

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





Susana Martinez,  
Governor

## New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission



**Wanda Bowman**  
Chair

**Beth Wojahn**  
Vice Chair

**Wendy Kent**  
Executive Director

**Public Members:**

**Wanda Bowman**  
**Ana Mangino**  
**Andrew Frederick**  
**Sharon Hickey**  
**Cindy Lovato-Farmer**

**Agency:**

**Aubrey Dunn**  
Commissioner, SLO  
  
**Christopher N. Ruskowski**  
Acting Cabinet Secretary, PED

**Monique Jacobsen**  
Cabinet Secretary, CYFD

**Ken McQueen,**  
Cabinet Secretary, EMNRD

November 26, 2018

Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor  
Members of the New Mexico House and Senate:

As the Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Commission, it is with great honor that I share our 2018 Annual Report. YCC continues to achieve its legislative mandate by instilling New Mexico's youth with an appreciation for hard work and accomplishment while emphasizing education and training through employment opportunities that conserve and enhance our natural resources and communities. Through these opportunities, YCC provides youth from diverse backgrounds life-enhancing experiences. As a business owner, I have confidence that these young people are learning the skills and work habits that will assist them in being successful in their personal and professional lives. I invite you to read some of the Corps members' "testimonials" in this Annual Report, as these youth reflect on their YCC experiences.

Through the stewardship of YCC funds, the support of the Governor and Legislature, and the hard work of the YCC staff, the Commission is proud to report in 2018 we successfully funded 35 projects in 17 counties totaling \$3.2 million. The Commission most recently awarded 45 projects totaling 3.4 million for 2019.

On behalf of the YCC Commission, I pledge our continued commitment to the Youth Conservation Corps and thank you for your support and assistance. YCC is a life-enhancing experience for our youth, and an important asset that provides lasting benefits to our communities and instills pride in New Mexico's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Wanda Bowman, Chair  
Youth Conservation Corps Commission

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## **Youth Conservation Corps Commission**

The Commission is comprised of 9 members; 5 members are selected from the general public by the Governor and four members are from a State Agency.

<b>Public Members</b>	<b>Agency and Representatives</b>
Wanda Bowman, Chair	Aubrey Dunn, Commissioner New Mexico State Land Office Designee: Dana Vackar-Strang
Ana Mangino	Monique Jacobson, Cabinet Secretary Children, Youth and Families Dept. Designee: vacant
Cindy Lovato-Farmer (Native American Representative)	Christopher Ruszkowski, Acting Cabinet Secretary Public Education Department Designee: Martin Z. Chavez
Sharon Hickey	Ken McQueen, Cabinet Secretary Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Designee: Beth Wojhan, Vice Chair
Andrew Frederick (Knowledgeable in the policies of the US Forest Service)	



## **Executive Summary**

The objective of YCC is to provide a process to employ young persons in public projects that conserve New Mexico's natural resources, provide community benefits of lasting value, improve natural and urban environments, enhance work skills and enhance the educational opportunities, abilities and attitudes of youth.. New Mexico will benefit by having its natural and urban environments improved and enhanced while at the same time instilling in our youth an appreciation of natural resources, the benefits of cooperation, hard work and a sense of accomplishment with an emphasis on a sound work ethic that will supplement their other educational opportunities.

YCC has an exemplary record in managing taxpayer dollars in the most efficient and effective processes. The staff of two manages approximately \$3.6 million a year which comes from the Governmental Gross Receipts Tax Revenue. Overhead costs for the Agency is less than 10%. The Commission and Staff are committed to ensure these revenues are expended to support employment of youth in public projects that benefit the people, communities and natural resources of New Mexico.

YCC's ability to develop personal and professional skills in young people is impressive. Since 1992 over 16,100 jobs have been provided to New Mexico youth in 962 projects that are located across the state.

Not only does YCC provide a positive work experience, Corps members also receive the opportunity to improve their educational level. Some of our Corps members have earned high school or college credit hours and in certain cases, concurrent credit hours. In 2018 (CY), 138 Corps members earned a total of 177 credit hours. Since tracking began in 2005, 2419 Corps members have earned over 4164.5 credit hour by participating in YCC.

Another benefit in participating in a YCC project is the ability to earn a cash bonus or tuition voucher if the Corps member meets the criteria that is outlined in the YCC Act. In 2018, \$11,815.00 was distributed to 12 YCC members.

The information presented in this document will demonstrate the importance of the Youth Conservation Corps to the health of our natural resources, communities and economy; and to the citizens of New Mexico and the future of our State.

## **Mission, Goals and Values**

### **Mission**

Promote the education, success and well-being of the youth in our communities and provide community benefits of lasting value through the conservation and enhancement of New Mexico's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

### **Goals**

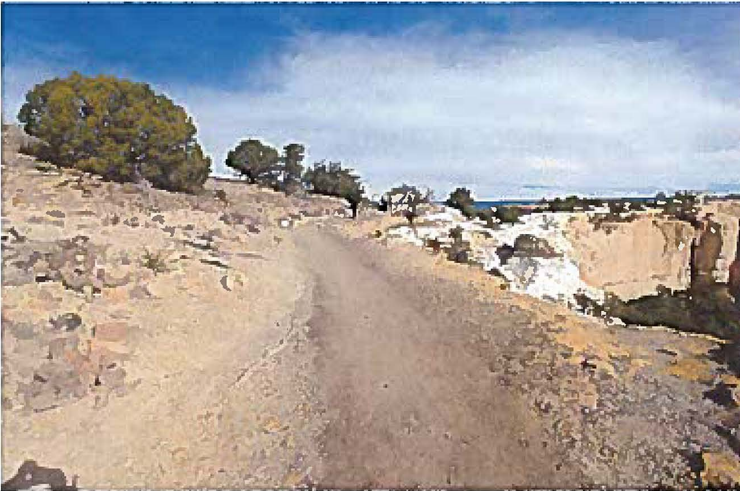
Together we strive for . . .

- healthy natural resources and lasting community benefits
- instilling values of hard work and accomplishments
- promotion of education and training

### **Values**

We strive to be . . .

- responsible stewards of the state's resources
- positive role models for New Mexico's youth

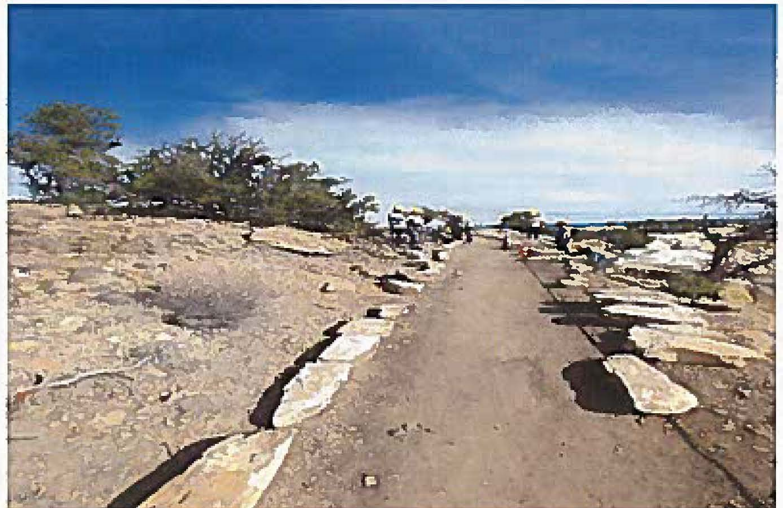


The previous trail surface was removed down to bare soil.

