

RMYC NEW MEXICO

2018 Pathways
Dinner & Auction

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS'

CREW NEWS

www.youthcorps.org

FALL 2018



2018 PATHWAYS DINNER & AUCTION

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY WITH
DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

benefitting
**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
YOUTH CORPS**

THURSDAY
OCT 11TH

**5:00PM
DOORS
OPEN**

**5-6:30PM
SILENT
AUCTION**

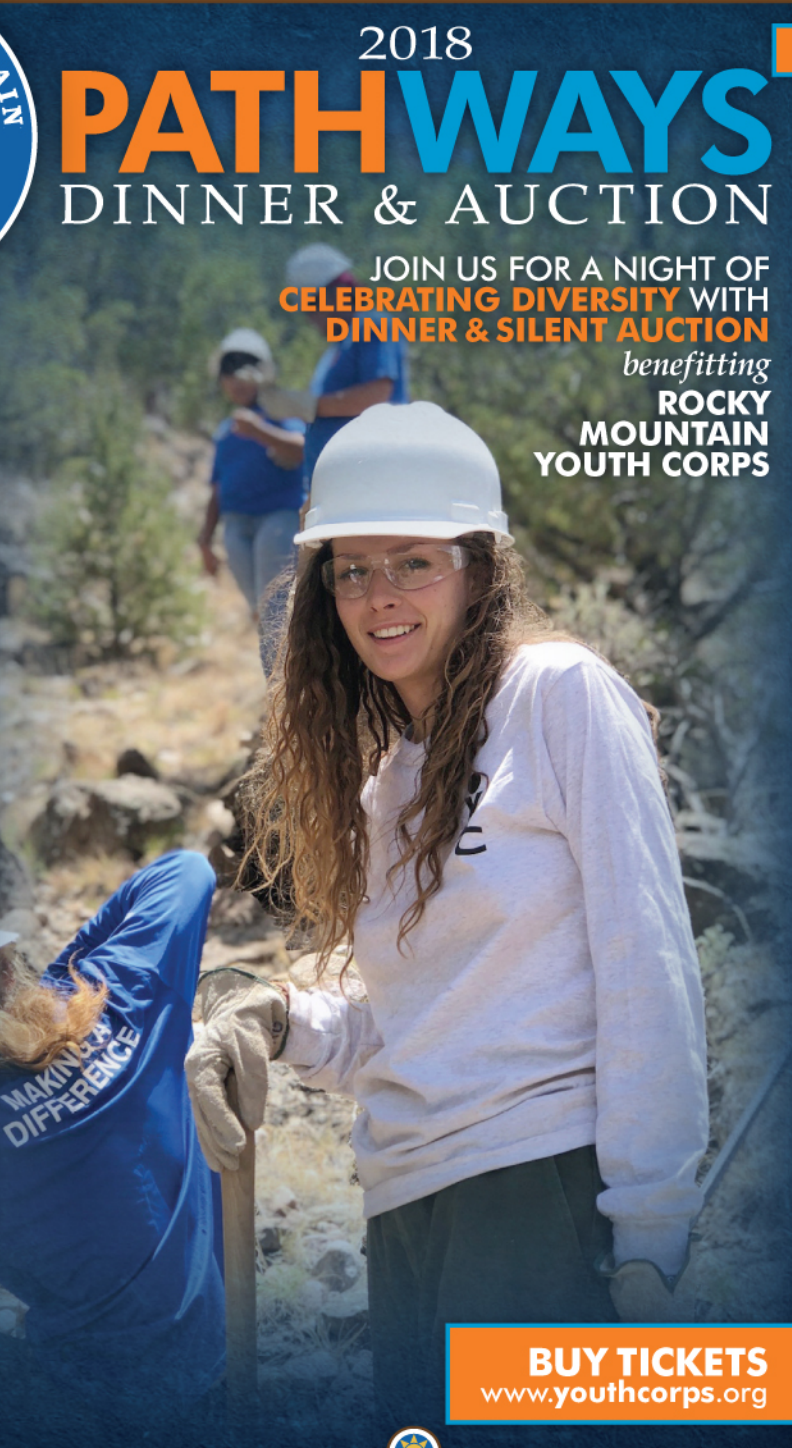
**6:30-7:30PM
DINNER**

**7:30-9+ PM
CELEBRATION
OF DIVERSITY &
SILENT AUCTION**

**TAOS MESA
BREWING
MOTHERSHIP**

20 ABC MESA ROAD
EL PRADO, NM

**TRADITIONAL TAOS
PUEBLO MEAL:** CHILI,
STEW, OVEN BREAD, PRUNE
PIES, MORE! (GLUTEN FREE
& VEGETARIAN OPTIONS)



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TAOS



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Performance Matters™



BUY TICKETS
www.youthcorps.org



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.

