

Position Description:

Summer of Service (SOS) is a team-based, 11 or 13 week-long program. SOS participants (called *Corpsmembers*) serve on environmental stewardship projects throughout the Southern Front Range region. Corpsmembers will be enrolled in AmeriCorps—a national community service program. No experience is required! We will provide you with hands-on training related to all projects.

Compensation and Benefits:

- **Biweekly Stipend** - Earn a living stipend of \$1,120 before taxes paid every 2 weeks.
 - Leadership Opportunities available: Corpsmember Drivers are eligible for a living stipend of \$1,140. Returning Corpsmembers earn \$1,160. Corpsmembers in Assistant Crew Leader roles earn \$1,200. More information available on request.
- **AmeriCorps Education Award** - Earn a scholarship of \$1,374.60 upon successful completion of 300 hours of service OR \$1,718.25 upon successful completion of 450 hours of service. This award can be used to pay tuition, pay back qualifying student loans or go on an expedition through a wilderness school! Corpsmembers have 7 years to use the award.
- **Student Loan Forbearance** - Corpsmembers can apply to put their qualified federal student loans on hold during their term through the National Service Trust.
- **Health Insurance** - Corpsmembers are eligible for health insurance the 1st of the month after serving at MHYC for 60 days. Corpsmember contribution required.
- **Counseling** - Corpsmembers receive up to 5 free mental health counseling sessions per year.
- **Networking** - Corpsmembers have opportunities to network with federal, state and local natural resources professionals and access to a vast alumni network!
- **Training** – Depending on crew assignments, Corpsmembers will receive training in one or more stewardship skillsets, including S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws (required for sawyers), trail building and maintenance, and pesticide application.



Timeline:

This is a temporary position from either:

- **May 15 – August 11, 2023 (450 hours in 13 week commitment)**
- **May 30 – August 11, 2023 (300 hours in 11 week commitment)**
- Some positions require overnight camping (known as *hitches*).
- 40 hour weeks in a combination of the following (schedule will be set in advance of the season, but is always subject to change):
 - 4.5-day schedule: Monday – Thursday. 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - 9.5-day schedule: Wednesday—the following Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- All Corpsmembers are additionally required to serve from 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on the following Fridays:
 - **June 2** due to holiday observed on Memorial Day (May 29)
 - **June 23** due to holiday observed on Juneteenth (June 19)
 - **July 7** due to holiday observed on Independence Day (July 4)

MHYC is committed to hiring candidates with unique backgrounds and perspectives. If you are interested in this position but are concerned that you do not meet all of the requirements or possess all of the necessary skills, or that prior convictions or your background might disqualify you, we highly encourage you to submit an application anyway.

Qualifications:

- Between the ages of 18-24.
- High school or GED/HSE graduate or still enrolled.
- Must be eligible for enrollment in AmeriCorps as a US Citizen, National or Lawful Permanent Resident. Documentation will be required on the first day. Must bring identification documents necessary to complete the I-9 and other forms on your first day.
- Must be physically fit, able to lift 50 lbs., spend 8-10 hours a day in all weather conditions (e.g., sun, heat, wind, rain, etc.) and hike up to 7 miles with a day-pack.
- Able to be on time and maintain consistent attendance throughout term of service. Must commit to complete the program.

Requirements:

- Pre-service National Service Criminal History Check required; this position does not have recurring access to vulnerable populations.
- Corpsmembers must not engage in any prohibited activities as listed in the AmeriCorps Member Service Agreement.
- This position reports to Program Coordinator: Land Conservation.
- Service location: 417 E. Vermijo Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Corpsmembers have the choice to serve on a variety of crews. MHYC staff will work with you to find the best match! We strive for each and every crew to be diverse, inclusive and safe for all Corpsmembers.

Sawyer Crew: Corpsmembers operate chainsaws on invasive tree removal and wildland fire mitigation projects. They receive First-Aid/CPR and S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws certifications. Some sawyers will have the opportunity to receive pesticide application training. The use of pesticide is common on invasive tree removal projects.

Hand Crew: Corpsmembers receive training in safe and efficient use of hand tools to complete a wide variety of projects. Examples include: trail maintenance and construction, noxious weed removal, fence construction and demolition, ecological restoration, and other park development projects.

Pesticide Application Crew: Corpsmembers will be trained on how to safely handle and apply pesticides for invasive species removal projects, the role of pesticides in natural resources management, and how to operate a variety of hand pump and backpack sprayers. Corpsmembers will also be trained on identifying native and invasive plant species.

Corpsmembers also have the option to serve on one of our Affinity Crews. These crews operate as Land Conservation crews and complete sawyer, hand or pesticide application projects, but are reserved for individuals with certain shared identities.

Gender Spectrum Affinity Crew: This crew is for people of underrepresented gender identities, including transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and cisgender women, to learn new skills and reduce historical barriers that have prevented natural resource management from being an inclusive field.



BIPOC Affinity Crew: This crew is for people who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color and want to serve alongside others with similar lived experiences while reducing historical barriers that have prevented natural resource management from being an inclusive field.

To Apply:

Visit our website at www.milehighyouthcorps.org and click "Apply Now".

Questions? Email lalitam@mhyc.net or call 719-630-7421 ext. 404

Mile High Youth Corps is committed to diversity in principle and practice, both in the community at large and within the organization. We are, therefore, committed to having our internal operations and employment practices administered on a non-discriminating basis inclusive of, but not limited to, race, religion, color, socio-economic status, gender, age, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, physical or mental disability, marital status, or national origin. Every effort shall be made to grant reasonable accommodation for qualified people with disabilities to participate in this AmeriCorps program.