Sandstone edging to delineate the trail.

Conservation Legacy/  
Southwest Conservation Corps  
Cibola County

Trail improvements at El Morro National  
Park





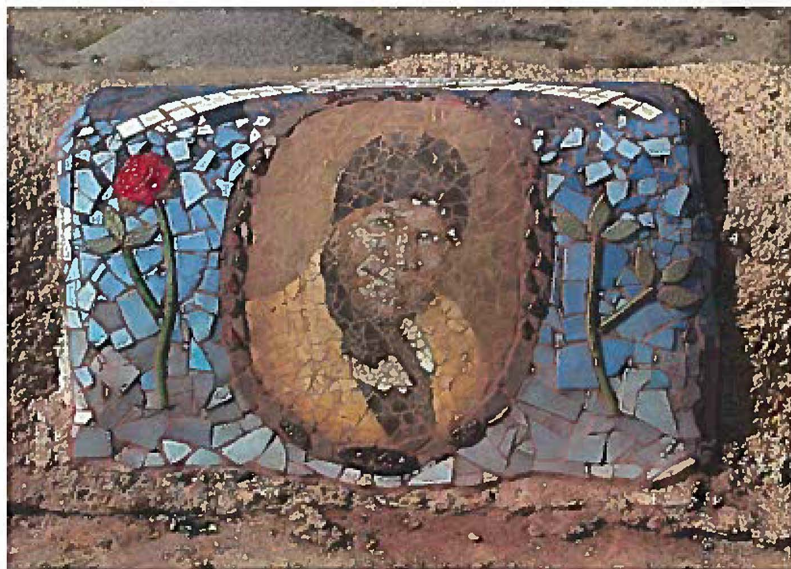
## **General Program Objectives**

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Commission was established in 1992 through the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Act [9-5B-1 to 9-5B-11 NMSA 1978]. The Act establishes a 9-member commission (see page 6) to administer the Act, develop and approve corps work projects, activities and contracts with project sponsors; establish standards, procedures and policies for selecting, hiring, providing compensation for and other personnel matters involving corps members and other personnel; and foster partnerships and cooperation between the corps and New Mexico's secondary and post-secondary schools to assist corps members in obtaining education and job training.

The Act provides guidelines to the Commission in the selection of YCC projects. When considering projects for approval, the Commission will consider the following:

- a comprehensive work plan and complete project cost estimate;
- the number of corps members required and an estimated time necessary to complete the project;
- the opportunities the project provides in the development of skills, discipline and good work habits;
- the degree of difficulty in carrying out the project;
- the project's compliance with conservation and community service objectives, as set forth in Section 4 of the Act (see below);
- the sponsor's ability to contribute the necessary financial and human resources to the project; and
- the project's compatibility with concurrent corps projects, including the availability of the required corps work force.

No project will be approved if its implementation would result in the reduction of hours or benefits of the project sponsor's current employees. A YCC project is a specific identifiable service or product that otherwise would not be accomplished with existing funds of the sponsor. In addition, the project should not duplicate the routine services or functions of the sponsor.



*The Aldo Leopold Charter School designed and installed multiple "cameo" mosaics of historical residents of Grant County at the Memory Lane Cemetery. The picture to the left is the mosaic of Rebecca Brewer (1868 to 1969), an African American woman known for her kindness and generosity. Other well known individuals memorialized with the cameo mosaics are; William Murry, John Bullard, mountain man Ben Lilly, and Katherine Atrium (William Bonnie's mother).*

## **Eligible Project Sponsors**

The YCC Act allows the Commission to fund Projects sponsored by local units of government, state agencies, federal agencies, non-profit organizations (those exempt from federal income tax as described in 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code), and federally-recognized Native American tribes.

## **Types of Projects Allowed Under the YCC Act**

The YCC Act also outlines what types of Project the Commission may fund:

- preserve, maintain, and enhance natural resources by protecting air, fish, forest land, water, and wildlife;
- rehabilitate and improve cultural, historic sites, libraries, museums, parks, parkways, refuges, trails, zoos, and other recreational and natural areas;
- benefit recreational areas and parks by improving their use and access;
- assist with emergency operations, including fires, floods, and rescue of lost or injured persons;
- beautify, improve, and restore urban areas;
- renovate community facilities, including those for the elderly or indigent;
- reinforce the “Keep New Mexico Beautiful” campaign; or
- provide disaster relief, increase energy conservation and recycling, improve fire prevention, beautify New Mexico highways, upgrade public lands and facilities, revitalize urban areas, or further goals of community renewal or protection and enhancement of natural resources.

## **Program Popularity**

Every year more applications are received than the Commission can fund. The public recognizes the importance of YCC, especially in rural communities where YCC is often the only youth employer in the area

Shanell Becenti working for Capacity Builders, San Juan Chapter Project responded to the following questions:

Will you be entering into regular employment? If yes, what type of job will you have?

Yes

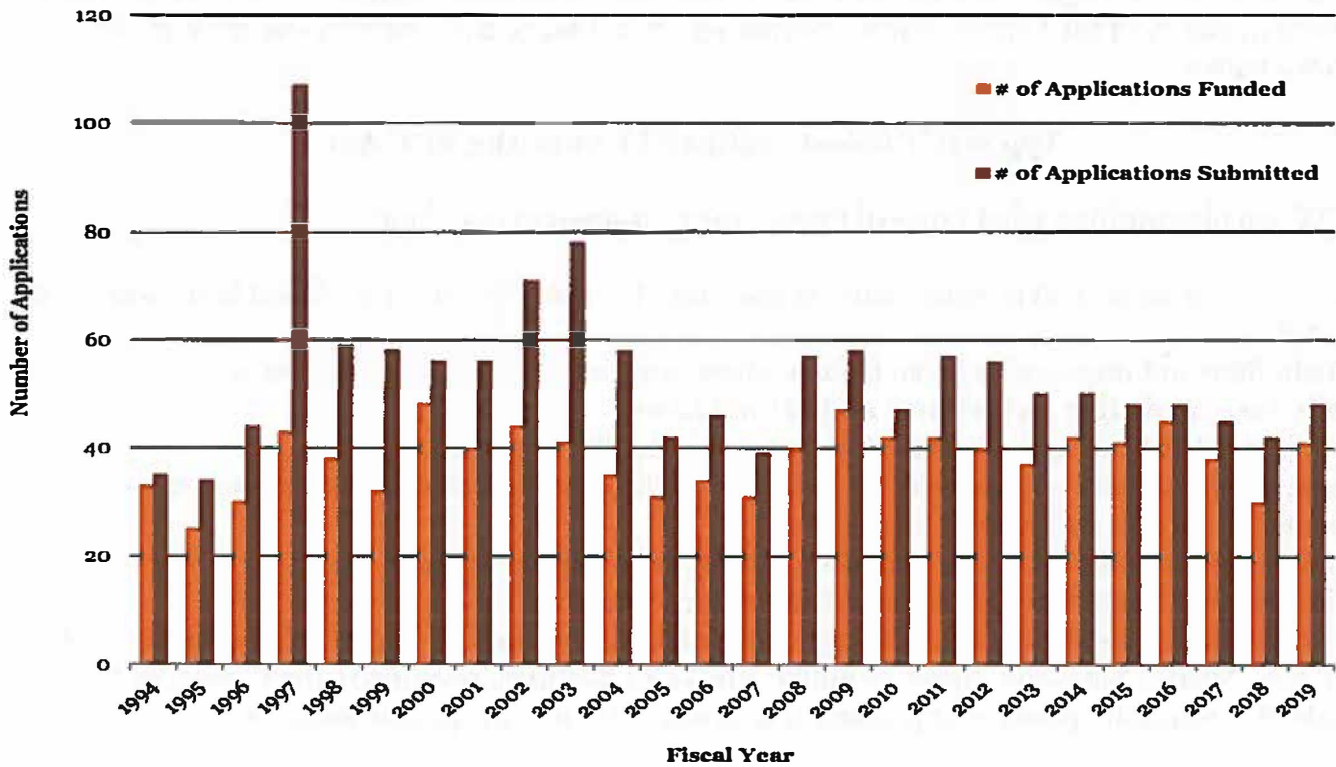
- *Home Health Care Provider.*

Do you believe your experience in the YCC project helped you in obtaining the job? Please explain:

