

Public Lands Service Coalition
Promoting Youth Service Jobs & Career Development on Public Lands

Historic Preservation Case Studies

The following are short case studies describing historic preservation projects from seven Corps/SCA programs.

American YouthWorks (Austin, Texas)

To foster interest and opportunity for a new generation of skilled professionals in the field of historic preservation, American YouthWorks has partnered with the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and their friends group, Los Compadres, to facilitate an innovative masonry apprenticeship program. Since the establishment of the partnership in 2008, twelve enthusiastic apprentices have contributed to the restoration of the park's five Spanish missions and the nation's only functioning Spanish Colonial aqueduct. Additionally, American YouthWorks' conservation crews have also participated in large-scale rehabilitation projects with the focus of maintaining the still-used Espada Acequia and restoring the long abandoned San Juan Acequia. In just the third year of the program, apprentices have gone on to study graduate-level historical architecture and have been hired by the National Park Service to fill preservation positions.



California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The California Conservation Corps has a rich history working on a wide variety of projects to conserve historically significant sites.

- **The USS Potomac, NPS, Oakland.** CCC worked on this \$5 million project to restore Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht, under the supervision of building trade journeyman, using historically accurate building techniques. This National Historical Landmark is now open to the public in Oakland CA and has been visited by over a quarter of a million visitors.
- **Santa Barbara Presidio and the Santa Inez Mission, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.** CCC reconstructed these structure using historical methods dating back to the 18th century. Adobe bricks and roof tiles were made on site as part of the restoration effort. Thousands of bricks were made, each weighing 70 lbs.
- **Historic Lighthouses along the California Coast, California State Parks.** CCC repaired lighthouses, rebuilt stone pathways and rock walls and restored native landscaping.

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- **Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park**, State Parks. CCC restored trails, installed erosion control measures, replanted native species and installed, protective fencing to avoid damage to the caves.
- **Chumash Indian Village at La Purisima Mission**, California State Parks. CCC assisted in the reconstruction of the village, building circular willow huts, fire pits, and a small garden.
- **Malakoff Diggings State Park**, California State Parks. CCC assisted in digging for fossils and artifacts to assist state archaeologists to identify culturally sensitive items disturbed during a construction project at the Park.
- **Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s**, NPS. CCC trail crews have worked in Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks to rebuild and repair backcountry trails first built by the original CCC.

Conservation Corps North Bay (Marin and Sonoma Counties, California)

Battery Cavallo and Duncan

At historic Fort Baker in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) Crews removed hazardous Eucalyptus trees that threatened to damage historic military installations in the Marin Headlands. These bunkers were constructed in 1898 and 1872 and the areas that are open to the public are popular tourist attractions. The area around the batteries is also habitat for Mission Blue Butterfly, an endangered species. CCNB crews constructed post and cable fencing to keep visitors to the area out of this critical habitat.

Kule Loklo

At Point Reyes National Seashore, CCNB crews constructed a ceremonial round house and sweat lodge as part of a replica of historic indigenous Miwok Villages. The construction was coordinated with local tribes and corpsmembers learned about indigenous construction techniques as well as Miwok history and culture. The site is used regularly for interpretive programs by the park.



Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)

MCC has had a longstanding partnership with the Montana Heritage Commission with annual projects at the Virginia and Nevada City historic sites. MCC also completed projects with State Parks and the BLM around ghost town preservation. These have been successful projects for members – very hands on, educational, and full of practical work skills learning. MCC also has a strong standing with the National Park Service with regard to historic preservation projects: from lead abatement to corral repair at Grant Kohrs National Historic Ranch, to excavation of historic structures at Bighorn Canyon NRA, to tepee ring annual maintenance and wildfire fuels reduction at Big Hole Battlefield to building and stonework preservation in Yellowstone and

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Glacier National Parks. With the USFS, teams of MCC youth have connected with the legacy of the Forest Service with the restoration of historic fire towers and ranger stations being converted into education centers.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Steamboat Springs, CO)

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (CO) implemented a Historic Preservation Corps in summer of 2010, in collaboration with its local historic group, Historic Routt County (HRC). It was very successful, and RMYC is planning to grow the program in summer 2011. Past HRC Executive Director, Towny Anderson, was recently hired by Colorado Mountain College, Leadville Campus, to implement a Historic Preservation course of study.

