



Tennessee AmeriCorps Members #ServeTheEarth

Through its programs, the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS) is training citizens in conservation and “green” jobs, reconnecting Americans to the outdoors, and supporting successful science-based conservation strategies. Environmental Stewardship represents one of CNCS’ [six strategic focus areas](#).

In honor of April being Earth Month, [Volunteer Tennessee](#) is proud to highlight the Tennessee AmeriCorps programs that are improving public lands and local waterways, providing environmental education, and encouraging conservation efforts. You can join the conversation on social media by using #ServeTheEarth.

Members from [Appalachia CARES](#) (Community, Action, Responsibility, Education, and Service) AmeriCorps program at Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council, serve at multiple agencies in East Tennessee focused on environmental stewardship.

Appalachia CARES’ AmeriCorps members implement service-learning projects and provide education and training in environmentally-conscious practices such as sustainable energy and agriculture and other natural resources. Here are just a few examples:

- Appalachia CARES member Hannah is serving her AmeriCorps term at the McKinney Center in Jonesborough, TN. One of the programs they hold is Kids Night Out, where Hannah facilitates energy efficiency service-learning projects using art and hands-on activities with kids monthly.
- At Seven Islands State Birding Park in Kodak, TN, AmeriCorps members Allyson and Michelle will be leading interpretive programming & events this spring and summer.
- Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps members at Rural Resources recently welcomed tenth graders from Boca Raton, FL for a day of work on the farm. Rural Resources connects local farms and food with families, and holds regular programs for youth at their working farm and community education center.



Photos courtesy of Appalachia CARES



As Tennessee's only environmental corps, [CAC AmeriCorps](#) members serve in Knoxville and nearby areas, improving public lands, streams, and greenways, and providing a broad range of environmental education programs to the public.

- AmeriCorps member Kay Shanda serves with Keep Sevier Beautiful (KSB) as program coordinator. Through her service Kay has helped out with many amazing projects that support KSB's mission of litter prevention, beautification, recycling, and education. [Read more about Kay's service in this recent blog post.](#)
- National Park Week is also celebrated in April. CAC AmeriCorps members are getting things done at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Members serving with the vegetation management program treat hundreds of acres of public lands to control the spread of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). HWA has caused extensive mortality and decline of hemlock trees in the eastern US and is a serious threat to the survival of hemlocks throughout the region.

The team recently hosted a group of 20 students from the University of Delaware on Alternative Spring Break. This group pulled a significant amount of invasive plants and cleaned up litter from the area!



Photos courtesy of CAC AmeriCorps

On April 17, Volunteer Tennessee and CAC AmeriCorps hosted the Team Tennessee Service event in Knoxville, which brought additional opportunities for program participants from across the state to contribute to National Service's impact on the environment.

- Keep Knoxville Beautiful led clean-up projects at two dumpsites in Knoxville. 20 National Service members removed 6,180 pounds of trash dumped along a 1/2 mile stretch of Loves Creek Road and in Loves Creek, and 18 members removed 5,340 pounds of trash littered on Richmond Avenue and Richmond Hill Road. AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers also assisted with an irrigation project at Beardsley Community Farm and outdoor clean-up and garden prep at other service sites around the city.



Photos courtesy of CAC AmeriCorps



[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps is a program of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads volunteer and civic engagement programs for the nation.