



# AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Southern Region Project Sheet



AmeriCorps NCCC teams working out of the Southern Region serve in Alabama, Connecticut, D.C., Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The teams are assigned projects that fall within five focus areas including: Natural and Other Disasters, Environmental Stewardship and Conservation, Urban and Rural Development, Infrastructure Improvement and Energy Conservation. See below for examples of past projects.

## Natural and Other Disasters

**Immediate Response.** NCCC teams have served with various organizations immediately following natural and other disasters. They have responded quickly and served in critical roles including: debris removal, chainsaw support, and mucking and gutting homes. Teams have also set-up, operated, managed and eventually dismantled Volunteer Reception Centers, Temporary Shelters and Child Friendly Spaces. They have assisted with damage assessments, data entry, case monitoring, preparing and distributing food at standing locations as well as through Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV), and supporting food, clothing and other personal item distribution facilities. In warehouses, teams have led volunteers in the organization, inventory, loading and distribution to those in need. For any size or type of disaster, NCCC teams' ability to coordinate and lead volunteers continues to be one of their primary roles.

**Preparation and Mitigation.** Teams have installed hurricane shutters and helped nonprofit organizations prepare "Continuity of Operations" (COO) plans.

**Long-Term Recovery.** AmeriCorps NCCC members are dedicated to long-term support of those affected by disaster. Teams provide support in the home rebuilding process by leading volunteers in every stage of construction, from framing to finishing work. They also support communities and organizations through recruiting, organizing and leading volunteers.

**Local Support for Overseas Disaster.** Teams have been able to offer support to other countries by working on recovery assignments in the United States. Teams have assembled thousands of disaster relief kits for individuals overseas that contain supplies necessary to begin the rebuilding process.

## Environmental Stewardship and Conservation

**Reforestation.** Teams have led volunteers in planting hundreds of acres of trees encouraging the restoration of high-quality forests in previously coal mined lands.

**Preserving History.** As historic landmarks, buildings, monuments and open land continue to age, AmeriCorps NCCC teams help to maintain the integrity of the original state of these sites. Teams have cleared Native American mounds, restored historic trails, and renovated thousands of monuments and informative signs. Teams have also assisted with archaeology/museum curation and education programs.

**Park Resource Management.** AmeriCorps NCCC teams have created or improved hiking trails located in rural, urban, and national parks. Teams have cleared trees and brush, leveled trails to comply with federal guidelines on disabled access, implemented erosion control, and created and updated signs. These wild lands are used by thousands of Americans each year. Teams have also renovated cabins, campgrounds and bridges, cleared invasive exotics while restoring native plant communities.

**Accessibility for All.** In order to help create more accessible recreational activities for all individuals, teams have created handicap-accessible ramps and trails, built a handicap-accessible shooting range, assisted in the expansion of an accessible raised garden bed and compost areas.

**Prescribed Burns.** Teams have burnt thousands of acres of forest to help protect the habitat of endangered species of animals as well as protect residences from potential fire damage.

## Urban and Rural Development

**Affordable Housing Construction and Rehabilitation.** AmeriCorps NCCC teams have worked with craftspeople and volunteers to build homes for low-income families throughout the region. Teams have assisted with all aspects of construction: framing, hanging drywall, sanding floors, installing carpet, painting interiors and exteriors, roofing, and even running electric and plumbing components. Corps Members have helped with managing volunteer groups and partnered with city agencies to maintain the properties of elderly residents. Teams also constructed a prefabricated warehouse to serve as a base for future home-repair operations.

**School and Community Education.** Teams have worked with youth, tutoring and supporting them in a multitude of after school programs, engaging them in performance improvement activities as well as establishing parental support and activities to encourage community involvement. Teams have also helped make schools more conducive to learning by renovations to the building as well as the playground. Teams have painted classrooms, developed murals, constructed learning stations and built and repaired playground equipment

**Tax Preparation.** Teams have saved individuals and families hundreds of thousands of dollars by assisting low-income families in filing their tax returns.

## Infrastructure Improvement

**Public Facility Support.** Teams have worked with local and state government agencies to rehabilitate public facilities and homes. Through these partnerships teams have also supported many city parks through invasive species removal and estuary clean up.

**Emergency Response Efficiency.** In order to help first responders arrive at the site of an emergency as safely and efficiently as possible, an AmeriCorps NCCC team painted hundreds of house numbers on residential street curbs throughout a community.

**Surveying for Septic Systems.** Teams have surveyed hundreds of residents to help qualified individuals apply to receive free septic systems to help ensure proper disposal of biological sanitary waste resulting in safer, healthier and more eco-conscious communities.

## Energy Conservation

**Energy Savings and Education.** Teams have worked to educate the public on the benefits of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) in terms of both the environmental benefits and cost savings. They have done this through home installations of the CFLs, canvassing neighborhoods performing outreach and education around CFLs and other energy saving practices as well as leading classroom presentations to youth about the positive impacts of making conscious decisions regarding energy.

**Home Weatherization.** As more homeowners shift towards making energy efficiency part of their lives, AmeriCorps NCCC teams have assisted with the installation and education of energy efficient and weatherization home enhancements.

**Biodiesel Production.** AmeriCorps NCCC Teams have assisted with the promotion, outreach, collection and processing of used cooking oil as an alternative resource to produce fuel. Teams have also led the engagement, education and coordination of youth volunteers in an effort to not only gain awareness of the benefits of biodiesel but also gain technical experience and knowledge in the growing “green collar” arena.

**Energy Efficient Rebuilding of Homes.** Teams have engaged, educated and led volunteers in both new construction as well as renovation of homes using energy efficient methods and products.

**For more information on how to get an AmeriCorps NCCC team to serve with your organization, please contact your state representative:**

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**PLEASE NOTE: All of these projects were possible only with adequate training and daily supervision provided by the project sponsor. Our teams are fast learners and very enthusiastic, but they are not skilled labor.**