

Central Conservation

Our Divisions



the
nature
place

WISCORPS

Central Conservation

Vision

We are unifying the conservation movement to benefit our communities for generations to come.

Our experienced staff and board members are passionate about making a real impact on our planet. We exist to empower humans and organizations to thrive. By helping the public understand the importance of their missions, we amplify their impact.

Central Conservation is the ideal partner for environmentally focused organizations seeking growth, transformation, and lasting success.

Mission

We empower humans working to care for the Earth.

What We Do

Payroll & Benefits Administration
Legal & Compliance
Staffing & Hiring
Internal Systems & Operations
Marketing & Communications
Development & Donor Relations
Fundraising & Grant Management



**UNIFYING THE
CONSERVATION
MOVEMENT**



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Our Story

- 2009** • Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc. non-profit 501(c)(3) founded with \$5,000 and one crew doing one week of work on public lands in La Crosse, WI
- 2013** • Renamed WisCorps, Inc., and added several new crew partnerships, including The National Park Service
- 2014** • Moved offices to 789 Myrick Park Dr., soon after, invited to run the “Myrick Park Center” with a year-to-year lease with the City of La Crosse
 - Adopted the Environmental Education division under WisCorps, formerly run by the EcoPark and The Hixon Forest Nature Center – preserving a legacy of more than 25 years of nature education in the La Crosse Area
- 2022** • Entered into a 20-year lease with the City of La Crosse, allowing for investment and growth opportunities within the organization
- 2023** • Rebranded environmental education programs and Myrick Park Center rentals as The Nature Place, along with a redesign of the atrium to create “*nature’s living room*”, WisCorps program offices moved to 411 La Crosse St.
 - Programmatic divisions formalized: The Nature Place and WisCorps
- 2024** • WisCorps programs rebranded, organization renamed Central Conservation, Inc.
- 2025** • Central Conservation, Inc. upgrades foundational systems for organizational growth
 - The Nature Place - completed solar array installation and greenhouse construction
 - WisCorps - eight crews completed 105 weeks of work on public lands throughout the Upper Midwest benefitting over three million people



The mission of The Nature Place is to inspire and cultivate meaningful connections between people and nature, **for the benefit of both.**

WISCORPS

WisCorps engages the next generation of environmental leaders through guided, hands-on service opportunities that benefit our region's public lands.



Our Divisions

It is with joy and commitment that we empower humans to care for Earth. We equip our workforce to thrive and meet their mission.

Central Conservation, Inc. shoulders the organizational challenges that can slow them down and we create space for them to focus on the work that matters most: serving their communities.

Through the systems and efficiencies we build, we strengthen culture, empower teams, and help each organization move confidently toward a brighter, more sustainable future for all.



To inspire and cultivate
meaningful connections
between people and nature,
for the benefit of both.



When a child tastes a fresh raspberry for the first time, their curiosity sparks.

When a monarch returns to its milkweed, life renews itself.

When an adult living with dementia recalls a cherished memory, connection blossoms.

When we notice the rhythm of the changing seasons, joy quietly unfolds.

Nature shows us that restoration is always possible—in small moments and subtle connections.

WHAT WE DO

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



- Homeschool Science
- Early Explorers
- No School Day Camps
- Summer Day Camps
- School Field Trips

GARDENS & GROUNDS



- Gardens (including native, produce, pollinator and community gardens)
- Species Diversity Educational Opportunities

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



- Nature Saturdays
- Enviro-Wednesdays with partner, Friends of the Marsh
- Bird Programs with partner, Coulee Region Audubon Society
- Community Science
- Crittermobile with Animal Ambassadors
- Specialized Programming

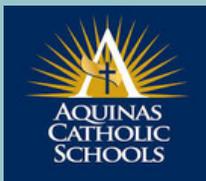
VISITOR SERVICES & VENUE RENTAL



- Volunteer opportunities within our gardens, building operations, and front desk services
- Venue rental for: weddings, events, off-site corporate meetings
- Public Open Hours serving the community as an important "3rd Space"

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Coulee Audubon
Coulee Region Audubon Society



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our programs serve families and school districts throughout the Driftless Region with the purpose of introducing children to nature-based education.

We create opportunities to promote engaged learning and connections with nature.

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE

Serves 100+ youth annually | Ages 6-12

Each session provides children with 12 focused, screen-free hours of outdoor learning through our Homeschool Science programming. Four-week sessions are offered during Fall, Winter, and Spring.



EARLY EXPLORERS

Serves 100+ youth annually | Ages 2-5

These early experiences in nature set up a lifetime of love for outdoor spaces! Each session of this 6-week program provides unique opportunities for 16 young children and their caregivers to engage with their surroundings, socialize with others their age, and make big connections in their little worlds.