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



BENJAMIN THOMAS
Executive Director, RMYC

This Month, September, marks my 14th year with the Corps. I first started as a Corpsmember, then I became a Crew Supervisor and eventually a Program Manager. And now, as the Executive Director, I see how far we have come as an organization supporting our youth and our communities. We have come a long way in those 14 years and even farther since we were first established in 1995. We have grown our full-time staff to 16 employees with offices located in Taos and Albuquerque. We started with one crew in Questa, now RMYC provides paid community service opportunities to 180 Corpsmembers every year and operate over 22 crews in communities all over northern and central New Mexico. It has been challenging and healthy for RMYC to diversify beyond conservation and recreation. Today, other crews teach environmental education across central New Mexico as a part of our "Youth Ambassador" program. We manage a comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse prevention program in middle and high schools across Taos County. We also manage the Learning Lab in Taos, an alternative school for 6th to 9th grade students who need enhanced emotional and academic support before returning to their regular schools. We are excited to be supporting some new programs this coming year, the Canine-Assisted Leadership Crew is going to be working with youth who have learning disabilities to train service dogs who will support veterans, work in schools and in crisis prevention. In addition, we are supporting Not Forgotten Outreach to launch the VetCorps program, supporting Veterans re-engage in the community through farming and agriculture. We have worked in partnership with local, state, and federal governments, school districts, community organizations, and businesses to deliver our programs and services to the community. The common thread to all our programs is our dedication to community service. We inspire the next

GREETING RMYC SUPPORTERS

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generation of youth to find a pathway to personal and professional achievement.

In celebration of the diversity of our programs and the diversity of our Corpsmembers, we are excited to announce that this year we will Celebrate Diversity at our annual *Pathways Dinner & Silent Auction*. *Pathways* is an opportunity for our community to get together, enjoy a meal, and share our stories about why we love RMYC and the impacts we have on the lives of the young adults we serve. All are welcome to join us for dinner, music, and a silent auction. Tickets are available at our website, so go to www.youthcorps.org/support and get your tickets today.

Our youth need us now more than ever. Please join us for dinner and fun at *Pathways* on **Thursday, October 11th** at **Taos Mesa Brewing**. Thanks for the support.

With respect,
BEN THOMAS
Executive Director



NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE PROGRAM:



MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVATION CORPS

Rio Grande region to maintain and construct hiking trails, restore habitat for native plants and animals, and complete many other conservation and preservation projects.



One of the little known but very successful programs at Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is the American Sign Language (ASL) Inclusion Crews. These crews consist of young adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing, all communicating through ASL. The ASL Inclusion Crews work throughout the Middle Rio Grande region to maintain and construct hiking trails, restore habitat for native plants and animals, and complete many other conservation and preservation projects. This last Summer we hosted two ASL Crews, one working in Santa Fe with the New Mexico School for the Deaf, the Santa Fe Railyard Park, Pecos National Historical Park, and Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument while the other crew partnered with the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy and worked at Petroglyphs National Monument. RMYC started working with the Deaf and Hard of

Hearing community in 2015, using the Corps model to support young adults who have found challenges entering the workforce. One Corpsmember from our ASL Inclusion Crew, Jonathan Garcia, reminds us why we do what we do, saying: "RMYC has taught me how to be a leader, the skills to lead my peers through some tough times—rain, hail, wind. The experience improved my patience, and my ability to listen to other people."



"We camped for several days at Pecos [National Historical Park]. That was really good, it taught us the skills to be independent, like how to cook for each other, how to interact when times got tough. I really learned a lot of patience, and how to be a leader."

