

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS'

CREW NEWS

SUMMER 2018

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



BENJAMIN THOMAS
Executive Director, RMYC

GREETINGS RMYC PARTNERS!

Last year Rocky Mountain Youth Corps celebrated Women in Conservation because of the accomplishments so many women make in conservation professions and as Corpsmembers.

This year we ask you to join us in celebrating *Unity in Diversity*. We are proud of the diversity of the projects we complete and the diversity of communities we serve. Most of all, we are proud of the diversity among our Corpsmembers. Our diversity unites us not only as an organization but as a community.

We have many reasons to celebrate diversity in 2018. We celebrate it across the broad social, economic, education, and ethnic backgrounds of our Corps members; as well as across the variety of our projects, the range of our partnerships, and the different benefits we deliver to the community. RMYC welcomes youth from all backgrounds to experience the opportunities our programs offer. Our workforce development training curriculum and corps experience is available to all 17- to 25-year-olds looking for a change of outlook, a team to join up with, and a stepping stone to a career in conservation. We work with the deaf and hard of hearing community and Pueblo communities to include underserved youth from across central and northern New Mexico. We offer pre-professional internships, camping and day crews, and work in rural and urban communities across northern and central New Mexico.

Please join us in celebrating *Unity in Diversity!* by supporting RMYC. Your donation will support hundreds of young adults to receive academic scholarships and workforce development training while completing community service projects. With your help, RMYC Corpsmembers get the emotional, technical, and financial resources they need to achieve their personal and professional goals. None of this is possible without your financial support.



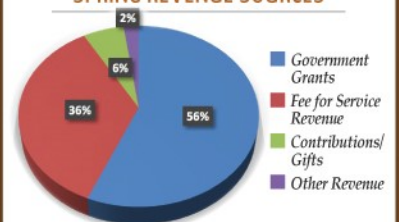
2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

REVENUE:	
Government Grants	\$1,053,489.00
Fee for Service	\$661,038.00
Contributions/Gifts	\$112,954.00
Other	\$41,413.00
TOTAL	\$1,868,894.00

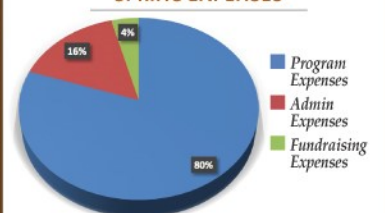
EXPENSES:	
Wages, Benefits & Taxes	\$1,382,633.00
Equipment, Materials & Supplies	\$531,548.00
Program Expenses	\$1,536,953.00
Admin Expenses	\$299,262.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$77,966.00
TOTAL	\$1,914,181.00

NOTE: The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards has been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting

SPRING REVENUE SOURCES



SPRING EXPENSES



As with most Government Grants, RMYC is required to provide a match to every dollar we receive. This means they will only give us SOME of the money needed for a project or a program, and we are expected to raise the other portion. Although this does not appear to be much, in fact one of our largest grants, AmeriCorps, requires almost a 70% match! This is why your support is needed, we are only effective as long as we have your support!

2018 CALENDAR EVENTS:

Taos Upper Rio Grande Region:

JULY 14, 2018

Rivers & Lands Service Day

AUGUST 10, 2018

Spring & Summer Crews Graduation

Albuquerque Middle Rio Grande Region:

AUGUST 3, 2018

Spring Crew Graduation

AUGUST 10, 2018

Summer Crew Graduation

2018 SAVE THE DATE:

OCTOBER 11, 2018

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

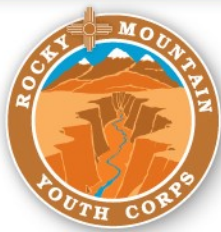
Pathways Auction & Dinner

at Taos Mesa Brewing

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is a stepping stone to new opportunities. We inspire young adults to make a positive difference in themselves and their communities. Through training and service, Corpsmembers discover their potential for healthy, productive lives.

NEWS FROM THE UPPER RIO GRANDE PROGRAM:



UPPER RIO GRANDE CONSERVATION CORPS

WE ARE STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY!

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is always looking for new ways to diversify our programs and our partnerships. Diversity makes us strong and resilient to the changing environment. Diversity in our programs will allow us to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve. We also recognize the need to diversify our funding stream so we can continue our financial stability. Federal government closures prohibit RMYC crews from working on projects that are funded from federal sources. Meanwhile, drought and forest fires could lead to closures of the forest, causing RMYC crews to seek alternative projects so crews can keep working.

While we have enjoyed incredible success in conservation, recreation, and preservation for over 20 years, we are actively researching opportunities to expand our



programming into industries that have strong employment potential and offer the skills our Corps members need to find a career that is challenging and rewarding. Some areas we are considering for diversifying our work are in health care, hospitality, after school programs, film and media, construction, veteran's services, and working with service dogs and people with disabilities.

Help us in our goals for diversity. Your financial support will help us diversify our funding stream and diversify our programs. With your donation, RMYC will continue to serve New Mexico communities. Make a donation today. **Make a difference.**



NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE PROGRAM:



MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVATION CORPS

THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF URBAN CONSERVATION

The Tijeras Arroyo runs along the southern edge of Albuquerque. It drains 77 square miles of land in the East Mountains, flows through a mountain valley, and weaves through private land, Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque, Kirtland Air Force Base, a Flood Control Authority channel, under busy streets, and through junkyards before emptying into the Rio Grande. Most of the water seeps into the underground aquifer, replenishing our water supply while providing diverse wildlife habitat along the arroyo's banks.