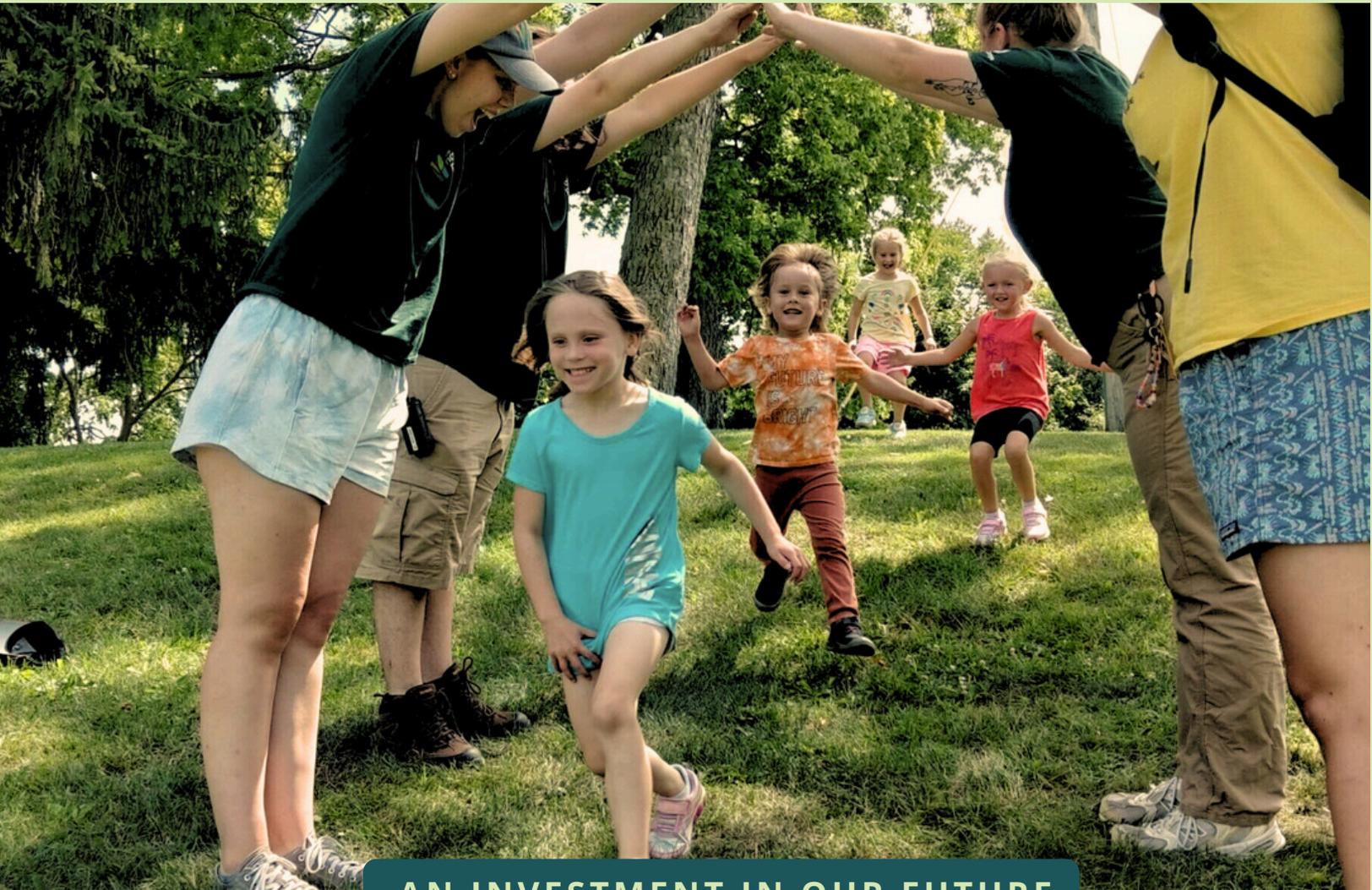
NO SCHOOL NATURE CAMP

Serves 175+ youth annually | Ages 5-11

This program provides a safe, structured environment where students can explore their love for nature during scheduled academic-year breaks, so parents can continue to go to work and know that their child is having a fun, "screen-free" day!



SUMMER DAY CAMPS



AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

Kids need a place where they can explore, connect, and discover the world.

Summer Day Campers come aboard for 5 days or half-days of play, socializing, art, and fun, interactive lessons based on the weekly camp theme, including names like Colorful Creations and Butt What?. Campers spend the week enjoying summer to its fullest!

656
Summer Camp
Registrations
received in 2025

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Natural areas draw children together, provide a context for making friends, and impact stress levels. Outdoor spaces foster social interaction and community networks.

**CLASSES/GROUPS**

The Nature Place proudly welcomed 146 schools and groups from nearby communities, including Arcadia, Fountain City, La Crosse, Onalaska, Sparta, Stoddard, Tomah, West Salem, Whitehall, Caledonia, Dakota, Lanesboro, Rushford, and St. Charles.

Each visit from these students allows us to incorporate the greater mission of fostering meaningful connections to our natural resources through immersive, values-driven environmental education.

2,798 STUDENTS RECEIVE HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*School environments that support effective learning and students' psychological and physical well-being are essential.

The most beneficial settings include outdoor spaces that encourage activities beyond the classroom. Research in environmental and architectural psychology offers evidence-based design guidelines that should inform these spaces.