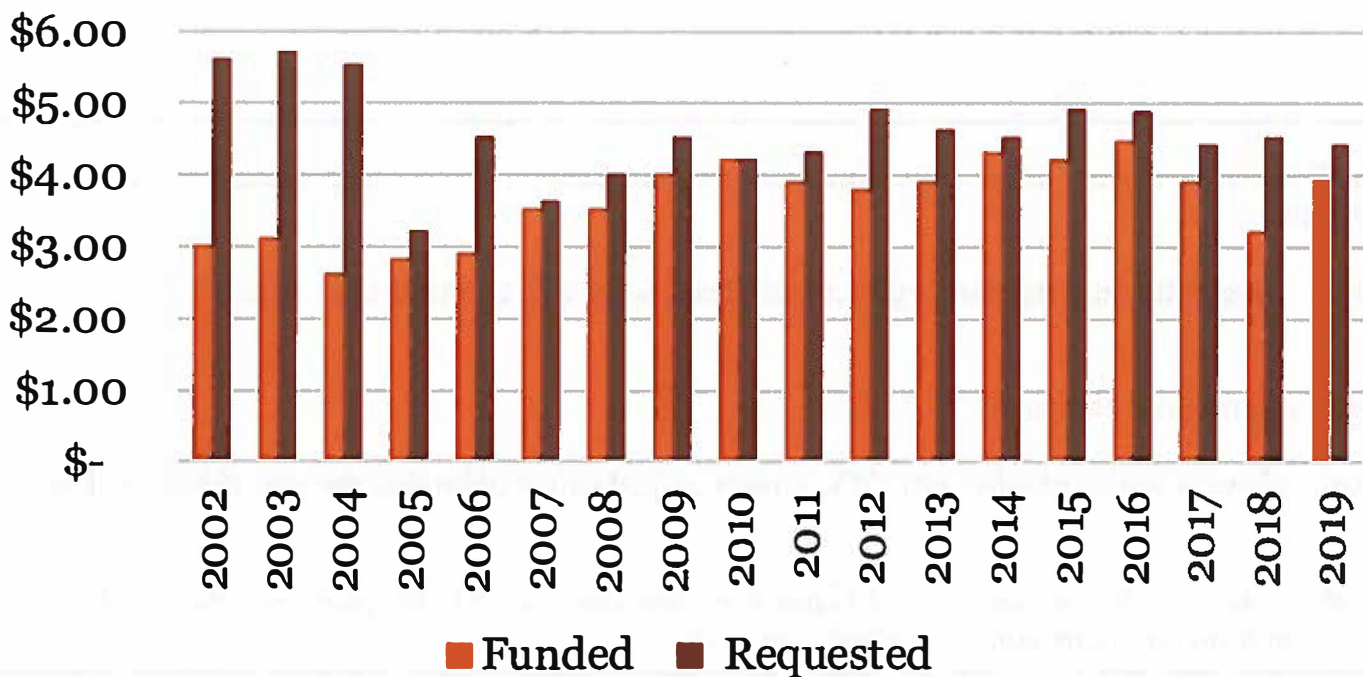
Yes

- *To show skills on my resume of what I have done and worked on in the past, to show that I'm comfortable getting out of my comfort zone in working.*

Number of Applications; Funded vs Submitted



Applications: Dollar Amounts- Funded vs. Requested





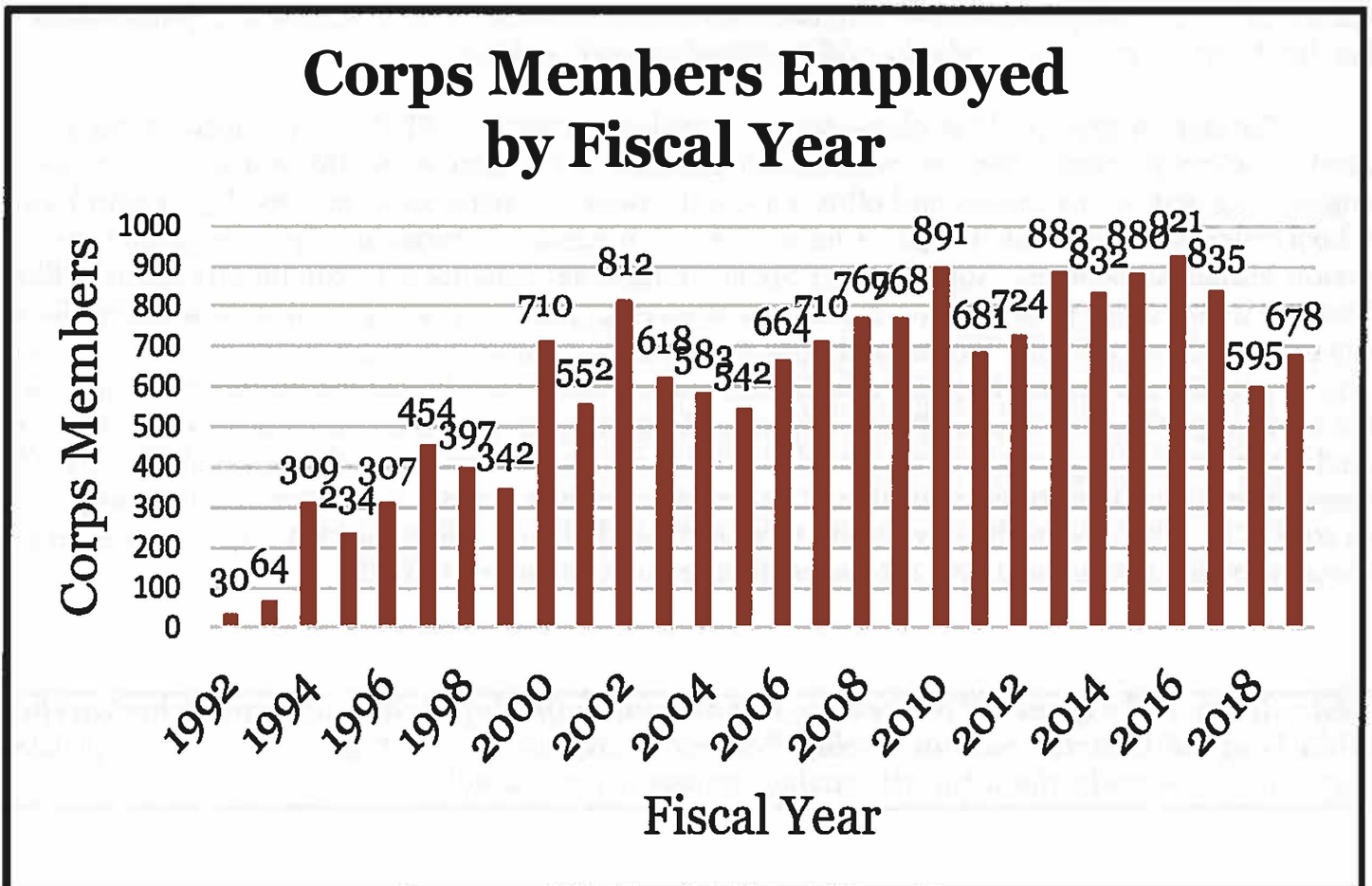
## **Youth Conservation Corps and its impact on New Mexico Youth**

In the past 24 years since the program began in 1992, 16,785 job opportunities have been provided to New Mexico youth. To be part of the Corps, participants must be:

- between the ages of 14 to 25;
- a New Mexico resident (someone who has been in New Mexico for at least six months before she/he is hired;
- unemployed at the time of hire; and
- may be in school or out of school.

