



Volunteers & Service

Fact Sheet

The Volunteers and Service program collaborates with the public, partner organizations, and other stakeholders to complete mission-critical work. Volunteers and service participants help the Forest Service care for the land and serve people, acquire work experience, benefit from training opportunities, and derive personal satisfaction. Programs administered through Volunteers and Service include the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), Resource Assistants Program, Youth Conservation Corps, and partnerships with hundreds of non-profit organizations, universities, Friends groups, and corporate entities. Volunteers and service participants support all forests and grasslands, research stations, and other Forest Service offices.

Objectives

- 1 Build capacity and infrastructure to implement volunteerism and service opportunities for diverse audiences
- 2 Promote natural resources careers and conservation education awareness
- 3 Increase hiring outcomes for entry-level positions and emerging professionals
- 4 Implement robust monitoring, data management and best practices to achieve stewardship outcomes

Outcomes 1972 – 2019

- 3.28 million people
- 141.1 million hours served on Forest Service units
- \$1.85 billion value of volunteer hours

Programs

Volunteers

Individuals or groups who freely donate time, talent, and resources to work with Forest Service staff on Agency projects and priorities.

21st Century Conservation Service Corps

A public-private partnership with workforce development organizations serving young Americans ages 15-30 and returning veterans up to age 35. A Public Lands Corps program, 21CSC projects support conservation priorities and develop the next generation of conservation stewards.

Youth Conservation Corps

A paid summer youth employment program for teenagers ages 15-18. YCC crews work on Forests and learn about land management and natural and cultural resources careers.

Resource Assistants Program

A rigorous and immersive paid experience for emerging professionals, age 17 and above, interested in natural and cultural resources careers. Resource Assistants are mentored and coached by Forest Service staff to complete mission-critical work that develops leadership, critical thinking, and strategic communication skills.