IN OUR SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

Staff are often invited by local schools and universities to share their environmental expertise and present on environmental education topics—expanding the reach of our mission and strengthening the future of environmental education careers in the years to come.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Our community programs offer specialized nature programming to connect a wide range of groups with activities and resources to be active stewards of the natural world. Programs are driven by community interest and serve individuals, families, community groups/clubs of all ages and backgrounds.

NATURE SATURDAYS

400+ participants annually | All Ages

Each FREE drop-in program provides families with nature-based activities for all ages, focusing on meaningful family experiences in nature.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

12+ programs annually | Ages 14+

Bridging academic research and the community-at-large. These programs create collaborative spaces, engages the public, and creates a more ecologically literate community. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Driftless Area BioBlitz
- Monarch Watch
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Audubon Christmas Bird Count
- Wisconsin Frog & Toad Survey
- Finding Fungi
- Insects



ENVIRO-WEDNESDAYS

200+ learners annually | Ages 14+

Sponsor an evening or the entire nature series and support enhancing nature knowledge. Different topics and speakers every month engaging community members with similar interests.



AMBASSADOR ANIMALS



CRITTERMOBILE

Traveling Nature Education Programs serve 1,500+ individuals annually

- 34 Crittermobile programs in 2025
- Introductions to live animals
- Creates real world connections
- Fosters empathy and responsibility
- Helps to make complex subject matter accessible & understandable

OVERALL INVESTMENT

\$7k

The ambassador animals (12), offer our visitors and program participants a rare opportunity to interact with live animals they may never see up close in the wild. They are used in our programming to demonstrate understanding of their ecological roles and the inherent value of wildlife.

To house and care for these popular teaching aides costs \$7K annually.

"We all had a wonderful time! The kids loved the presentation, playing games and touching the bearded dragon and snakes. The Educator did an amazing job keeping the group engaged."

-Parent, 2024

VISITOR SERVICES

The Nature Place believes in outdoor access for all people. Programs and experiences are designed to welcome people of all ages, races, and genders to connect with nature, learn, and grow together.



From September 2024 to August 2025, The Nature Place staff coordinated over 114 volunteers who contributed more than 1,034 hours to restoring native habitats, removing 220 pounds of trash from Myrick Park and the La Crosse River Marsh Trails, and maintaining our free community produce garden. Together, we're creating an inclusive, welcoming space where everyone can connect, learn, and feel supported by nature and one another.

WE SERVE 12,000+ VISITORS ANNUALLY

FREE KIDS PLAY

Benefitting parents
with kids of all ages

GUIDED GARDEN TOURS

ADA Compliant
self-guided audio tours

ACCESS TO LIVE CRITTERS

Discovery Room available
during public hours

TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES

Extended Learning for
parents and kids

TAXIDERM Y CRITTERS

Educational opportunity
for visitors of all ages

LOCAL ART GALLERY

9-month studio showcasing
local nature-inspired art

EXPLORER BACKPACKS

Hands-on Learning for
parents and kids

TREASURE TABLE

Sensory activities for
visitors of all ages

DRIFTLESS BIODIVERSITY

The Nature Place promotes the preservation of the Driftless Region's unique biodiversity through hands-on education focused on native plants, pollinators, and locally grown produce.

Our programs teach AmeriCorps participants and volunteers about invasive species management and soil health. Across five acres of thriving gardens and grounds—home to 127 plant species and 88 native varieties vital to the La Crosse Marsh—through community science initiatives, they've documented encounters of the endangered native Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Restoring landscapes to withstand climate change.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Education about air, water, and soil quality through sustainable agriculture practices.

POLLINATOR SUPPORT

Protecting essential insects that power our food system.

BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT

Identifying unique species only found in the Driftless area.

WILDLIFE FOOD & SHELTER

Strengthening our soil to build sanctuaries for native species.



OVERALL IMPACT

13 AmeriCorps
Members in
Service Annually

13,650
Total Service Hours

- * Supporting environmental education and land stewardship for the greater Driftless Region
- * AmeriCorps participant hours for calendar year 2025

35+ Community
Partners

30+ Community
Engaged Events

98 Program Opportunities
Offered

12 Youth Scholarships
Provided

12 Ambassador Animals
professionally housed and cared
animals for education, engagement,
and community programs

1,035 Volunteer
Hours

- * September 2024-August 2025
- * 114 volunteers provided \$36,007 in value through their services

5 Acres of Land
Stewardship

- * 8 Gardens
 - seven native gardens hosting 106 native plants
 - one demo produce garden
- * 220 pounds of trash removed from the La Crosse marsh area

12,000+
Participants Attended
Education Programs or
Community Events

338 Venue Rentals by
the Numbers

- * 217 paid reserved rentals
121 partner service rentals

1

PROVIDE A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

2

FOSTER APPRECIATION AND A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

3

CREATE HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES TO EXPLORE OUR REGIONS' ECOSYSTEMS

4

TEACH CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS TO RESPECT NATURE AND DEVELOP PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

5

PROVIDE SHARED NATURE EXPERIENCES ALLOWING SOCIALIZATION AND GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING

6

ADVANCE OUR AMERICORPS MEMBER PARTICIPANTS' KNOWLEDGE-BASE OF THE NATURAL WORLD

INDICATORS OF PROGRAM SUCCESS

Success of our programs and events are met through a variety of indicators that reflect both **participation and impact**. Attendance and engagement provide a foundational measure, while participation satisfaction surveys offer direct feedback on how well the program met attendees' expectations.