The number of youth employed each year fluctuates. The fluctuation is caused by agency funding and whether the projects are seasonal or summer. A seasonal project may take place at any time of the year but may not be more than six months in length. A summer project must take place in June, July and August. Usually, there are more job positions available in summer projects but each person works three months or less; seasonal projects have fewer positions available but the Corps member is employed for a longer period of time. The Commission is committed to employing as many youth as possible but when determining what projects to fund, must also take into consideration the type of project being proposed and the educational experiences offered during the project.

Please refer to the chart to view the number of youth employed since 1992.



## **The Importance of Education**

Applicants must provide educational opportunities that enhance Corps members' educational abilities and attitudes, including but not limited to basic education, literacy, and high school or equivalence diplomas as aligned to the New Mexico Benchmarks. Applications must describe whether Applicant will:

- provide training and reference materials to Corps members;
- coordinate with educational institutions for the awarding of academic credit of competencies developed of Corps members;
- encourage Corps members to improve educational competencies during non-working hours through basic skills enhancement, high school equivalency preparation, participation in skill training programs, or enrolling in accredited institutions of higher education;
- seek collaboration from schools, colleges, and all other agencies and institutions of higher learning in New Mexico for Corps members; and
- encourage, when applicable and appropriate, the integration of the New Mexico Public Education Department content standards for Corps members.

Once funded the Applicants (Project Sponsors) will implement the training plan as outline in the application which is incorporated as part of the contract. It is hard to categorize educational experiences but in relation to YCC, the Commission has chosen three general classifications. One category is life skills. Some of the topics covered in this category are; healthy life-styles, conflict resolution, sexual harassment awareness, drug use prevention, parenting classes, and financial readiness. Another general category is on-the-job training. Topics included in this category are; teamwork, work ethics and safety, job preparedness, tool use, trail construction, building construction, public speaking, landscaping, public art and other skills related to work projects.

The last category could be characterized "certified training"; CPR/First Aid certification, CDL license, for-credit classes such as construction, environmental science, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classes and other for-credit classes. Partnerships are developed with local school districts such as Aldo Leopold Charter School, Academy of Trades and Technology and Farmington Municipal Schools. Some Project Sponsors have agreements with community colleges like Mesalands, San Juan, Central New Mexico and Santa Fe Community College. All of these institutions use the New Mexico Public Education Department's Benchmarks and Standards. Depending on the type of project, the Project Sponsor ties the curriculum being offer by the institution to the work in the field. As per the New Mexico Public Education Department, if a College provides credit hours for students attending high school, the school district provides concurrent credit hours. Without YCC, these educational opportunities would not be available for many of our New Mexico young people. In 2018 (CY), 138 Corps members earned a total of 177 credit hours. Since tracking began in 2005, 2419 Corps members have earned over 4164.5 credit hour by participating in YCC.

***Bella Bjornstad expressed her feelings about participating as a crew leader during the Aldo Leopold Charter School Spring Project; Being outside and helping other young people learn how to be productive while also having fun was so rewarding!***



## **East Rio Arriba SWCD & YCC**

2017

This YCC project has engaged local youth to be involved in conservation by applying technology to the importance of natural resources in our communities. Acequias are vital to the sustainability of producers in our area, and by involving youth to engage in their conservation, we can make improvements to infrastructure and areas that are in need. The youth involved in this project used GPS devices to map out Acequias within our conservation district. They gain basic GPS skills along with knowledge of conservation, and natural resources that play a significant role in our community. The youth document areas of concern and any structures related to the acequia, as well as taking photographs along the way to document the process. After the survey and data collection took place, the youth created maps and reports for each Acequia that they worked on. The shape files that result from these surveys are entered into a database, which the East Rio Arriba SWCD uses to collaborate with Acequia groups for future conservation planning.

The youth involved with this YCC group completed 31 acequias within the East Rio Arriba District in the past 3 years, and 14 acequias in 2017 alone. According to the New Mexico Acequia Association, there are approximately 162 acequias within the East Rio Arriba District. The final goal for the East Rio Arriba SWCD as well as the YCC program is to have one master shapefile of all of the acequias in the East Rio Arriba SWCD, so that they can better help acequia groups who request their assistance.

Other than engaging the local youth through the YCC program, East Rio Arriba SWCD has also broadened their horizons by collaborating with AmeriCorps VISTA and Northern New Mexico College. The vision of East Rio Arriba SWCD is to hire college students with an interest in Environmental Science as YCC students while helping them gain college credits for their work. After the student has completed the YCC program the student would go on to be a VISTA Volunteer at East Rio Arriba SCWD, where they will continue to gain experience in the field of Environmental Science.