Southwest Conservation Corps – Ancestral Lands (Acoma Pueblo, NM)

The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) Ancestral Lands office (based at the Pueblo of Acoma) partnered with the National Park Service to develop a Tribal Preservation Program. The Tribal Preservation Program trains Native American youth in preservation techniques and skills, mobilizes small crews and – under cooperative agreements with NPS – completes preservation work on historic and pre-historic sites. Work to date has occurred at Petrified Forest NP, El Malpais NM and El Morro NM. Local NPS staff members report a high level of satisfaction with the work. The NPS Vanishing Treasures has been very supportive and featured the Tribal Preservation Program as one of four feature articles in its 2009 Year-End Report. The Corps Network awarded the program its 2010 Project of the Year Award for partnership with a federal agency. Native American youth participants learn key skills including: project documentation; mortars, stones and adobe identification; preservation trade skills; NPS history and preservation policies; career development; and, life skills. There are fewer and fewer Native American preservation workers who know and understand the skills required to preserve historic sites. One of the primary goals of the program is to train a new generation of Native American preservation workers.



Student Conservation Association (SCA) - Crews

- **Rosie the Riveter**, NPS, Oakland: Community Crews have assisted in the cleaning and maintenance of the historic Red Oak Victory ship. Members also created materials to enhance the visitor experience, including creating a youth-targeted documentary of the ship. In 2009, SCA members also refurbished a section of the ship's hold to be used as community theatre.
- **Fort Washington**, National Capital Parks East: DC high school crew members have completed repairs and maintenance on Harmony Hall and within the Fort.

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- **Dumbarton Oaks, Rock Creek Park, NPS:** DC Crews completed habitat restoration and plantings in the historic gardens adjacent to the estate. Crews also completed annual repairs to structures to preserve and protect the gardens from urban storm water runoff. Members learned historic stonework techniques using traditional tools and materials.
- **Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore:** In 2009, Crews uncovered and helped stabilize the foundations of a historic farmstead site at the Arboretum.
- **Cumberland Island:** SCA restored the landscape of the Dungeness Historic District to a level where visitors can understand and safely enjoy the historically complex nature of the area. The 2010 crew worked on the mansion and leisure areas of the historic landscape. Actions included the removal of moderate to dense vegetation growth that has completely overrun these areas and the removal of collapsed structures and abandoned material. The project restored the basic setting of the identified landscape components, as well as sight lines and vistas, for enhanced interpretation and allowed visitor access to areas currently restricted by safety concerns.
- **Harpers Ferry:** SCA Crew worked on the development of 1,100 acres of historic battlefield landscapes. Tasks included: installing Virginia worm fence, new trail construction, wayside sign installation, board fence erection, old tree & fence line removal, installing native trees species, trail fertilization & grass seeding, and large foot bridge construction.
- **Cowpens National Battlefield:** SCA restored the park area by removing debris from old house sites that were located in the park before it was established in 1972. Much of the removed material was recycled. The work took place throughout the park site, in generally moderate terrain.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) - Interns

SCA has placed interns on a number of preservation projects including:

- Cultural Resources Intern, Glen Canyon NRA
- Historian Assistant, Klondike Goldrush NHP
- Oral History Intern, Statue of Liberty NM and Ellis Island
- Research Historian, George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Cultural Resources Intern, FE Warren Air Force Base
- Archives Intern, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Historian Assistant, Klondike Goldrush NHP
- Architectural Historian/ Technician Intern, NPS, Northeast Regional Office

In addition, SCA annually places a dozen or more diverse interns for the Cultural Resource Diversity Internship Program it runs for the National Park Service and another eight "Landscape Preservation Interns" for the National Park Service's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.