hand how they coped with challenges and what benefits their project served for local communities, the environment, and themselves.

CDTA Youth Corps costs total \$6,500 per week for the Crew and about \$2,000 for CDTA administrative costs per 10-week session. One full session costs approximately \$67,000. In the past, crews costs were supported through a combination of state grants (30-40%), federal funds (30-40%), CDTA-USFS Challenge Cost Share funds (20-30%), and other private sources (10-20%). In one year CDTA, typically supports 40-50 weeks of CDTA Youth Corps programs and hires 40-50 young people on these crews. In a typical year with all crews filled and supported, costs may be approximately \$270,000.



Photo courtesy of the CDTA.

## Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps

Total Youth Employed in 2010: **130**

Sponsors: **National Park Service;**  
**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation**

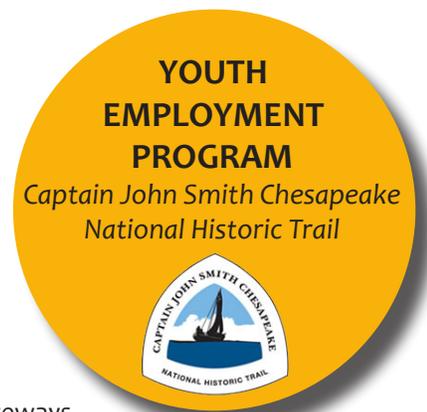


**Program Characteristics: Youth Employment, Leadership**

Through a financial assistance award from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation focused a component of their youth conservation corps activities to help promote stewardship ethics and actively foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay.

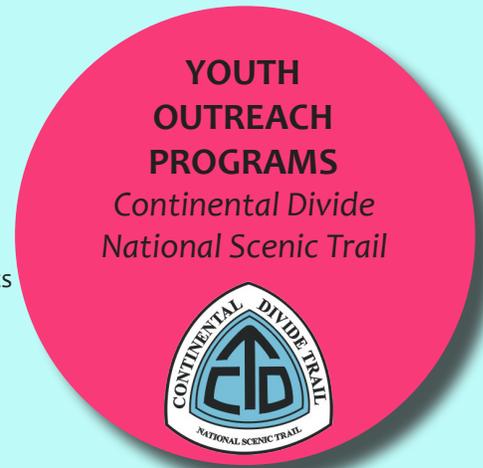


Specifically, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps (CBGYC) spent ten weeks improving public access along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. In 2010, almost 130 volunteer youth participants lived and worked at ten Virginia state parks contributing well over 10,000 volunteer hours to key on-the-ground projects to further develop the nation's first national historic water trail.



## Continental Divide Trail Alliance Youth on the Divide Program

CDTA's Youth on the Divide (YOTD) program allows young people under the age of 18 to not only enjoy awe-inspiring scenery, but also to experience two fun-filled, educational, and rewarding days on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Participants arrive the evening before to set up camp for the weekend. On the first day, students learn about the natural environment along the CDT and related subjects such as environmental awareness, natural resource careers, and other topics chosen by the group. The second day, participants learn about trail design and volunteer on the Trail, gaining valuable hands-on experience in trail maintenance and teamwork.



### CDTA Family Volunteer Programs

The CDTA recruits families to volunteer along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail for shifts ranging from half-day to two days at a time. CDTA hosts approximately two projects per year. This program provides families the opportunity to volunteer on the CDT and experience the great outdoors with a supported and staffed program. The work usually has a high potential for success, is close to the camping/access site in case of inclement weather or emergencies, and is suitable for people of all ages. CDTA provides a project leader who serves as the information and safety resource, as well as a crew leader for the families. CDTA has hosted over approximately ten projects since its beginning. Each project costs about \$500 and is a 50/50 split between CDTA private funds and USFS-CDTA CCS funds.

