



High School Leadership Corps FAQ's

1. Is this a day-experience?

The High School Leadership Corps is an immersive 24/7 experience. Crew members arrive on Monday morning and stay through the following Friday afternoon (12-days/11-nights).

2. Is this a summer camp?

Although the structure of the High School Leadership Corps program may have similarities to overnight summer camps, the program is a work experience. Crew members complete 8-days of on-the-ground conservation work and are compensated for their work. The High School Leadership Corps is adapted from the Conservancy's Conservation Corps program.

3. What to bring?

Upon selection for the program, crew members will receive a packing list. Crew members are expected to bring sturdy close-toed shoes, camp clothes and toiletries. The Conservancy provides all the camping gear (tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, camp kitchen supplies, and more) and work clothing (shirts/pants). If you are selected for a crew member role, please review the packing list thoroughly before arriving.

4. What is a day-to-day schedule like?

The day-to-day schedule depending on the activities of the day.

On days the High School Leadership Corps will be completing on-the-ground work, the day usually begins early (6:00AM or 6:30AM) to ensure the crew can arrive at the work site by 8:00AM prepared for a day of work. Work days are typically 8-hours with breaks throughout.

On days focused around enrichment programming (education, leadership, career awareness), the day usually begins a little later (i.e. 7:00AM) with multiple activities scheduled during the day. For example, crew members may do an outdoor leadership hike in the morning and a career awareness program in the afternoon.

Regardless of the activities of the day, the High School Leadership Corps will cook dinner at the campsite, participate in evening reflections, and have "lights out" by 9:30PM each evening.

5. Where do we stay?

High School Leadership Corps crews are based out of Moraine Park Campground in Rocky Mountain National Park. This is a front-country campground (vehicle access directly to campsite) with food-storage, restrooms, and trash services on-site. Crews will have at least one opportunity to shower/wash clothes about half-way through the service experience. The campsite is located in a "loop" provided exclusively for individuals completing service with the National Park Service.

6. How is food provided?

Food is provided by the Conservancy. High School Leadership Corps crews share cooking and meal preparation responsibilities. Over the course of the High School Leadership Corps members assigned to meal preparation will work with staff field coordinators to plan and purchase daily food. The Conservancy purchases breakfast, lunch, dinner, and

snack foods for the crews. Dietary restrictions are considered during meal planning and purchasing (i.e. vegan/vegetarian, allergies, etc.).

7. Will we encounter wildlife?

Wildlife is common in Rocky Mountain National Park. High School Leadership Corps crews often see elk, deer, squirrels, and a variety of birds at their camp and work sites. Crews may also see bear, coyotes, bobcats, moose, and other less commonly viewed wildlife. The Conservancy provides seasonal staff and High School Leadership Corps crews with the appropriate safety training to understand how safest to view wildlife and the appropriate gear to ensure food storage mitigates wildlife interaction with human food.

8. Will we have access to cell-phone service?

In Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding public land sites, cell-phone service is intermittent. Some carriers/phones can access service from the campground, but it is extremely limited. During travel to/from work sites or enrichment activities, the crew often has periods of cell-phone service. The Conservancy encourages crew members to use these opportunities to connect with friends/families and share photos of the experience. Cell-phone use is strictly prohibited during the work projects and activities, except for capturing photos.

9. What amenities are provided at the campground?

The campsite has a fire ring, picnic tables, pit toilets, trash services, and potable water. Crews have access to showers and laundry off-site and will be able to use at least once during the experience.

10. Who supervises the High School Leadership Corps?

The High School Leadership Corps is led by the Conservancy's Field Coordinators. These are seasonal staff members who support the Conservancy's on-the-ground service programs. Field Coordinators are required to have previous experience working with youth in the outdoors. All Field Coordinators are required to complete NSOPW, state, and federal criminal history checks. Each High School Leadership Corps will be led by two Field Coordinators, who remain on-site with the High School Leadership Corps members 24/7 during the program dates.

11. How is the High School Leadership Corps supported during their work?

As noted, the High School Leadership Corps is led by Field Coordinators who will be with the HSLC crew throughout the program (24/7). In addition the crews work closely with project partners (National Park Service, US Forest Service, other non-profits) to complete the on-the-ground work. Throughout this work, Field Coordinators have access to satellite communication devices (SPOT phone) for emergency communication. Project partners also carry agency radios, which can communicate with the Conservancy.

If you have additional questions, please contact Geoff Elliot, Director of Conservation, at (970)586-3262 or Geoff.Elliot@RMConservancy.org.