



## RMC Conservation Corps FAQs

### What is the timeline of the hiring process?

Applications for the 2024 Corps are open as of October 1, 2023. Crew Leader applications close Friday, February 2, 2024. Crew Member applications close Friday, March 8, 2023. Applicants will be contacted for interviews in January, February, and March. It is a very competitive hiring process, so please apply early! The Corps roster will be set by April 19, 2024.

### What do we bring?

Upon being selected to serve in the RMC Corps, you will be provided with a full packing list. At a minimum, you will need to provide your own off-time clothes, warm layers, and personal hygiene supplies.

### What is provided?

The Conservancy provides work clothing (uniform shirt, uniform pants, work boots, hat, mask, neck gaiter, water bottles, hiking socks, work gloves, eye protection) for every member. Additionally, the Conservancy has camping gear available for members to use during the season. Camping gear available to rent includes:

- Tents and headlamps
- Raincoats and rain pants
- Backpacking packs
- Sleeping bags and pads
- Camp stoves
- Water filters

This gear is loaned out free of charge. At the end of the season, you have the option to purchase any gear you rented.

### What is a day-to-day schedule like?

Crews typically work a 4 x 10 schedule; this is four consecutive 10-hour workdays. Crews typically work Monday-Thursday, though this may vary based on crew. Workdays typically begin between 6:00-7:30AM and wrap-up between 4:30-6:00PM. Orientation, education, and final weeks have different schedules with fewer hours worked each day.

### Where do we work?

Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Conservation Corps programs operate on public lands managed by:

- National Park Service - Rocky Mountain National Park
- US Forest Service - Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest
  - Boulder Ranger District
  - Canyon Lakes Ranger District
  - Sulphur Ranger District

Check out [the Story Map](#) to see the wide variety of locations RMC Crews work.

Visit the [2023 End-of-Season Portfolio](#) to get a better understanding of the various crews.

### Is food provided? How do the crews coordinate meals?

The Conservancy does not provide food for the crews. The weekly stipend (\$40) is intended to support food purchasing. Crews typically coordinate meals together and share food purchasing and preparation duties. Generally, breakfast and lunch are individually planned and purchased, while dinner shopping, preparation, and cost is shared by the crew. Many Corps members utilize [Colorado SNAP](#) for EBT cards to save money when buying food. If you wish to utilize Colorado SNAP over the summer, you must begin the application process shortly after you are hired.

### **Will we encounter wildlife?**

Wildlife encounters are frequent in the Conservation Corps. Members often see elk, deer, birds, and many smaller animals. Crews may also encounter bears, coyotes, bobcats, and moose. These interactions are less common. The Conservancy provides crews with appropriate training and information on how to safely view wildlife and what to do if an encounter is too close.

### **Will we have access to cell-phone service?**

Cell phone service varies significantly based on crew location. Cell service is spotty throughout the Colorado mountains, even in developed communities. The Canyon Lakes Crews are the only crews who must travel a distance to access cell service or wi-fi. All other crew locations will have ample cell service in or near their housing sites.

### **What amenities are provided at the campground?**

The crews living at front-country campgrounds (all crews but Canyon Lakes) have access to restrooms (pit toilets), potable water, and trash onsite. Shower and laundry facilities are located nearby at work centers or other defined areas. These crews receive an additional \$100 during their first stipend payment to support additional expenses associated with camping (ice for keeping food cold, fees for laundromat use, etc.).

### **Who supervises the Conservation Corps?**

The Conservation Corps program is supervised and managed by the Director of Conservation. The Director is the supervisor of record for all members/leaders. The Field Manager and seasonal Field Coordinators help to oversee the program through field visits to crews during projects and facilitating training and orientation activities.

### **What is RMC Corps' drug and alcohol policy?**

The RMC Corps does not screen for drugs or alcohol use upon hiring. However, drug or alcohol use is forbidden at the worksite and campsite while serving with the Corps. This is non-negotiable.

### **How is the Conservation Corps supported during their work?**

Most RMC Crews will work daily with their Park Service or Forest Service agency partners, though sometimes the crew may be set to work on their own. Each crew will have a radio to communicate with their agency partner, and a satellite communication device for emergencies and daily check-ins. The RMC Field Team (Field Manager and Field Coordinators) will visit crews on workdays to deliver supplies and mail, resolve conflicts, aid in projects, and provide general guidance.

### **What is the AmeriCorps Education Award?**

As an AmeriCorps program, the RMC Corps provides members and leaders with a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) upon successful completion of the service term. This award can be used toward college tuition, student loans, professional certifications, and many other educational/professional development expenses.

### **What else should I know about the RMC Conservation Corps?**

This summer may be one of the most physically demanding experiences you've ever had. Long days working in the hot sun, cold nights sleeping in a tent, and tensions among crew members are not at all uncommon.

However, RMC Corps participants often have a life-changing experience over the course of the summer. Individually, a main product of the summer is self-confidence - achieved through the feeling of belonging to a welcoming community where you are free to express your most authentic self and discover your identity.

Nonetheless, the RMC Conservation Corps is, at its heart, an opportunity for personal growth and development.

***The most important things you can do this summer: have a positive attitude, and do your best.***

Seek to build close friendships, develop a tight-knit community, share unforgettable outdoor experiences, find true connection to natural areas, learn lots, stay safe, and have as much fun you possibly can. [Apply Here!](#)

**If you have additional questions, please contact Director of Stewardship Ian Stafford**

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