Safety is prioritized through clear protocols, training, and consistent reinforcement of safety expectations. We assess whether the curriculum, activities, and events effectively address the needs of each group, with a focus on fostering learning and skill development. Success is also observed through attendees' growth in problem-solving confidence, their active interest in lessons and activities, and their demonstrated appreciation for nature and wildlife.

Additionally, we look for evidence of appropriate independence, ensuring that participants are gaining not only knowledge but also the confidence to apply it.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Your investment in The Nature Place ensures the greater La Crosse region will benefit from a nature-focused community center open to the public, offering year-round, onsite, and regional services with an emphasis in the areas of **education**, **community**, and **land stewardship**.

Together with your gift, we will continue to deliver nature-based learning opportunities for people of all ages. This important education promotes lifelong learning and is beneficial to teaching our community to care for the Earth. We are dedicated to the delivery of these programs through quality learning experiences in the outdoors.

We are a **welcoming** and **inclusive space** where individuals may foster appreciation and a sense of stewardship for the environment and our natural resources. As a result, our collective community will develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

support one full-day participant for 1 week of Summer Day Camp

Investment \$275

CAMP SUPPLIES

support our Education Team with needed program supplies

Investment \$1,000

EDUCATOR SALARY

support one Environmental Educator for one summer of camp

Investment \$6,000

BUILDING SUPPLIES

support to provide operating daily consumable supplies

Investment \$2,500

GARDEN SEEDS

support our garden crew with annual native herloom seeds

Investment \$500

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

support annual care & maintenance costs for one of our critters

Investment \$500

STAFF TRAINING

support one staff members annual training

Investment \$250

UNIFORMS

support our annual uniform fund for staff and AmeriCorps Participants

Investment \$1,000

CAMPER T-SHIRTS

support annual cost to purchase camper t-shirts

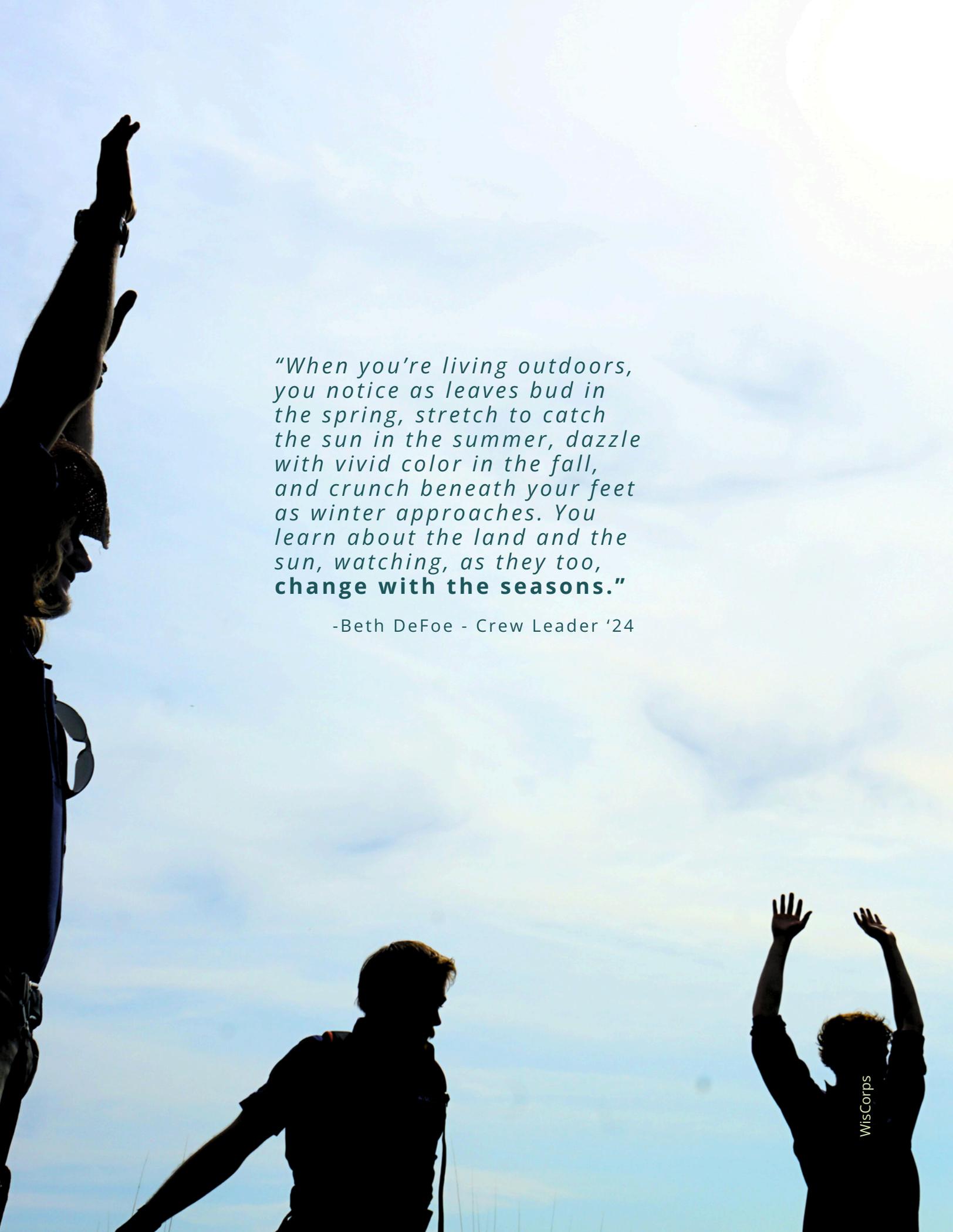
Investment \$2,000



WISCORPS

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CORPS

Engaging the next generation of environmental leaders through guided, hands-on service opportunities that **benefit our region's public lands.**

The image features three silhouetted figures against a bright, hazy sky. On the left, a person's arm is raised high. In the center, a person stands with their arm extended horizontally. On the right, a person stands with both arms raised. The overall mood is one of joy and connection with nature.

*"When you're living outdoors,
you notice as leaves bud in
the spring, stretch to catch
the sun in the summer, dazzle
with vivid color in the fall,
and crunch beneath your feet
as winter approaches. You
learn about the land and the
sun, watching, as they too,
change with the seasons."*

-Beth DeFoe - Crew Leader '24



CREW PROGRAM WHAT WE DO