*Photo courtesy of the CDTA.*

### The CDNST Flat Stanley Program



In 2010, CDTA initiated a partnership with the Flat Stanley Program to develop a curriculum surrounding the CDNST theme for Flat Stanley. Flat Stanley is a program in which 2nd grade classrooms send a paper cut out (Flat Stanley) to various locations across the country via the US Postal Service to learn about other places in the US and the world emphasizing geography awareness and the power of communication. CDTA anticipates the growth of this program as a way for second grade classrooms in the small communities along the CDNST to learn how they are connected by this amazing Trail, to teach other about their communities, and eventually to connect to the other Scenic and Historic Trails. CDTA envisions using Murphy the Mountain Goat as the their "Flat" character. At only \$5,000, the cost for this program is minimal and is supported through a combination of public and private funds.



### Amigos de Anza Drill Team

Youth Age Range: 11-22

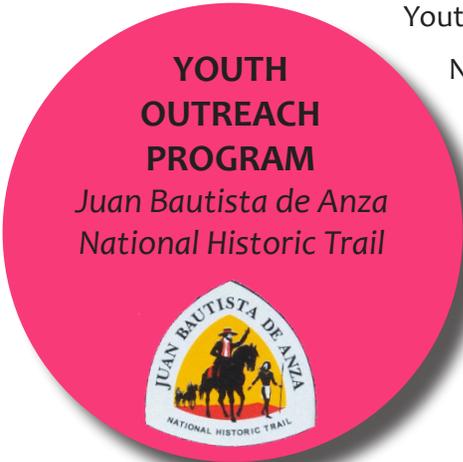
Number of Youth: 30

Program Features:

**Trail Ambassadorship  
History and Heritage  
Equestrian Skills**

The brainchild of long-time National Trails supporter George Cardinet, the Amigos de Anza Drill Team was established to give young women the opportunity to improve their equestrian skills while learning about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail. Group members learn precision and teamwork, and they perform at many historical events and community celebrations, most recently in the Rose Bowl parade. They represent the Anza National Historic Trail at these events, and serve as ambassadors for those who wish to learn more about the heritage of the Trail.

*Photo courtesy of Amigos de Anza Drill Team*





3 1/2" diamet

## Boy Scout Patch Program on the Lewis and Clark NHT

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) has recently developed a series of patch programs through an MOU with the Boy Scouts of America. Each chapter of the LCTHF has the option of developing their own patch and corresponding requirements. Boy Scouts from around the country can earn any or all of the individual patches, and patch requirements may differ for local Scouts and Scouts earning the patch from afar. Local Scouts may need to traverse a part of the trail or visit particular sites, while Scouts from other areas may be required to read about that section of the trail and do a project or write an essay instead.

The program has received significant interest from local Boy Scout councils and was enthusiastically received at the 2010 National Boy Scout Jamboree.



## History Through Theater on the Old Spanish Trail

In 2010, six high school drama students from Kanab, UT used theater to portray an era of cultural strife and political upheaval along the Old Spanish Trail. Their work was the heart of a new historical drama created and presented by the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) at its annual conference in Kanab in April, 2010.

“Tales of the Trail: The Armijo Adventure” is a two-act depiction of an 1829 history-making mule caravan that had a profound effect on trade across what is now six southwestern states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The OSTA play, written by OSTA manager Don Mimms, also treats the event as a cameo representation of the cultural and political conflict that characterized those years.

Contact [manager@oldspanishtrail.org](mailto:manager@oldspanishtrail.org). for more information.



IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN! Students portray cultural tensions that plagued 19th Century Old Spanish Trail travelers.

## Old Spanish Trail Interactive Playground Area



The Old Spanish Trail Park in Las Vegas, dedicated in Fall 2008, is a ten-acre park in which the OST is preserved as a walking path and includes informational signs on the history of the region. It includes a playground and picnic area for youth. The playground theme is based on the caravan traffic: there are reclining horses, a skeleton of a large animal, and a large trunk designed for play.

This park provides an opportunity to tell the story of the youngest travelers on the trail, including a group of captive children who were not allowed to play. The interpretive signs for this area of the park feature children and toys of the period.



**YOUTH  
OUTREACH  
PROGRAMS**

Overmountain Victory  
National Historic Trail



**Overmountain Victory NHT Youth Educational Programs**

Youth Age Range: K-12

Youth Participants in 2010: 6,500

Program Features: Living History  
History Education  
Community involvement



A wide variety of educational programs and presentations for all age levels are available throughout the year, focusing on the Trail's unique stories. These programs occur in conjunction with events such as the annual fall reenactment march, and in association with special initiatives or programs including the National Park Foundation's "Active Trails" grant. NPS personnel, volunteers, and paid vendors all participate, depending upon factors such as setting and funding. Programs occur both on the Trail and off-site, such as at schools. Since 1975, many thousands of students have been served.



