



High School Leadership Corps FAQ's

1. Is this a day camp?

The High School Leadership Corps (HSLC) is an immersive 24/7 experience. Crew members arrive on Monday morning and stay through the following Thursday afternoon (11-days/10-nights). There are two sessions of the HSLC, one from June 20 – June 30, and one from July 18 – July 28. Arrival to Estes Park on Day 1 of each respective session may be by parental drop off, personal transportation by HSLC participants, or coordinated by an RMC-sponsored shuttle to Estes Park from the Denver area. This will be discussed as participants are selected.

2. Is this an overnight summer camp?

Although the structure of the High School Leadership Corps program may have similarities to overnight summer camps, the program is a working experience. Crew members complete multiple days of on-the-ground conservation work and are compensated \$400 at the end of the program for their work. The High School Leadership Corps is adapted from the Conservancy's Conservation Corps program, with added time for leadership development, discussions surrounding active citizenship and teamwork, and personal reflection and goal setting.

3. What to bring?

Upon selection for the program, crew members will receive a packing list. Crew members are expected to bring sturdy closed-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 depends on the activities of the day.

On days the High School Leadership Corps will be completing conservation projects, the day may begin as early as 6:00 AM to ensure the crew can arrive at the work site by 8:00AM prepared for a day of work. Workdays are typically 8-hours with sufficient breaks throughout.

On days focused on enrichment programming (educational trainings, leadership development, career awareness), the day may begin a little later (7:00-8:00AM) 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 activities and discussions, respond to journal prompts, 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 in an area provided exclusively for individuals completing service with the National Park Service.

6. 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.

7. 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 (vegan/vegetarian, allergies, etc.).

8. 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.

9. Will we have access to cell phone service?

In Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding public land sites, cell-phone service is often unreliable. 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.

10. Who supervises the High School Leadership Corps?

The High School Leadership Corps is led by the Conservancy's Field Manager and Field Coordinators. While the Field Manager is a full-time, year-round position with the RMC, Field Coordinators are seasonal staff members who support the Conservancy's on-the-ground service programs. Both positions are required to have previous experience working with youth in the outdoors, and must pass NSOPW, state, and federal criminal history checks. Each High School Leadership Corps will be led by two Field Coordinators and the Field Manager, at least one of whom will remain on-site with the High School Leadership Corps members 24/7 throughout the program.

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 hands-on service projects. 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 Nathan Morrow, RMC Field Manager, at Nathan.Morrow@RMConservancy.org.