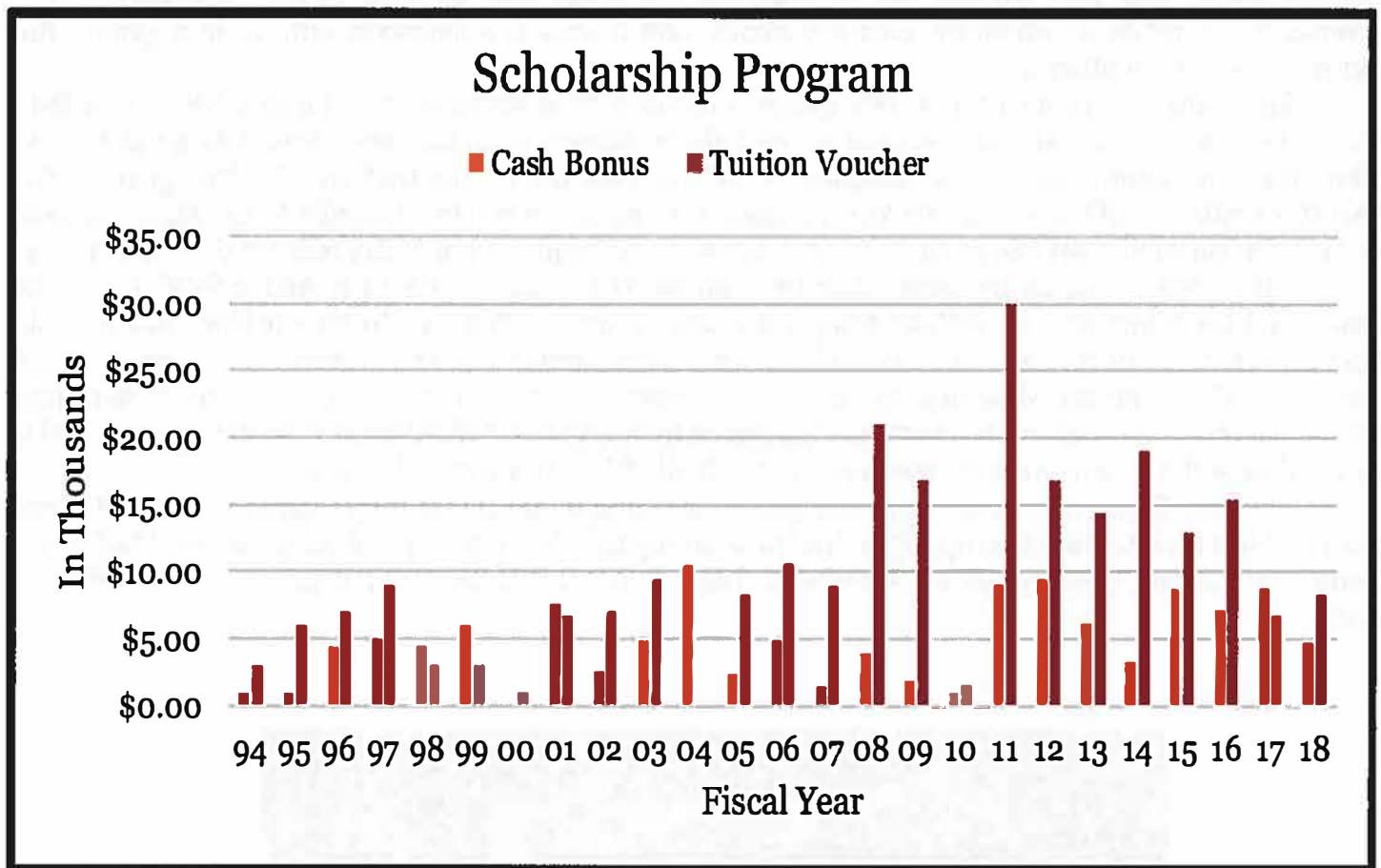
The East Rio Arriba SWCD has been gladly investing in the community's youth for several years now, and has no intention to stop. By giving these young people a foot in the door to the world of Environmental Science, they are gaining knowledge and experience that they will utilize for the rest of their lives.



Article and photo credited to Marcos Valdez, District Conservationist

## Additional Benefits Besides Employment

An added benefit for serving in YCC is the ability to earn a cash bonus or a tuition voucher. A Corps member who has twelve full months of employment in YCC during a forty-eight month period and who has received satisfactory evaluations throughout his/her employment, is entitled to receive a \$500 cash bonus or a \$1,500 educational tuition voucher. The tuition voucher must be used at a New Mexico institution of higher education and is valid for two years. A Corps member who has not served the full 12 months through no fault of his/her own, may be eligible to earn a partial cash bonus or partial tuition voucher. In fiscal year 18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) 17 Corps members received a cash bonus and 6 Corps members received a tuition voucher. In the 25 years that the scholarship program has been in place, \$366,625.43 has been distributed to 430 young New Mexicans.



***Trent Ketring from the City of Aztec Project responded when asked this question; Do you feel that your YCC experience will assist you in pursuing your goals for the future?***

***Yes***

***- I think it does because the YCC shows young adults how to properly respond to there boss in the work place. It shows the young adult respect and how much hard work can do.***



## **PROJECTS IN 2018**

Photos taken by Wendy Kent unless otherwise indicated.



**Alamo Navajo School Board  
Socorro County**

Corps members constructed a Hogan, a shade structure with BBQ pit and placed a fence around the complex to control traffic.

**Aldo Leopold Charter School-Spring Project  
Grant County**

Corps members built trails, conducted ecological monitoring, created public art, planted and tended an organic garden to supplement their school lunch program, and provided conservation education to school children in the area.



The tile mosaic crew works at the Big Ditch Park, planting shrubs in front of the mosaic completed this year.



Corps members install a gate for the Forest Service

**Aldo Leopold Charter School-Fall Project  
Grant County**

Corps Members built trails, conducted ecological monitoring, created public art, planted and tended an organic garden to supplement their school lunch program, and provided conservation education to school children in the area.

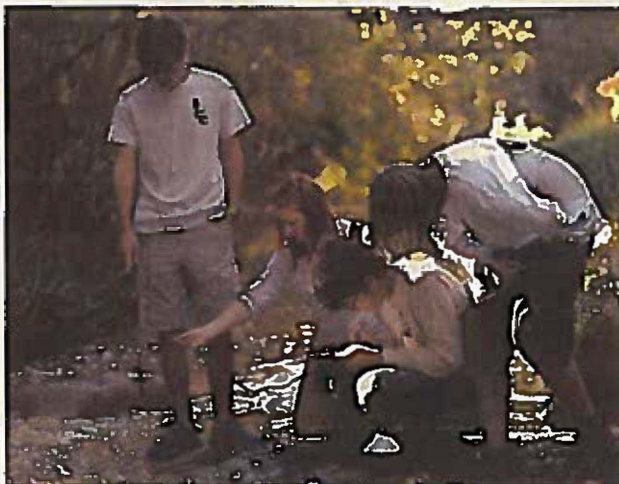


Western NM University Campus



## Water Quality Monitoring of San Vicente Creek

Surface water quality monitoring in Silver City is performed by the New Mexico Environment Department to fulfill regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act and the New Mexico Water Quality Act. However, due to staff and budget constraints, designated sites typically are monitored once every seven to ten years. The Silver City Watershed Keepers monitor San Vicente Creek quarterly and provide data to the New Mexico Environment Department and state agencies that assist with surface water quality management efforts, as well as to the public. All data is collected with our Quality Assurance Officer present. The Aldo Leopold Charter School (ALCS) Youth Conservation Corps Crew and the ALCS Ecological Monitors provide much of the hands-on data collection with SCWK. Within the last two years, SCWK have trained and certified 12 high school students in water quality monitoring as well as hosted WNMU hydrology students and their professor during the 2018 first quarter monitoring period.



ALCS Ecological Monitors collecting water quality data. Photo Credit: Madeline Alfero

The SCWK invite community members to join its water stewardship efforts by getting trained in data collection and volunteering for quarterly monitoring, outreach and education, restoration and cleanup events.

*This article is reprinted from the State of the Silver City Watershed-2018 Summer Report. Article and Photo Credit: Madeline Alfero.*

### Capacity Builders, Inc., San Juan County Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House

The Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House property was improved by locally hired Corps members. The crew planted trees, built a walking trail and benches, and designed and installed the Chapter House sign.

### Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House Sign



### Capacity Builders, Inc., San Juan County Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House

The Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House property was improved by locally hired Corps members. The crew planted trees, built a walking trail and benches, and designed and installed the Chapter House sign.





Exercise trail along the river close to the Nenahnezah Chapter House



Capacity Builders, Inc.-  
Nenahnezah Chapter Project  
San Juan County

The crew made improvements to the Veteran's Park by; making a walking trail, improving a volleyball court, basketball court and installing a xeric landscape with drip irrigation.

The article below is a reprint from the August 31, 2018 issue of The Farmington Daily Times, part of the USA Today Network. The author is Noel Lyn Smith and the picture is taken by Jon Austria.

## Corps members bring trail to Nenahnezad

### Project providing safe walking path along Navajo Route 365

Noel Lyn Smith  
Farmington Daily Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

**NENAHNEZAD** — Michael Duncan was using a hand tool Thursday to level sand placed on top of river rock as part of his work to develop a walking trail near the Nenahnezad Chapter house.

"There are a few patches where the rocks are, so I'm filling in those areas," he said.