The largest program hosted by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) is the annual *A Call to Arms* Education Program, which takes place at the Muster Grounds, the trailhead of the Overmountain Victory NHT. The event, which serves as a kickoff for the annual re-enactment, March to Kings Mountain, draws thousands of school students from



surrounding areas to experience educational stations on the history of the Trail and way of life in the 18th century.

*A Call to Arms* features demonstrations of geography and mapmaking methods of the era, blacksmithing, lace-making, cooking and washing techniques, depictions of daily life differences amongst diverse ethnicities in 18th century Virginia, and stories of the Overmountain Men and their march to victory at Kings Mountain, South Carolina. The program concludes with students joining a march out of the Muster Grounds with the Overmountain Men of the OVTA.



**Traveling El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT Program**

Sponsor: Region 7 Education Service Center (Kilgore, Texas)

Year of Program Inception: 2010

Student Participants in 2010: 1,273

On October 5, 2010, the first Traveling El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Program brought students, teachers and professionals together via videoconference to present and share their knowledge about the oldest trail in Texas. Students were assigned cities along or near the trail to present about during the program. The National Park Service provided all participating schools with the *On the Road to Partnership* DVD to give students background on the trail prior to the program.

The trail was sectioned into four segments from west to east beginning at the southwestern Texas Border near Laredo and ending at the eastern Texas border. The videocast invited student groups, teachers, and university professors from different areas along the Trail to put together short educational segments describing the history of El Camino Real de los Tejas and the role it played in Texas history. Students used plays, skits, and PowerPoint during the live presentations to explain the history of their segment of the Trail. The program was then broadcast to participating schools.

The program was such a success that it will be renewed for next year. El Camino Real de los Tejas Trail Association played a role in bringing in guest speakers and will be further involved with content development and program promotion in 2011.



**YOUTH  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**

El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail



**Program Name: A Trail to Every Classroom**

**Program Inception Year: 2005**

**Youth Age Range: K-12**

**Youth Participants in 2010: Approximately 5,000**

**Program Features:** Environmental Awareness  
Civic Engagement  
Healthy Lifestyles, Science

**Funding: NPS, ATC, and Private Grants**



*Photo courtesy of Rita Hennessy, NPS.*



This program along the “AT” in 14 states from Maine to Georgia is jointly hosted by NPS and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). It addresses all grades, K-12, as a professional development program for teachers and management partners promoting civic engagement, environmental awareness, and healthy lifestyles using the Trail as an educational resource.

A Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) is a cumulative series of workshops from spring through fall with a core focus on the best practices of place-based education and service-learning. It bundles together a wide array of educational activities including citizen science, curriculum development, and community connections. To date, the program has engaged 230 teacher participants and more than 10,000 students. In 2010, an alumni workshop in partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club trained 22 teachers in hiking leadership and wilderness first aid.

## **NEW TTEC Program Expansion...**

**Program Name: iTREC (Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom)**

**Program Inception Year: 2010**

**Youth Age Range: K-12**

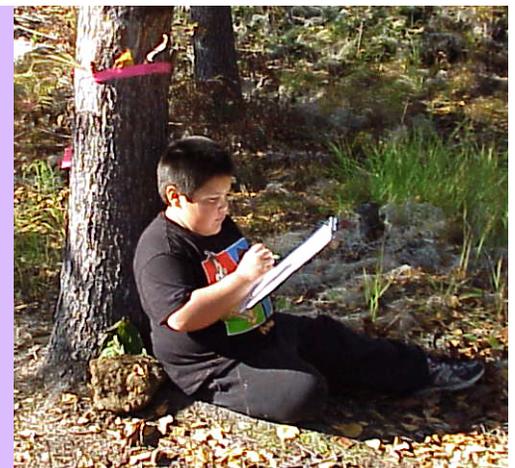
**Youth Participants in 2010: Approximately 100**

**Funding: USFS, NPS**

Launched as part of the Centennial celebration of the historic Iditarod Trail, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Chugach National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Geographic and the National Park Service modeled iTREC! after the highly successful Trail to Every Classroom program on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. iTREC! is comprised of a series of three teacher training workshops aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education and service learning. In 2010, 17 teachers from communities spanning the entire length of the 2,400-mile trail network were brought together to gain new expertise, ideas and resources for developing curriculum and teaching practices to foster students' understanding of their local landscapes and communities.