Invasive Species Removal
& Treatment



Trail Construction & Maintenance



Boardwalk Trail Installation



Dry Stone Masonry "Rock Work"



Plant Identification for
Habitat Restoration



Reforestation & Planting



CREW PROGRAM CONTINUING EDUCATION

WisCorps strengthens the conservation workforce by **providing professional certifications for its Crew Members. Forty-five certifications were awarded in 2025**



CHAINSAW SAFETY



WI HERBICIDE APPLICATION



WILDERNESS FIRST AID



LEAVE NO TRACE

Crew Leaders receive chainsaw certification while continuing to refine their skills under WisCorps staff's guidance. They also complete the Wisconsin Herbicide Applicator exam and are added to WisCorps' commercial pesticide license, enabling safe invasive species management.

All WisCorps Members are trained and certified in Leave No Trace principles, fostering lifelong respect for ethical land stewardship. Through a partnership with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), they also earn Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications, often training alongside community members in hands-on scenarios.





CREW PROGRAM WISCORPS PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL PARKS & FEDERAL AGENCIES



OTTAWA
NATIONAL
FOREST



U.S. ARMY
FORT
McCOY



ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

GREAT LAKES INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT TEAM

- ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY
- RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
- PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL PARK

UW-MADISON EXTENSION



WYALUSING STATE PARK



PERROT STATE PARK

WILLOW RIVER
STATE PARK

COUNTIES & MUNICIPALITIES



GREUTSMACHER PARK



NONPROFITS





"Things will not go perfectly, but being able to roll with the difficult realities of leadership and being in the woods for an extended period has made me more confident in my ability to overcome and adapt to challenges."

-Silas Patten - Crew Leader '24



INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS WHAT WE DO



Environmental Education



Sustainability & Green Building Initiatives



Parks, Trails & Recreation



Habitat Restoration & Invasive Species



Gardening & Food Systems



INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each Individual Placement position requires unique certifications tailored to our partners' needs. Funding supports the following training and certifications:

Chainsaw Safety / S-212 <i>(Wildland Fire Chainsaws course)</i>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration - OSHA 10 & 30 Certification
Wilderness First Aid, First Aid & CPR	Photovoltaics (PV101) Training Course
Lifeguard Certification	National Crosscut Training
Government Vehicle Defensive Driving	





INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL PARKS & FEDERAL AGENCIES



OTTAWA
NATIONAL
FOREST



VOYAGEURS
NATIONAL
PARK



PERROT STATE PARK

MUNICIPALITIES / OTHER SITES



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SITES





WISCORPS

“This project brought people together in the shared joy of bettering the planet we live in and strengthening relationships with each other and our community.”

~Carolyn Johnson, WisCorps Ecological Assistant
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



