

#1

AmeriCorps members help to protect vital habitats, threatened wildlife, and other at-risk resources in our nation's parks, forests and green spaces. The efforts of members positively affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of students, teachers, residents and visitors to national, state and local parks, recreation areas, non-profit sites and urban green spaces.

The program mission is to complete critical hands-on environmental conservation and historic preservation service projects, while engaging community residents, especially young people, to become active and educated conservation stewards. By setting an example for others through their commitment to service, AmeriCorps members leave a legacy of accomplishments and help to foster an ethic of stewardship and civic engagement in generations to come.

#2

In over a dozen states, AmeriCorps members hiked scores of miles, bushwacked through overbrush, and crawled around massive blowdowns to map potential wildland fire fuels. Using sophisticated handheld GPS units, they uploaded critical field data used by firefighters to monitor conditions, predict flare-ups, and determine response strategies.

Elsewhere, AmeriCorps members converged on Mississippi's Gulf Coast to restore lands devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Others rid Shenandoah's skyline vistas and California's redwood forests of noxious invasive plants. And Hannah Wahlstrom, a 19-year old from Massachusetts, spent hour after backbreaking hour with her crew setting rock cairns in Voyageurs National Park. They could have painted bright blazes, said Hannah, but "these cairns really make you feel a part of nature. This is our gift."

AmeriCorps is fostering this generous, green spirit in young people across our nation. Because as they give back to the land, they give all of us a brighter, healthier future.

(thesca.org)

#1

-- Students who attend 21st Century Community Learning Center programs have higher attendance rates and miss fewer days of school than non-participants.

-- Principals find that the program targets and provides additional academic resources for students who struggle academically, often targeting students' specific skill needs.

-- 63% of teachers report an improvement in academic performance.

-- 39% of regular participants moved up one or more stanines in reading, while 43% advanced at least one stanine in math on the SAT 10 standardized achievement measure.

-- Over 90 enrichment classes are offered.

-- Parents report that their children like going to the afterschool program and look forward to it, frequently talk about what they did in the program, like school more, want to learn, and have improved their self-esteem, social skills, and leadership skills.

(21stccclc.spps.org)

#2

This year, as our program extended its reach into communities across the city, we placed a record number of AmeriCorps members in St. Paul Public Schools. These young men and women included history majors, aspiring pediatricians, and future teachers – 22 in all, who served in 8 city elementary and middle schools.

Nowhere posed greater urgency than Bruce Vento Elementary School, a school that had been struggling with low reading scores and attendance rates. Last year AmeriCorps members met with the principal, two classroom teachers, and a literacy specialist to create an afterschool program that paired one-on-one reading tutoring with enrichment activities. To date members have provided more than 1,000 hours of one-on-one tutoring and currently offer over 20 enrichment activities, including basket weaving, synchronized swimming, and intramural basketball. The dedication and capacity of these young leaders helped Bruce Vento improve reading scores 63%. On the SAT 10 standardized achievement measure, 39% of afterschool program participants moved up one or more stanines in reading. Barabara Hannigan, parent of a participant, said of her daughter, “Margo never used to like to read. Now the librarians know her by name.” An AmeriCorps team will be back at Bruce Vento in 2008.