The teachers integrate such subject areas as ecology, journalism, civics, art, and physical education. Curriculum examples include: researching and writing books, visitor guides, interpretive signs and brochures on the INHT; assisting trail managers in trail maintenance and management issues associated with the trail; monitoring water quality; and raising awareness of the trail in their communities through public service announcements and community surveys.

The investment in these teachers has the potential to engage 1,000 students. Evaluation techniques and tools are being employed that will not only monitor the effectiveness of the program itself, but will also allow the results to feed into a national review of similar programs.



*The heart of this program is the belief that students who study their own “place” are more eager to be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands.*



## Program Title: Discovery Trails Program

Program Inception Year: 1998

Student Participants in 2010: 17 (150 youth participants to date)

Age of students: 14-20

Characteristics: Hands-on History and Education for Visually-Impaired Youth, Place-based learning, Long-Distance Travel

Funding: Past funding from NPS and USDA Forest Service

**FUTURE PROGRAMS IN JEOPARDY (see below)**



For most historic trail tourists, retracing the old covered wagon routes west is an “edu-vacation,” an adventure in history. For Discovery Trails Program students, the trip is all that and more: a three-week lesson in outdoor living and tent-pitching teamwork, a time to grow in self-confidence, and an opportunity to develop creative teaching skills of their own. Participating students have visual impairments ranging from partial sight to blindness. Young adults come from across the country to participate in this nationally recognized history-and-arts immersion program through Accessible Arts, Inc. in Kansas City, Kansas.

Participating students travel west along the Oregon and California National Historic Trails and return east via the Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce National Historic Trails. Subject experts from national parks, the Bureau of Land Management, State parks, and the Nez Perce, Clatsop, Assiniboine, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse tribes provide interactive programming at key sites along the trails. Students try out new “talking” GPS units to hike the wagon trail at South Pass, Wyoming, and at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, they learn to load and fire cannons. On their return, the students share their own trail-based arts-and-history presentations with grade school students.



### **A Funding Challenge & Program Development Opportunity: Future Programs Contingent Upon New Funding Sources and/or Partnerships**

This program’s model, not unlike the Santa Fe Trail Trips (page 10), has tremendous opportunity to be expanded to reach a wider youth audience and reduce costs through increased scale. Young adults now represent a generation familiar with the Oregon Trail through the enormously successful themed computer game. This interest in the trail by an entire generation creates a unique potential market for interactive travel-based and/or reenactment style trail programming for young adults and young families.



Such expansion and partnership development will be necessary if the Discovery Trails Program is to continue. Due to the three-week duration and special needs of participating students, this program carries seemingly high per-student expenses of \$3,000. In the past, recognizing the incredible value not only to students but to all the communities involved with the program, NPS contributed funding through the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCS). With the elimination of the CCS program, this innovative experience, like many other valuable educational opportunities, faces an uncertain future. Contact Julia Glad at [PNTSCommunications@gmail.com](mailto:PNTSCommunications@gmail.com) for information.

## Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center - USFS - Great Falls, MT

Individual Center Visitors ages 15 and under in 2010: 5,201    Students in School Groups: 2,986

Field Investigations (new program for 7th/8th graders): 1,481

Total Youth Reached in 2010: 9,668

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center receives visits from classroom students from Pre-K to college who tour the Center's interpretive centers and learn from Center guides. Seventh and eighth grade science teachers use the land around the facility as an outdoor laboratory for about 1500 students. The Center sponsors several week-long summer day camps, including some featuring an overnight at the center. Special programs are available for Girl Scout and Boy Scout Groups, and any visiting youth between ages five and twelve can participate in the Young Explorer Patch Program. In the spring, the Center puts on an information treasure hunt throughout the interior of the facility along with an outdoor scavenger hunt.