2025 REGIONAL IMPACT

KEY

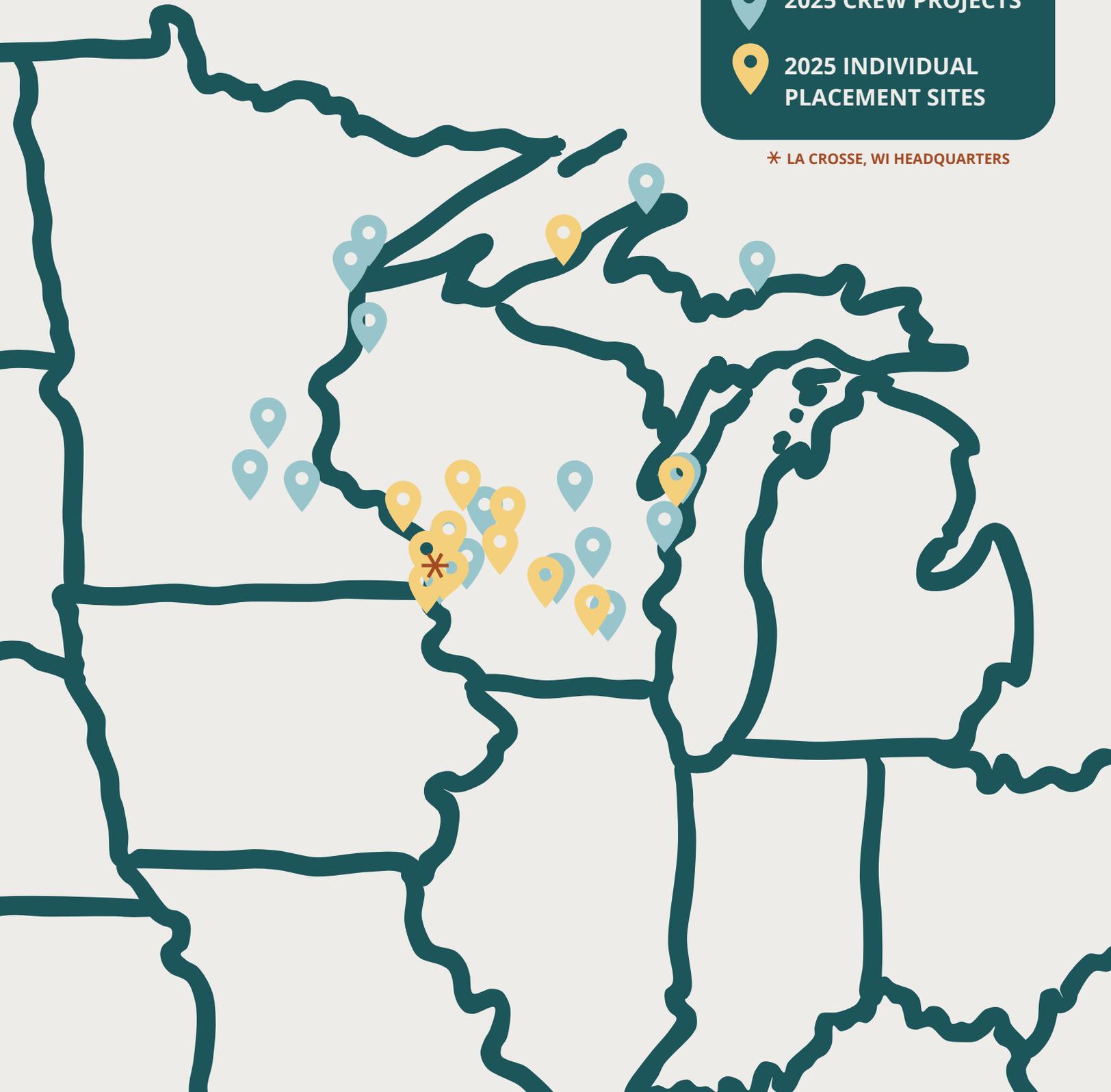


2025 CREW PROJECTS



2025 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SITES

* LA CROSSE, WI HEADQUARTERS





MAKING A DIFFERENCE OVERALL IMPACT

2025 IMPACT

21 Crew Program Partners

12 Individual Placement Partners

67 AmeriCorps Members in Service

*Crew Program = 40
Individual Placement = 27

92 Miles of improved trails and waterways

*Crew Program = 42 miles
Individual Placement = 50 miles

51,000

Total Service Hours

- *Enhancing natural spaces visited annually by 3.4+ million people
- *This does not include staff time, only AmeriCorps participant hours
- *Crew Program = 33,500 hrs
Individual Placement = 17,500 hrs

247 Acres restored

- *This includes invasive species removals, tree plantings and habitat restoration work in over 17+ communities.
- *Crew Program = 87 acres
Individual Placement = 160 acres

35 Crew Program Projects Accomplished

249 Education Programs or Community Events hosted by Individual Placements

8,159

Education Programs or Community Event participants





PROGRAM GOALS

2025 IMPACT

1 PROVIDE STAFF & PARTICIPANTS WITH WILDERNESS FIRST AID AND ONE ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION.

2 SECURE ADDITIONAL MASTER COOPERATIVE AWARD

(EXAMPLE: USFS, USFWS, WI-DNR)

3 LOCATE AND FUND RESIDENTIAL BASE IN LACROSSE TO HOUSE UP TO 15+ PARTICIPANTS

4 ADD ADDITIONAL SEASONAL NON-AMERICORPS CREW LEADER POSITIONS

5 ADD CONTROLLED BURNS TO THE LIST OF SERVICES OFFERED TO PARTNERS

6 CONTINUE TO EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST





Participant Certifications

\$2k

Secure funding (through program revenue, grants, or contributions) to expand Crew Member and Individual Placement Member training from 2 days to 5 days, and have every single AmeriCorps Member in 2026 complete the program with industry-recognized certifications.