RMYC's Urban Conservation Corps crews are busy improving the health and function of this little-known gully. Working in Tijeras Arroyo is a complicated affair, requiring crews to master a diverse set of skills while working alongside a diverse set of partners. In the last two years, RMYC crews have completed trail work on the upper tributaries of Tijeras Arroyo, built storm water ponds at the Tijeras Creek Remediation Project, and begun restoration work at Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge, near where the arroyo meets the Rio Grande.



This year, crews will spend weeks on stream restoration projects on Cedro Creek (adjacent to Tijeras Arroyo), remove invasive species and plant native species with the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, begin a tree inventory on City of Albuquerque property, and teach dozens of South Valley students how Tijeras Arroyo connects their homes to the mountains and to the water they drink.

RMYC is honored and humbled to be such a big part of the work on this storied feature of the Middle Rio Grande environment.



NEWS FROM RMYC'S PREVENTION PROGRAM:

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS

Most people know RMYC because of our highly visible conservation crews. Crew members are often seen in public wearing their blue uniforms with "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" printed boldly on the back. But what many people do not know is that RMYC also manages a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program in the Upper Rio Grande Region. RMYC is addressing alcohol and drug abuse on many levels.

This past spring the RMYC Prevention Program staff worked with our coalition partners **Taos Alive** to administer our annual Community Survey. The Community Survey poses questions to the entire population that pertain to drug and alcohol use in the community. The 2018 Community Survey has been diversified to include Gambling and ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Survey results will assist in education and awareness on issues related to problem gambling that has affected our state. New Mexico

ranks one of the highest in the nation for ACES, and there is a strong connection between ACES and substance abuse. In addition to the 2018 Community Survey, RMYC is developing an in-school suspension program to support students that have been suspended or expelled for violating alcohol and drug policies. Staff is developing a curriculum to curb underage drinking and underage tobacco use in Taos Municipal Schools. In addition to partnering with schools and businesses, RMYC will work with local law enforcement officials with saturation patrols and DWI checkpoints. We are looking forward to seeing the results of the Community Survey so we can share this information with the community and find permanent solutions to drug and alcohol abuse.

Drug and alcohol abuse prevention is just another way we **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** at Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Support RMYC to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.

NEWS FROM THE LEARNING LAB:



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY WITH THE LEARNING LAB

Each semester the Learning Lab receives students who have not yet found success in traditional settings. Ranging from 6th to 8th grade, these students are typically experiencing academic failure, truancy issues, and social/emotion/behavioral challenges.

The Learning Lab strives to meet the needs of these diverse youth by providing targeted academic and behavioral/mental health support along with community engagement opportunities. Students participate in a variety of activities in addition to academics; they take art classes from local artists, partner with **Taos Alive** to create media aimed at reducing alcohol abuse, and participate in service days with the **Town of Taos** and **Not Forgotten Outreach**.



In class, the curriculum focuses on building literacy skills and motivation; students read *"The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez"* and *"The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian"* or *"The Book Thief"* — stories of young people from various racial and cultural backgrounds overcoming adversity and engaging in social justice. Students then write their own personal narratives, crafting stories of their own lives in their uniquely powerful voices.

RMYC FORESTRY CREWS

THE DIVERSE BENEFITS OF RMYC FORESTRY CREWS

RMYC Forestry Crews do much more than cut trees to protect our forests from catastrophic wildfire. RMYC donates firewood to low-income families and provides internships to develop the next generation of forestry professionals and fire fighters. Forestry Crews participate in life skills training and receive *National Sawyer Certifications* as a part of their workforce development training. Their work has a huge impact on the environment, the economy, and most importantly, the next generation of young adults. **All are welcome to share the benefits of RMYC.**



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A HUGE RMYC THANKS TO ALL OF OUR 2017-18 CONTRIBUTORS:

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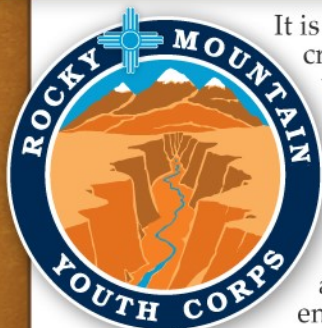
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS:

Diversity surrounds us. Diversity makes us strong, resilient, more exciting. As we celebrate the diversity of our programs, partners, communities, and projects, we cannot fail to recognize the diversity of our Corps members.



It is not uncommon to have a single crew comprised of college graduates working alongside high school drop outs; to have a privileged Anglo man from Montana working side by side with a Native American woman from Sandia Pueblo. For some Corps members, their experience at RMYC is for "personal enrichment" while for others it is the

first job they ever had. Some need the money to help pay the rent while other want spending money for the summer. Some want the scholarship to pay for their final year in college. We value this diversity because of the learning opportunities and humility that it provides Corps members. RMYC is the great equalizer. The chainsaw or the tree don't care how much money the Corps member has, what race they are, or what their life is like at home. The experiences we offer Corps members puts them all on the same level despite their apparent diversity. *We are united through diversity!*