**YOUTH  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS**  
*Lewis and Clark  
National Historic Trail*





Photos: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

## National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center - Baker City, OR

On site School Programs: **5,000 youth**  
 In-Class Outreach Programs: **1,700 youth**  
 On-site Family Programs Participants: **1,700 youth**  
 Total Youth Reached in 2010: **8,400**  
 (up from 7,200 in 2009)

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon, offers special programs for youth and families in addition to exhibits, workshops, multi-media and theater presentations for general visitors. A hands-on kids exhibit, "Pack Your Wagon," is available each spring. Special youth activity days and workshops are scheduled throughout the year teaching pioneer crafts and skills. "Junior Pioneer" and "Junior Naturalist" activity books and award programs provides guided activities at the site, and an assortment of educational activity sheets and curriculum materials can be downloaded from a website. Costumed interpreters present outreach to classrooms in eastern Oregon. Guided and self-guided interpretive hikes, including a "Pioneer Pack" for loan, provide activities for families to learn about the Oregon Trail.

Photo: California Trail Interpretive Center



## California Trail Interpretive Center - Elko, NV

The California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, was officially completed only recently. While still in final stages of construction, the center offered a series of programs aimed at elementary school-aged children on site and in local schools. Upon completion, programming was expanded, and sessions cover topics such as, "California Trail;" "The California Gold Rush;" "Overland Migration Impacts to the Environment along the California Trail, 1841 – 1869;" "A Day in the Life of a Pioneer;" and "Trail Stories." The brand-new building was showcased during the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) Convention in August 2010. The new Interpretive Center is the product of strong partnerships between the BLM, OCTA, Humboldt Highroad, the City and County of Elko, the State of Nevada, and a multitude of community organizations.



Photo: Missouri River Breaks NM Interpretive Center



## Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center (Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce NSTs)

Total Youth Reached in 2010: **750** (up from 600 in 2009)

Two particularly popular programs at the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center include the "Must Cultures Collide?" program on the history of European contact with the Nez Perce, and the "Journey Through the Monument" program, which teaches history, geology, art, aquatic ecology, safe canoeing and camping protocols, and *Leave No Trace* guidelines. Middle school students, along with their teachers, resource specialists, and volunteer chaperones, travel by canoe, stopping for side hikes to unique geologic formations, Native American tipi rings, and Lewis and Clark historic sites along the river.

## National Historic Trails Interpretive Center - Casper, WY

Total Youth Reached in 2010: Approximately 7,000

The National Trails Interpretive Center offers educational programs on historical westward expansion and the indigenous groups native to the West. Thousands of youth visit as part of school field trips. Divided into groups no larger than 12, students are led through the Center's exhibits by a guide. The Center also has an ongoing History Club for 4th through 6th grade students which offers new programming and educational activities at each monthly meeting.



# Spotlight on Trails Apprentices: Profiles of

## ERIC MASON, AGE 25

I began working with National Trails just over a year ago with Americorps; I am now a technical advisor with the Pacific Crest Trail Association. No two days are ever alike for me; I am either sleeping on the floor of the PCTA office, in my car, or in my tent while out on backcountry trail work projects. I winter in Southern California to supervise Alternative Spring Break Crews like the Georgia Tech Trailblazers, and to train crews from the Northwest Service Academy. I join one of our most active volunteer groups, the Trail Gorillas in Southern California, to remove hazard



## Who are the "Trails Apprentices"?



Across the country, young adults are taking action: working, volunteering, and recreating on the National Trails System. Some youth become involved through internship programs, youth corps, university study projects, or simply because they are passionate about the outdoors. The young adults highlighted throughout these several pages are only a sampling of the hundreds, even thousands of young adults who are the next generation's stewards of the National Trails System.

Trails Apprentices contribute in diverse ways: building and maintaining trails, monitoring ecosystems, developing educational materials and online resources, mapping and performing site inventories, engaging youth through stories, and organizing community outreach events, just to name a few.

