Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders: A Program Continuum

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals – May 4, 2017

Lauren Sinnott, Program Manager
Patrick Stephens, Partnership Director
SCA – Who are we?

MISSION: To build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

Since 1957, SCA has engaged over 75,000 youth and young adults in projects as short as a week and as long as a year.
SCA – What is a Program Continuum?
Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders
I. Youth Programs

I. National Crews
   - 6-8 student volunteers from across the U.S.
   - Serve for 2-5 weeks in SCA-led projects

II. Community Crews
   - 10 local youth
   - Paid a wage
   - Commute to and from worksite daily
   - Currently based in DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, NYC, Chicago, Houston, Oakland, Seattle
SCA Youth Programs

• Washington State
  – 200+ members served annually
  – 11.00/hour
  – Partners
    • U.S. Forest Service
    • National Park Service
    • City of Seattle, Edmonds, Shoreline, Tukwila

• Program Goals: Leadership development, conservation mindset, career exploration
SCA – Young Adult Programs

I. Internship Program
   - 1,500+ Interns
   - All 50 states
   - Outdoor Recreation, Trails and Maintenance, Botany, Community Engagement

II. Conservation Corps
   - 4-5 members, 1 Crew Leader
SCA – Young Adult

I. Rocky Mountain National Park
   - Trail Crew Interns
   - 2-3 each year

II. Success rate?
   - Several Interns per year hired

Program Goals: Career preparedness, refining technical skills, relevant resume experience
Is it Working?
Measurable Outcomes

- Commitment to Community
- Conservation Mindset & Commitment
- Thriving Mindset
- Interpersonal Skills & Leadership Development
- Healthy Behaviors
- Developmental Relationships
SCA – Takeaways

• Why put time and energy into this?

1. Youth members are most impacted by SCA programming

2. “Creating a Relevant and Inclusive Future”
Student Conservation Association

• Are youth programs valuable to you personally? To your organization?

• Any takeaways that resonated with you?