Additional Master Cooperative Agreements

Master Cooperative Agreements more or less guarantee funding for project sites over multiple years, which secures the future and viability of the program. They make it easier for new project partners to contract a WisCorps crew or placement site by removing some “red tape”.

Residential Base of Operations

\$15k

In late spring, our annual training is based at the Girl Scouts’ 200-acre summer camp; however, the camp is unavailable during much of the summer and fall. To better support all participants, we need a permanent residential base in addition to maintaining our partnership with the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Badgerland.

A residence for 15+ participants will strengthen recruitment and retention for both our Crew and Individual Placement Programs. To have the residence operational in 2027, WisCorps must sign a lease by the end of 2026, with occupancy starting by March 2027 to allow time for setup and policy development.

Increase staffing

The WisCorps Crew Division is currently supported by one Director, three Managers, and two full-time Field Coordinators. Each Coordinator oversees an average of two crews. To expand to six crews, WisCorps will need to add one seasonal Coordinator.

Investing in full-time staffing strengthens program quality, technical expertise, and long-term stability. Consistent staffing deepens partner relationships, improves project outcomes, and enables the return of a spring service session.

While this growth requires additional funding, the investment will reduce recruitment and onboarding costs over time, allowing the program to scale more efficiently.



PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT SAFETY EQUIPMENT & TRAINING

WisCorps Crew and Individual Placement Members provide services to municipalities, agencies, and non-profit organizations in need of conservation solutions. Because of YOUR support, we train and fully equip our Crews and Individual Placement members to effectively complete a variety of complex conservation projects such as trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, and invasive species management. Each project requires its specialized training and appropriate safety equipment.

EQUIPMENT FUND

Gear loan-out program for camping equipment (sleeping bags, pads, etc)

Investment \$100

BRUSH CUTTER

One commercial grade brushcutter

Investment \$750

AED MOBILE DEVICE

One needed per crew

Investment \$750

BOOT REIMBURSEMENT

One new pair of boots

Investment \$200

FIRST AID

One needed per crew

Investment \$350

UNIFORMS

Each participant receives two shirts

Investment \$500

CHAINSAWS

One commercial grade saw

Investment \$1,000





PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT SPONSOR A CREW

2025 IMPACT

How your support makes an impact:

A WisCorps crew costs \$9,000 per week to operate. This includes six crew members and a staff visit to ensure safety, quality, and impact at every partner project site. **Our project partners generously cover about 80% of these costs, while WisCorps contributes another 20% to keep our programs running strong.** This leaves roughly \$2,500 per week that WisCorps must secure through competitive funding and donor support. Your contribution helps us keep crews in the field, expand opportunities for young adults, and grow the reach of our conservation work.



🌲 ONE MEMBER | ONE WEEK

support **one** participant for **one** week of the field season.

Investment \$500

🌲 ONE CREW | ONE WEEK

support **one crew (6 participants)** for **one** week of the field season.

Investment \$2,500



🌲 ONE CREW | ONE SEASON

support **one** crew (6 participants) for **one field season (12 weeks)**.

Investment \$30,000

🌲 SIX CREWS | ONE SEASON

support **six crews (36 participants)** for **one field season (12 weeks)**.

Investment \$180k



"I've spent a year of my life doing this stuff, going places and seeing things, making friends and building connections, and I've grown through it. Now, I hang up my WisCorps boots and prepare for new adventures."

- Beth DeFoe | Crew Leader 2024



PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT SPONSOR AN INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT

2025 IMPACT

How your support makes an impact:

Behind every WisCorps Individual Placement is a partnership built on shared purpose. It costs \$600 each week to make one placement possible. Our host sites generously cover 80% of these costs, while WisCorps contributes the remaining 20%. That means each placement costs WisCorps about \$100 per week, which we fund through competitive grants and donor support. Your contribution helps keep members serving communities across the Upper Midwest for up to 12 weeks at a time.

ONE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT | ONE WEEK

support **one** participant for
one week of their service term.

Investment \$100

ONE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT | 12 WEEKS

support **one** participant for
12 week of their service term.

Investment \$1,200

12 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS | 12 WEEKS

support **12** participants for
12 week of their service term.

Investment \$14,000



"This year has taught me so much about the community and environment I taught in. It was such an honor to work along with parents, volunteers, and fellow educators to show children the wonders of the environment all around us and be a stepping stone into learning. I'm so grateful for all the smiles I could see and the lives I could be a part of."

- Lin Rose | Kickapoo Valley Forest School
Individual Placement Member



PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT CERTIFY A FUTURE LEADER

2025 IMPACT

How your support makes an impact:

An investment in the future of the conservation industry is upheld through industry-standard certifications. At WisCorps, every member—whether participating in a crew or serving in an individual placement—receives at least a week of professional training. Participants earn certifications in Leave No Trace, NOLS Wilderness First Aid, Wisconsin Herbicide Application, and Chainsaw Safety. These trainings ensure that every WisCorps member enters the field with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to complete high-quality projects safely and sustainably—building a stronger conservation workforce for the future.