Duncan is among 18 young adults who are members of the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps under Capacity Builders Inc., which collaborated with the Nenahnezad Chapter to construct a trail in the community.

Capacity Builders, a Farmington-based nonprofit organization, administers finances for the project and coordinates classes for corps members.

The purpose of the trail is to provide a safe route for walking along Navajo



Members of the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps construct a trail along Navajo Route 365.

JOH AUSTRIA/THE DAILY TIMES

Route 365, a paved road that travels to the chapter house. It is also part of the chapter's effort to promote exercise in the community.

Duncan, 20, joined the program alongside his girlfriend, Jaime Smith, who was working nearby.

"I think it's a good idea because it's kind of scary how people drive on the road," Smith said about the project.

"Instead of walking on the road, people can walk on the trail," she said.

The Farmington couple view the effort as a contribution to the community and as a way to gain experience for fu-

ture goals — for Duncan, that means working toward a GED diploma while Smith, 19, wants to add the skills to her résumé.

"I think it's a good project. It'll also make the chapter house look a lot better. It'll be good for the community," Duncan said.

Josh Southerland is one of three group leaders for the project, which the corps members began last week and expect to finish by October.

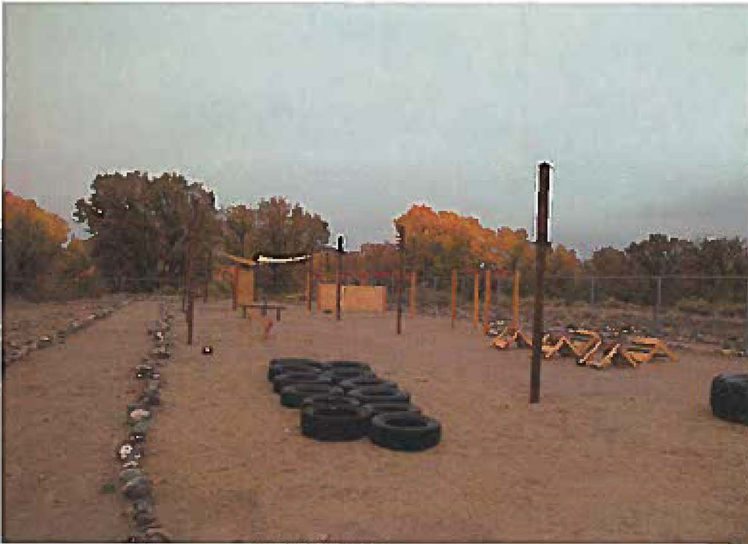
Southerland said the group is using sand and river rock from the location, as well as removing some vegetation and debris.

Pink survey flags marked where the trail would run, and rakes, tampers, wheelbarrows and shovels were scattered throughout the work area.

Xavier David, a corps member from Farmington, said the group worked with the community services coordinator for the chapter to design the trail and determine what material was needed for the project.

Noel Lyn Smith covers the Navajo Nation for The Daily Times. She can be reached at 505-564-4636 or by email at [nsmith@daily-times.com](mailto:nsmith@daily-times.com).





**Obstacle Course at San Juan Chapter House**

**Capacity Builders, Inc-San Juan Chapter  
San Juan County**

Corps members designed and built an obstacle course with guidance from the "Navajo Ninja", Brandon Todacheenie from Shiprock. Mr. Todacheenie competed in the television show "American Ninja". For those not as adventure-some a walking trail was constructed. For the preschoolers, an outdoor garden was built.



**Walking Trail at the Chapter House**



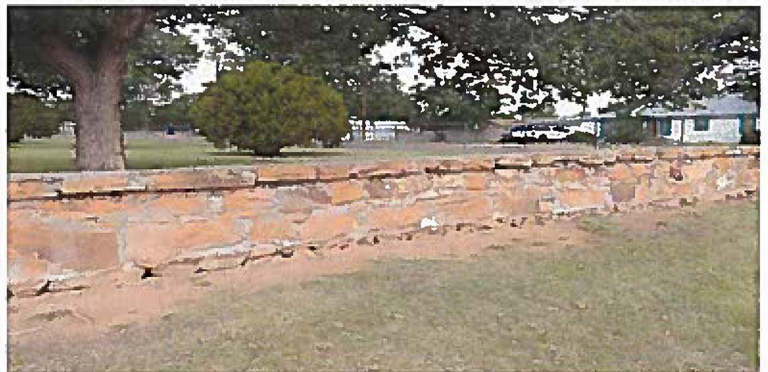
**City of Aztec-Rose Garden Construction**  
Picture by Ed Kotyk

**City of Aztec  
San Juan County**

Corps members completed a great deal of need projects at Minimum Park water splash pad. Work tasks included installation of shade structures, installing benches and playground improvements. Close to Minimum Park is the newly renovated Rose Garden. At the Rose Garden, the crew installed xeric plants and drip irrigation and poured a concrete pad to comply with ADA requirements.

**City of Tucumcari  
Quay County**

City property received needed improvements. At Dunn Park, City Hall and the Cemetery, the existing rock walls were grouted for strength and aesthetics. At Damon Kvoles Park, the basketball court was striped, new backboards and goals were installed and the fence around the court was painted. The Arthur Jimenez Park saw improvements with installation of a new play structure and the Del Norte Community Center had three trees planted in the front and drip irrigation installed.



**City of Tucumcari  
Dunn Park, Rock Wall Stabilization**



**Conservation Legacy/SW Conservation  
Corps  
San Juan County**

YCC crews from the Pueblos of Acoma and Zuni worked to remove damaged hardscape walking surfaces at the El Morro National Park. The crews then installed environmentally friendly crusher fines and finished the trail with hand worked sandstone edging.



The crew works on improvements to the trail on the top of El Morro (El Morro National Park)

**EcoServants  
Lincoln County**

The crew in Lincoln county continued to build and improve existing trails, removed noxious weeds for the County, replaced/installed fencing and placed erosion control structures to protect sensitive areas.



EcoServants-Lincoln County  
Corps members complete a trail near Ruidoso in the Lincoln National Forest

**East Rio Arriba Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
Rio Arriba County**

Corps members continue to collect data on acequias in Rio Arriba County. The information is used to create maps for the District's watershed report. In maps and information is shared with the Acequia Boards so that they know where improvements and repairs need to be made on the acequias under their control. (picture not available)



The EcoServants Otero crew is making sandbags in case of flooding in the Ruidoso area. Picture by Stephen Carter

**EcoServants  
Otero County**

Work tasks were similar as the Lincoln County Project.





**The Family YMCA  
Los Alamos County**

The Corps members continue to build/repair trails throughout Los Alamos County Open Space.

**Farmington Municipal Schools  
San Juan County**

Three separate crews worked for three different partners. At the San Juan College campus the crew there removed sod or high water using plants and replaced them with xeric plants and installed drip irrigation. The crew working at the City of Farmington Animas River Park completed an extensive thinning project which will help reduce the threat of fire incidents in the Park. The Bureau of Land Management crew performed noxious weed removal on many acres, improved wildlife habitats and installed erosion control structures.



**Farmington Municipal Schools thinning project at Animas River Park**

**Forest Stewards Guild-Summer Project  
Cibola, McKinley, Mora, R.A., S.M., Sandoval, S.F., Taos, Torrance Counties**

A crew worked at 6 different Forest Service Ranger Districts in New Mexico. Work tasks included but were not limited to; fence repair, wildlife habitat improvements, range improvements, mark trees in preparation for thinning projects, construct file line in preparation for controlled burns, build trails, and repair/install fencing.