The first nationally-recognized "Trails Apprentices" attended the 12th Conference on National Scenic Trails in Missoula, Montana in July 2009 through the generosity of the federal agencies administering the National Scenic and Historic Trails. That group of 30 youth settled on the name "Trails Apprentices" to describe themselves based on a desire to continue their



rocks with the pionjar and boulder buster. Recently, I worked with the Student Conservation Association's staff during the "Old School Rock Workshop" to learn basic rigging techniques and use griphoists to fly rocks down the trail on a high line to our worksite. We sometimes collaborate with the Backcountry

Horsemen and their horses, who are a blast to work with and make many projects possible.

During the summer, I head north to Oregon and Washington to work with groups like the Forest Youth Success Program, which helps get youth summer jobs working on trails. When I'm not out swinging tools, I'm meeting with agency partners in the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service to coordinate work projects. For one project, I worked with Forest Service archaeologists

to realign the PCT around sensitive archaeological sites. There, I flagged the new trail corridor in preparation for a National Environmental Policy Act study. This spring, I had the opportunity to work with Tejon Ranch Corporation helping to review the alignment of a potential 38-mile relocation of the PCT off of its current location along the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and onto the scenic Tejon Ranch.

I am fortunate to be able to work with community volunteers, who are the foundation of the PCTA. Many of our volunteers are thru-hikers, section hikers, or equestrians. Others are folks who run out of the office Friday night at five o'clock to spend their weekend getting dirty digging tread and brushing overgrown sections of trail. I enjoy seeing the trail through their eyes and feed off of their enthusiasm.

After attending the Partnership for National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference as a Youth Scholarship recipient, I have a better understanding of our Nation's trail system. I was able to see what a few people with a love of a trail can accomplish.

## ASHLYN GOODWIN AGE 18 SELMA, ALABAMA

As far as I can tell, everyone in Selma learns of the Selma to Montgomery March early in life, for they are probably the biggest part of our city's history. In Selma, we are very proud to have the Selma to Montgomery route commemorated as a National Trail and to honor the history every year with an annual reenactment of the protest. As I child, I heard the story of the protestors marching for Civil Rights, so when I learned about an opportunity to help with a student field trip related to the annual march reenactment, I wanted to help.

I assisted the administrators with the event and recruited students from my high school class to help the elementary students on the field trip. I was really excited to be involved in passing on the History of the Selma to Montgomery March. This year, the event was organized by Nicole Reeves of the City of Selma Office of Planning and Development. She did an



# Youth in Action on the National Trails

trails education, increase their leadership role in their communities, and pursue careers supporting the National Trails System. In short, the term "Apprentices" was meant to convey a level of dedication representative of a long-term, multi-faceted involvement leading towards future stewardship responsibilities.

While some trails apprentices have been connected to the National Trails since they were young children, others have only begun to learn about the System and the opportunities it holds for them and their communities. Regardless of their level of involvement in the past or the degree they are able to stay engaged while balancing their studies and early careers, the youth represented here and the many others like them represent a crucial link in the long-term stewardship of the National Trails.

The Partnership for the National Trails salutes these youth for their dedication, foresight, and enthusiasm.



*The first National Trails Apprentices Missoula, MT July 2009*

amazing job putting the event together, and I was very glad to be able to work with someone so enthusiastic.

My favorite thing about helping out with youth on the Selma to Montgomery history field trip was seeing how enthusiastic the kids were. Even though we had rain and had to spend much of our time indoors, they were interested and laughing and singing as they learned the protest songs sung during the civil rights marches.

This fall, I will be starting at Tuskegee University and plan to study Biology. Since I will be away from home, it will be a challenge to stay connected with the events related to the Selma to Montgomery March, but I hope that in the future I can continue to help convey our city's heritage to the next generations.



## KATIE WEBER AGE 24 GRAFTON, WISCONSIN

Shortly after graduating with a degree in biology and environmental science, I moved to Portland, OR for an 11-month AmeriCorps position with the Northwest Service Academy. The position habitat restoration, trail building, and environmental education. It



was the work that I completed while in the Pacific Northwest that sparked my interest in working with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. I was thrilled to see that a local organization was offering a position that related to the work I was doing in the Pacific Northwest. My role as a land management and stewardship intern is to assist in the management of our properties and easements throughout the state. This involves monitoring, GPS



mapping, restoration, and developing management plans. Other tasks include participating in our Mobile Skills Crew trail building events and leading work parties.