⑤ \$500

ONE LEADER | 2 CERTIFICATIONS

Support **one** future leader to receive **two** industry-standard certification

⑤ \$3,000

ONE CREW | 2 CERTIFICATIONS

Support **one crew (6 participants)** receive **two** industry-standard certifications

⑤ \$18k

CERTIFY OUR CREW PROGRAM

Support the **entire crew program (approximately 36 members)** with **two** industry-standard certifications

⑤ \$24k

CERTIFY BOTH PROGRAMS

Support **both programs** (*crew program 36 members and Individual Placement Program 12 members*) with **two** industry-standard certification



PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FUND A LIFE EXPERIENCE

Investing in Leadership Through Experience

Leadership growth happens when individuals step outside their comfort zones and embrace new challenges, experiences, and adventures. Our programs aim to do more than equip participants with valuable work skills; we want them to leave feeling like they developed the necessary life skills that emerge from self-exploration and shared experiences.

Our crews live and work together for seven months, often camping and spending weekends side by side. While they manage on our provided modest living stipends, many opportunities for personal growth—*learning new skills, exploring hobbies, or engaging in unique experiences*—remain out of reach because participants are saving to cover personal expenses. By supporting these experiential opportunities, donors help our participants grow as leaders, strengthen bonds within their crews, and gain experiences that will shape their lives for years to come.

Examples include:



🇺🇸 **\$1,000**

OUTDOOR ENRICHMENT

Supports one crew (6 participants) to complete outdoor enrichment activities together during their field season



🇺🇸 **\$500**

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Supports one crew (6 participants) to access educational opportunities, such as governmental buildings or museums



AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps is the backbone of service in our country. People who choose to serve are inspiring change, blazing new pathways, and impacting people and nature alike.

WHY AMERICORPS MATTERS



AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. For more than 30 years, it has created opportunities for mentorship and service nationwide —supporting the environment, disaster recovery, healthy aging, and other pressing community needs.

Central Conservation, Inc. and its divisions are current recipients of a competitively funded AmeriCorps grant (September 2025–August 2026). This funding supports critical staffing across our programs, with AmeriCorps reimbursing 72% of most member costs. From placing individuals at partner sites to supporting environmental educators and conservation crews, this bipartisan investment makes service possible at every level—sitting at the heart of our mission.

Federal AmeriCorps funding is just one part of our funding model. To create a sustainable future for continued service, Central Conservation seeks donor support for non-AmeriCorps staffing, sustaining program needs, building community initiatives, and expanding partner missions in 2026 and beyond.



Overhead Costs

We remain inspired every single day by the people we serve, the communities that benefit from conservation efforts, and the shared stewardship felt when we care for the Earth we love.

This work is only possible when the foundation under it is strong.

Behind every acre restored, every trail built, and every young person discovering their place in environmental stewardship, **there is overhead infrastructure and administrative support staff.**

Administrative work, grant and legal compliance, HR, finance, and IT are the heartbeat of an organization. They are what keep our programs ethical, equitable, safe, accountable, compliant, and sustainable.

It's time to shift how we think about supporting the organizations doing mission-driven work, **because when overhead is funded, passion becomes possibility.**

When processes run smoothly, our people can do what they were meant to do: **Teach. Restore. Lead. Inspire. Protect. Connect.**

**CONSERVATION WORK REACHES MORE PEOPLE
AND REMAINS RELEVANT ACROSS GENERATIONS.
PROGRAMS THRIVE.**

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS, SHARED VISION,
AND EMPOWERED TEAMS
CREATES MEANINGFUL CHANGE.**

**OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS AND
PROCESSES SUPPORT THE PEOPLE
DOING HANDS-ON STEWARDSHIP.**

FLEXIBLE GIFTS MEET THE ORGANIZATION'S GREATEST NEEDS

DONOR SUPPORT

- Gifts strengthen infrastructure
- Donors receive transparent updates
- Overhead ensures long-term stability, access, and inclusion



In Conclusion

In the end, connection is hard to measure.

Was it a single spark? A moment in childhood? A series of encounters that finally took root? A mentor filled with encouragement and knowledge?

The truth is, it looks different for everyone.

Just as no two snowflakes are alike, there are infinite ways that nature can inspire us, community can shape us, and joy can carry us forward. We remain committed to supporting the organizations that bring these moments to life each and every day.

Your consideration to invest in our mission is important to ensure continued services for our community and beyond.





Our Staff



Emily Post
Interim Executive
Director; Director
of Administration



Mary Freybler
Director
of Development



Kristy Brown
Administrative
Manager



Paige Manges
Director of
Communications

Division Staff



Eric Robertson
Director,
WisCorps



Rebecca Schwarz
Director,
The Nature Place

Board Members

Michael Scott

Jess Medema

Amy DuPont

Tim Sprain

Buzz Bocher

Barbara Thompson

Lauren Cordy

Justin T. Reineking

Jackie Gerke-Edwards



UNIFYING THE
CONSERVATION
MOVEMENT

centralconservation.org

789 Myrick Park Dr.
La Crosse, WI 54601

info@centralconservation.org