Photo by Emse Cadiente





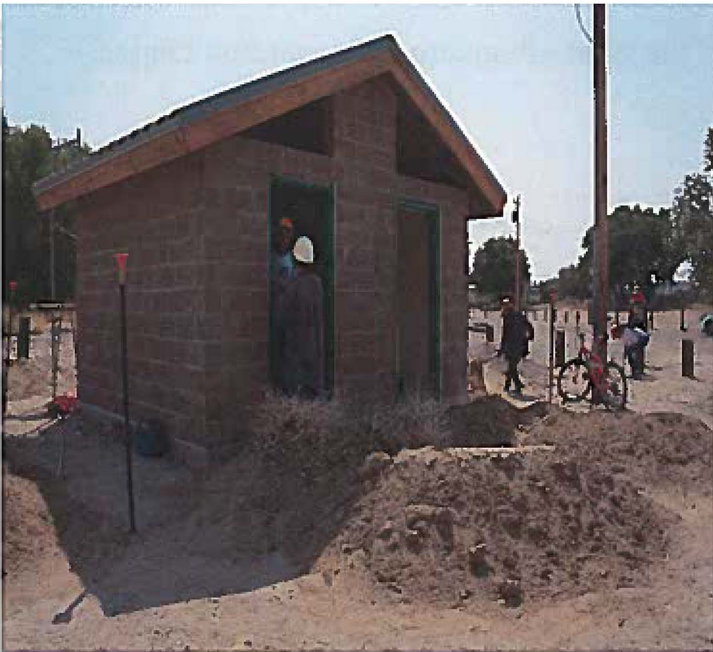


**Forest Stewards Guild- Fall Project**  
Torrance, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Sandoval, McKinley Counties

This project involved the crew in wildland fire fighting training, prescribed fire events and projects similar to the Summer Program.

**Future Foundations Family Center**  
Cibola County

Corps members built trails on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, designed and installed a mural for the County Community Center, build horseshoe pits, do landscaping, and implement summer camps for young children's.



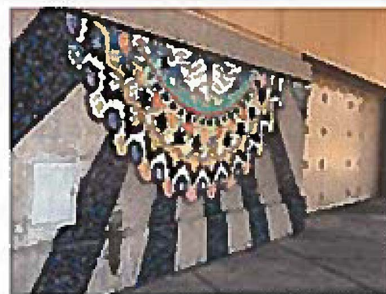
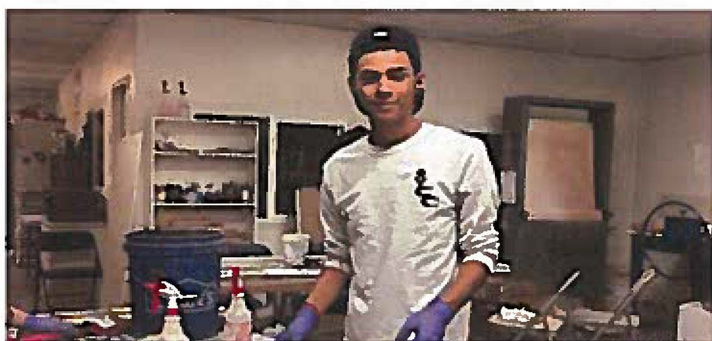
**The Issachar Calling-Shiprock Nizhoni Park**  
San Juan County

During phase II of the Nizhoni Park beautification, the crew constructed a bathroom facility, installed fencing, traffic control barriers, picnic tables and playground equipment.





*Youth Conservation Corps Commission 2018 Annual Report*



New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund  
Bernalillo County

The crew crafted a tile mosaic on the external walls of the West Albuquerque Convention Center.



New Mexico Wildlife Association  
Santa Fe County

Corps members built exhibits and shade shelters, poured sidewalks and acted as docents for school children at Wildlife West.







Exercise Trail on School Campus

**Pecos Independent School District  
San Miguel County**

The crew made major improvements to a community walking trail on school property by leveling tread, installing erosion control structures and benches plus building exercise stations along the trail.

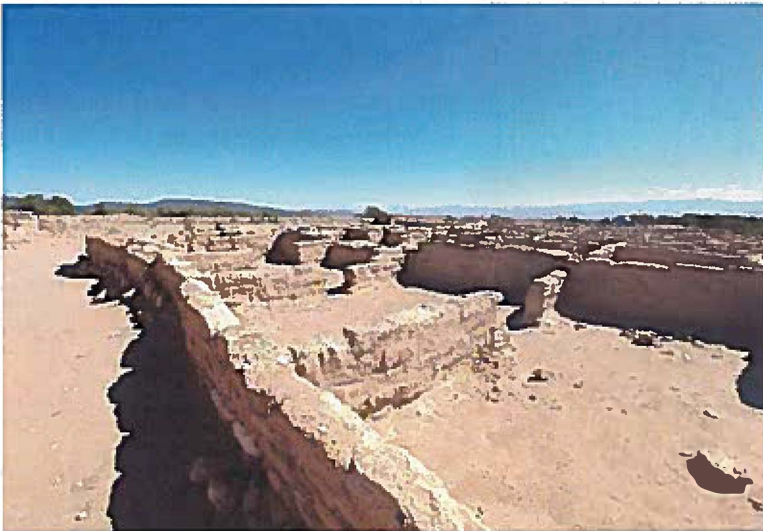
**Pueblo of Santa Clara-Seasonal  
Rio Arriba County**

Corps members used GPS/GIS to document archaeological sites, traditional trails, water resources, future project areas and agricultural fields to collect data points for the purpose of creating maps to document resources on the Pueblo.



**Pueblo of Santa Clara-Mesa Top  
Rio Arriba County**

The Corps members continue working on the Puye Mesa Top village and surrounding trails. Using traditional historic building masonry techniques and materials, the crews rebuild, restore, reshape and stabilize the prehistoric structures.



**Puye Mesa Top  
Ancient Puebloan Site**

**Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Mid-Rio  
Grande)  
Bernalillo County**

Corps members collected data for a tree inventory in several parks for the City of Albuquerque, remove noxious weeds and improved the Arroyo Loop Trail at the John A. Milne/Gutierrez Canyon Open Space. trails. . (picture not available)



**Rio Arriba County-Precious Age/Precious Water Project  
Rio Arriba County**

The crew built a patio and shade structure, an ADA compliant walking path, installed benches, did landscaping at the El Rio Senior Center.

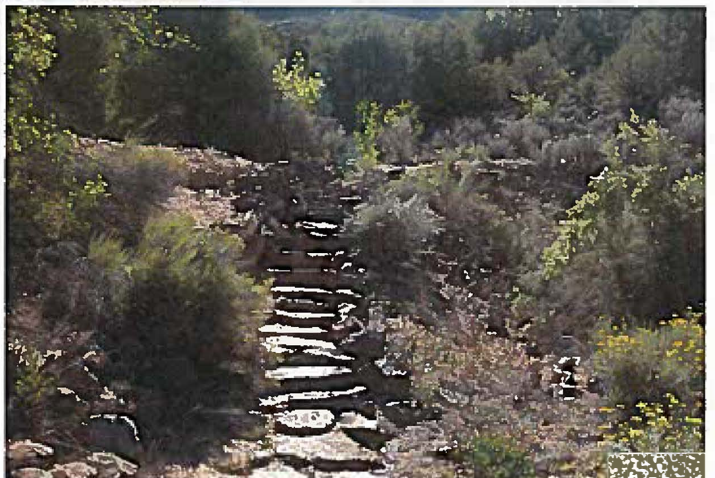


**Rio Arriba County-Therapeutic Healing Memorial Project  
Rio Arriba County**

Corps members, during phase I of this project, are installing cement walkways leading to two cement pads with gazebos. Each gazebo has electricity. Plumbing has been installed for the drip irrigation that will water the new landscaping. Since this area is newly developed, there are erosion control issues that the crew is helping to mitigate.

**Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Upper Rio Grande)  
Taos and Mora Counties**

Corps members thinned trees at the Mora National Fish Hatchery and made improvements to the fence line. At the Rio Mora site, the crew worked on ecological and vegetation restoration projects. In the Questa area, three trails were improved; Cebolla Mesa trail, Cimarron Camp Ground trail and the Town of Red River trail. The third crew worked on trails at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.



Steps built next to the river at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.



## **Santa Fe County**

Corps members are receiving training in wildland fire fighting, swift water rescue and search and rescue. After receiving training, if needed the crew will respond to emergency situations focusing on wildland fire fighting. When not in training or fighting fires, the crew will create fire breaks and thin trees in County Open Space.. (picture not available)

## **Santa Fe Botanical Gardens Santa Fe County**

Corps members removed invasive species, improved trails, built benches, did habitat restoration at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve. The crew also helped implement a Master Naturalist Program. (picture not available)



## **Socorro County**

Corps members renovated two existing parks owned by Socorro County. Native trees, grasses and shrubs were planted along with drip irrigation. Trails were also built.



Dead and downed wood removed from the Bosque to reduce the chance of fire

## **Village of Corrales Sandoval County**

The focus of this project was in emergency response. Crews received training to engage in activities such as; fires, floods, search and rescue, and emergency medical calls. When not in training or on call, the crew improved fire breaks, create erosion structures, improve trails and improve natural habitats within the Bosque.



## **Taos Land Trust Taos County**

At the Vigil y Romo, Corps members started the restoration of the land and the acequia. Noxious vegetation was removed, the acequia channel was cleared and compost binds were built.



**Village of Santa Clara  
Grant County**

One YCC crew worked at Fort Bayard to preserve and restore the historic building. They also worked on trail repair. Another crew worked in the Village. Work there included installation of public art, and landscaping/stall construction at the Public Art Mercado.



Corps members built stalls to house vendor booths at the Village Mecado.



The crew repaired the columns on the bottom and top porches. They repaired the railing and flooring. Then boarded up the windows

**WildEarth Guardians Valle de Ore Project  
Bernalillo County**

This project is a continuation of last year's project. The crew continued to create wetland areas, made improvements to riparian habitat. All this work will result in improvements to storm-water runoff, water quality and wildlife habitat. Recreation trails were also constructed and perimeter fencing was installed.



**WildEarth Guardians-Valles Caldera Watershed  
Restoration  
Sandoval County**

This project is an on-going effort to restore the Valles Caldera National Preserve to a healthy ecosystem. The Thompson Ridge Fire and other fires burned a large portion of the forested section of the preserve. Corps members used chainsaws to fell hazard trees along the fence lines, trails and roads. The trees were also used as erosion control structures on severely eroded hillsides. Native vegetation was planted in several riparian areas for stream channel restoration and increase wetland capacity. Elk enclosure were constructed in the restored areas to prevent browsing of newly planted vegetation. Wildlife habitat surveys and vegetation monitoring were also done.



The Corps members are shocking fish to collect data on the species, length and weight.



**Youth Conservation Corps Commission 2018 Annual Report**

**NEW MEXICO YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS COMMISSION  
CORPS MEMBER SURVEY  
All Projects for 2019**

**Section 1. This section covers Natural Resources CONCEPTS that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the YCC project. Did your project involve improvements to New Mexico's natural resources? If yes, continue. If no, skip to section 3.**

**Yes      436**

**No        112**

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Ecology</b>	<b>Riparian Systems</b>	<b>Soil Conservation and Erosion Control</b>
Yes    339	Yes   355	Yes   247	Yes   387
No     110	No     92	No    196	No     76

<b>Watersheds</b>	<b>Bird and other Animal Indentification</b>	<b>Fire Ecology</b>	<b>Global Positioning Systems</b>
Yes    286	Yes   204	Yes   239	Yes   174
No     158	No    241	No    207	No    257

<b>Plant Identification</b>	<b>Proper Planting Techniques</b>	<b>Xeriscape Concepts</b>	<b>Wise Water Use</b>
Yes    317	Yes   248	Yes   178	Yes   318
No     129	No    194	No    257	No    133

**Section 2. Check the box next to the SKILLS acquired during the course of the natural resource project:**

<b>1 Firefighting Courses: S-130/190</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>Landscape Design and Planting</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>2 Firefighting Courses: S-212</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Map Making</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>3 Firefighting Courses: Other</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Orienteering</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>4 Firefighting: Took Pack Test</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Surveying</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>5 Firefighting: Passes Pack Test</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Thinning</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>6 Firefighting: Obtained Red Card</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Trail Construcion</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>Acequia Improvements</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Trail Design</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>Drip irrigation Installation</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>Irrigation Installation</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>GPS Use</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>Installation of Erosion Control Structures</b>	<b>177</b>

**Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge acquired during the course of the project:**

Adobe Making and Installation	32	Carpentry	121	Construction Math	139
Heavy Equipment Operation	105	Fencing	165	Painting/Staining	185
Masonry and Concrete	163	Foundations	160	Tool Use, Maintenance & Safety	384
Reading Construction Plans	95	Pipe Laying	88	Plumbing	61
Roofing	65	Stucco	23	Welding	42
Wiring	45				

**Section 3. This section covers construction and/or mechanical concepts that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the project. Did the project involve construction/mechanics? If yes, continue. If no, go to Section 4.**

Yes 276      No 248

**Section 4. This section covers cultural (art, writing, visual media) concepts that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the project. Did the project involve cultural concepts? If yes, continue. If no, go to Section 5.**

Artistic Composition and Design	120	Library Use	52
Mural Design and Installation	92	Video/DVD Production	54
Production of Flyers, Handbooks, Field Guides	64	Tile Mosaic Design and Installation	40
Research through print media or other	86		

**Section 5. This section covers topics related to Job Skills. Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge you acquired during the course of the project:**

Computer Use	121	Responsibilities of an Employer	238
Critical Thinking Skills	365	Responsibilities of an Employee	472
Defensive Driving	72	Resume Writing	190
Job Searching	150	Safety on the Work Site	501
Labor Laws	203	Public Speaking	197
Promptness	271	Proper Work Attire	392

## *Youth Conservation Corps Commission 2018 Annual Report*

**Section 6** This section covers topics related to Life Skills. Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge you acquired during the course of the project:

Anger Management	87	Prevention-Sexually Transmitted Diseases	129
Conflict Resolution	227	Prevention-Violence Towards Others	183
CPR	348	Prevention-Substance Abuse	164
First Aid	379	First Responder	104

Did you have a positive experience in YCC?

Yes 542 No 17

Do you feel that your YCC experience will assist you in pursuing your goals for the future?

Yes 530 No 24

Will you be returning to school?

Yes 475 No 82

Indicate what level:

College 244

High School 267

Vocational Institution 5

Will you be entering into regular employment?

Yes 228 No 319

Do you believe your experience in the YCC project helped you in obtaining the job? Yes 336

No 152

## Youth Conservation Corps Commission 2018 Annual Report