## CHRISTIAN THOMPSON EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

As a Master's degree student in Storytelling at East Tennessee State University, I have a graduate assistantship working with the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA). The OVTA men and women keep alive the story of the Overmountain men from the Revolutionary War and the Battle of King's Mountain. In the fall of 2009, I participated on the OVTA's annual re-enactment march. We spent three weeks winding through Virginia, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. We usually did a day program for school children and then an open program in the evening for the public. We would set up several "stations" representing different aspects of 18th century life and school children would visit each site. I concluded each program by speaking about the Battle of King's Mountain.

After the march ended, I began telling the story in several different locations. I've told the story in elementary schools, Rotary Clubs, nursing homes, for friends and County Commissioner meetings, everywhere from northeast Tennessee to Missouri to Maryland.



**JOSH CUCINELLA, AGE 24**  
**GAINESVILLE, FL**

**Masters Student - University of Florida**



Since I was sixteen, I enjoyed day hikes on the Florida National Scenic Trail, but it was not until halfway through my undergrad that I was changed forever after a hike on the Appalachian Trail. When I came back from that trip, I changed my major to Environmental Studies and decided I wanted to devote my life to nature.

I am 24 now, and am working on writing my Master's thesis on visitation patterns on the Florida Trail. This work gets me out to the Trail at least once a month, and sometimes every weekend. The project is a mix of counting visitors by using infrared counters dispersed over the

Trail and administering questionnaires to visitors along the Trail. Once a month I go out and download the totals from the counters and do maintenance on them. Sometimes it's raining, sometimes it's 100 degrees outside, and sometimes the ticks are stacked on top of each other waiting to get you. I never mind, though. I'm doing what I would do anyway for leisure. Once the project is complete, I'm hoping we can predict the levels of use new

sections of Trail will get and also predict which positive experiences the visitors will achieve.



**MONIKA SOVINE, Age 24**  
**Glendale, Wisconsin**

I Graduated in 2007 with a B.A. from Northland College on the shores of Lake Superior. My appreciation for the outdoors has led to trips from sea kayaking in Georgian Bay, Ontario, to roaming the mountains of Montana, the Yukon, and Colorado. Since 2006, I have lived in New Zealand, hitchhiked around the

West Coast, and led outdoor trips for teenagers in Alaska, Ecuador, and the Galapagos.

I began to work with trails during an eight-month Student Conservation Association project all over Southern California, including on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the Yucca Valley and in the Mojave Desert. As part of a SCA crew, I helped create water bars and cleared out rocks and brush as general trail maintenance. I so enjoyed my work there that returned to the SCA to spend three

months blazing new trail on the Florida National Scenic Trail, and often we worked up to our knees in water in swamp areas--a far cry from my time in the Mojave Desert!



**MARSHALL ALFORD, Age 23**

I have worked on trails since 2005, and I now work part time for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. There I conduct surveys of visitors leaving the forest. We monitor use and inquire about demographic information as well as satisfaction with their outdoor experience. During winter I work in the office processing paperwork, but in the summer I work in the field conducting interviews and doing inventory of Forest Service property, such as checking for damage to picnic tables and bathrooms in campgrounds. In the past, I have signed up my horse as a volunteer and used him to get into the backcountry. He is great for helping out with big projects; I was building a log bridge and he helped me to drag the timbers to the stream crossing. I plan to continue working in a outdoor recreation-related field.

I am majoring in Natural Resources Management and minoring in Conservation Biology. My enthusiasm for the outdoors originates from my parents who were both wild-land firefighters and enjoyed riding horses into the backcountry. I grew up riding, hunting, and hiking. I became a Boy Scout in order to camp more and earned my Eagle after many years of scouting. I currently rock climb, hike, ride horses, snowshoe, ski, and snowboard for fun.

In the summer of 2009, I travelled to the 12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails as a Youth Scholarship Recipient. There I learned about career opportunities with trails and even met US Forest Service Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop. I later became an Ambassador for the Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Nation youth initiative, and I am now involved in the planning process for the 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Abingdon, Virginia.