—Jonathan Garcia, ASL Inclusion Crew, Spring 2018



DEVELOPMENT NEWS:

I was talking to another development director a few weeks ago. We were sharing our mixed feelings about asking people for money for fundraisers. After all, it is our responsibility to ask for donations to support our organizations, but not everyone has the same relationship with money. It can get uncomfortable. Some are abundant while others are feeling serious scarcity, all of this taking place within the same community, neighborhood, and family. Development professionals do not have a perfect, one-size-fits-all formula or "pitch" to request donations. I viewed him as a mentor during our conversation, and he soon recommended that I read a book to help me understand my own relationship with money as a good place to start. I jotted down the title and author and got the book. Here is what I have learned so far.

"It could be said that a great fundraiser is a broker for the sacred energy of money,

helping people use the money that flows through their lives in the most useful way that is consistent with their aspirations and hopes for humanity."

— *The Soul of Money*, Lynne Twist

What are your hopes and aspirations for humanity? What do you want to leave behind? I am grateful for what the author is teaching me. I am grateful for what I have, for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and for our community of Corpsmembers who I find much inspiration.



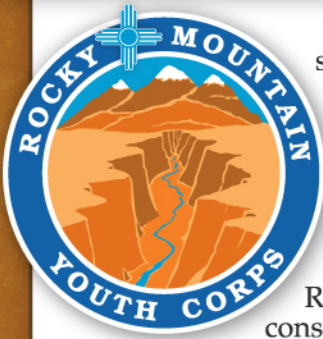
MATTHEW FOSTER
Developmental Director,
RMYC



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New Mexico 87557
575.751.1420
www.youthcorps.org



2018 PATHWAYS NEWS:



Another year has passed since we celebrated at our annual *Pathways Dinner & Silent Auction*. Last year we celebrated Women in Conservation. We heard presentations from several remarkable women who shared their experiences at RMYC and as professional conservationists. It was a fun and inspirational event to say the least. This year we are Celebrating Diversity as we recognize the incredible diversity of all our Corpsmembers, partners, projects, and supporters.

Join us this year. Your support will help hundreds of youth achieve their personal and professional goals. There will be a silent auction, so be prepared for some early holiday shopping or treat yourself to something special from one of our many supporters.

Thursday, October 11th
Taos Mesa Brewing Mothership
Doors Open 5:00pm
Silent Auction 5:00-6:30pm
Dinner 6:30-7:30pm
Celebration of Diversity & Silent Auction
7:30-9:00+pm

Get your tickets at www.youthcorps.org/support or send a check made to RMYC. Contact Matthew Foster, Development Director, if you need any information or if you can make a donation to the silent auction. His number is 575.751.1420 ex. 22 or contact him by email at matthew@youthcorps.org.



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

We are thrilled to welcome three new members of the community to our Board of Directors. *Cameron Martinez* of Taos Pueblo brings many years of experience to the Board. He is currently the Director of the Taos Pueblo Division of Natural Resources. *Dede Feldman* has been a pioneer for women in government. She has a long history of promoting campaign finance reform, improved health insurance in New Mexico, and election reform. *AnJanette Brush* is a former educator, non-profit arts administrator, and corporate communications director. Welcome to RMYC and thank you for your service.

BILL KNIGHT
Chair, Knight Financial

JON MUDDER
Treasurer, Edelweiss Resort

JULIE GRAY
Director, Taos School District

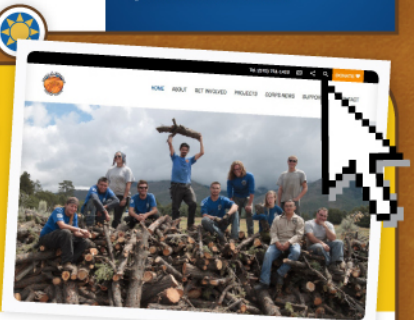
DOUG THIESEN
Director, Retired Attorney

CAMERON MARTINEZ
Taos Pueblo Division of Natural Resources

DEDE FELDMAN
Author & Advocate

ANJANTETTE BRUSH
Vice-Chair, Communications

SAME ADDRESS
www.youthcorps.org
NEW LOOK TO
RMYC WEB PAGE



You will be impressed with the new design and fresh content on our web page. The new mobile-friendly format makes it easier and more fun to learn about our latest projects, events, staff, and crew opportunities.

