



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



SCA Youth Programs

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?