**ADAM LARSON, Age 18**  
**VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA**

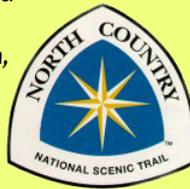
I became involved with the North Country National Scenic Trail through Scouting, and I completed my Eagle Scout award with a project on the NCT to renovate and expand a section of North Country Trail located in a local state park. I organized and led my group of fellow scouts and NCT volunteers in order to replace old signage and add onto the trail by clearing brush along a roadway. We taught Scouts safe tree trimming and signage installation.



After receiving my Eagle Award, I continued to volunteer with the trail. Later that fall, the North Country Trail Association held its annual National Conference. At the conference, a group of people hiked the section we had worked on, and I explained the process of what our group of volunteers did during the construction of the trail.



In October, 2010, I attended the National Scenic Trails Workshop in Reisterstown, MD, to learn more about the National Scenic Trails.



**DANNY NGUYEN, AGE 20**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**

Born and raised in Oakland, California, I had very little experience with camping, parks, or nature. Fortunately, the Student Conservation Association found me in high school and introduced me to its program, where I met other teenagers who came from similar urban settings. During the program we visited parks near the San Francisco Bay Area each month to do trail work, camp, and enjoy nature.



I currently work with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail staff as a Trails Planning Intern. I am stationed at the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office in Oakland. I spend my time exploring/hiking different segments of the trail and documenting their characteristics with photos to supplement the geographical information system we are developing specifically for the Anza Trail. We have a lot of ground to cover since our trail spans from Nogales, Arizona all the way up to San Francisco, California. Working with the Anza Trail is amazing

because I am learning a lot about trails and history, while doing what I love.

Every day, I discover beautiful locations and important historic sites very close to home that I never knew existed prior to working with the National Park Service. Working with the SCA and the NPS has been a wonderful experience



that has and will only continue to strengthen my enthusiasm for conservation and the outdoors. As I begin my studies in Environmental Economics and Policy, I hope to be able to apply the knowledge and experiences I have gained.

**ANNIE FEHRENBACH, AGE 22**  
**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

Trails have been a part of my life since I was very young. My father first started taking me backpacking when I was only four or five years old. Because of these early experiences, I gained



an appreciation for and a love of the outdoors. In high school I was a committed member of the Student Conservation Association. Through the SCA, I was able to partake in much trail work; I did pretty much everything from routine maintenance, such as

installing waterbars and brushing trails, to building a trail from scratch. I was given the opportunity to restore and build trails in four national parks, including two in Washington and two in Alaska, and a chance to work in local parks in my community in Seattle.



After high school, I joined the New Hampshire Conservation Corps. The first half of the program I taught 8th-graders environmental education. This experience allowed me to realize the importance of educating our youth about the need to conserve our resources and become stewards of the environment. The second half of our program was dedicated to trail work. During our trail season I was crew leader for two amazing trail projects, including building two miles of beautiful trail from scratch and a 56-foot bridge out of local materials.



As a student I am focused on my studies, but I am still involved with trails. I am working to organize a long-term relationship between Humboldt State University and the Pacific Crest Trail Association by getting students out and volunteering on the Trail in Northern California. I believe that by engaging youth in trails, we can inspire a stewardship and conservation ethic in the



generation of today, which we can pass on to the generations of tomorrow.



# Youth Programs on the National Trails System

A Report by the Partnership  
for the National Trails System

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Madison, WI 53703

[www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)

Front Cover Photos: Top left: Summer Saunters Program, Ice Age NST. Top right: Discovery Trails Program, Oregon NHT. Top center: Alternative Spring Break Program; Florida NST. Center: USFS Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Bottom left: Alternative Spring Break Program, Florida NST. Bottom right: A Call to Arms Educational Program; Overmountain Victory NHT.



Back Cover Photos: Bottom left: NAACP Partnership with the Pacific Crest NST. Center: BLM Interpretation Volunteer, Oregon National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. Top: Monika Sovine, Student Conservation Association Trails Apprentice, Pacific Crest NST. Top right: Marshall Alford, US Forest Service Trail Apprentice, Continental Divide NST.



For further information about any  
of the programs listed in this report,  
please contact:  
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