



HARD CORPS:

Exploring AmeriCorps, Oregon Conservation Corps, and Oregon Youth Corps Programs Throughout Oregon

SESSION GOALS

- ★ Elevate awareness of corps programming in Oregon
- ★ Add clarity to corps opportunities and benefits to meet various young people's needs
- ★ Spark connection from counselors and mentors to corps partners in your area
- ★ Promote recruitment for corps programs





OREGON SERVES

State-based AmeriCorps programs in Oregon focused on service and community



WHAT ARE AMERICORPS & OREGONSERVES?

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement.

OregonServes is a State Service Commission housed within HECC. Our mission is to promote and enhance the culture of service, volunteerism, and civic engagement across communities throughout Oregon. We are authorized by statute to administer AmeriCorps State program grants.



HOW AMERICORPS SERVICE WORKS



AGE REQUIREMENT

- Members must be 17 years or older (no upper age limit)



HOW YOU'LL SERVE

- Customizable commitment (full-time, part-time; 1 month to 1 year)
- Choose to serve in your community or explore a new city or region.



UNIQUE BENEFITS

- Serve in a project area of interest (mentor or tutor students, build a community garden, support veterans, etc.) that matches your skills and passions

BENEFITS OF SERVICE

FINANCIAL BENEFITS



Earn a modest living allowance while serving (benefits vary by program)

SCHOOLS OF NATIONAL SERVICE



Select colleges and universities provide benefits to students that serve. Benefits may include matching the education award, college credits, access to scholarships and more.

MONEY FOR SCHOOL



Earn a Segal Education Award to use on qualifying student loans or future education costs. The full FY25 award is \$7395.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Gain valuable professional experience.

GET STARTED: 4 STEPS TO APPLY



Research opportunities at **My.AmeriCorps.gov**. Find the program, location, and time commitment that fits you.



Create a profile. Input some basic info and verify your email.



Complete an application. Input education, professional experience, skills, and names of two (2) references to create a "common" application.



Submit your application. Apply to one or more opportunities at once.

1

2

3

4



OREGON YOUTH CORPS

Early opportunities for workforce participation in a crew-based setting



WHAT IS OREGON YOUTH CORPS?

★ **Oregon Youth Corps (OYC) is a state funded grant program**

★ **Purpose:**

★ Provide a work program for disadvantaged and at-risk youth (aged 13-24) to:

★ Perform conservation work of public value in a cost-effective manner

★ Protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve Oregon's natural, historical and cultural resources

★ Increase educational, training and employment opportunities to improve work skills, instill good work ethic, and increase employability.

★ **Recent shift of note**

★ OYC was initially established with land conservation and natural resources projects as the sole focus.

★ In recent years, the program has expanded scope to include projects that provide public impact through community service projects, such as supporting food banks and childcare agencies, to name some examples.

★ **Oregon Youth Corps is State Funded through the Amusement Device Tax (ADT) and General Funds.**

2025 – 2027 COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP CORP GRANT OVERVIEW

- **3.6 Million was awarded statewide for 2025 – 2027 grants**
- **30 partners / grantees have been awarded grants**
- **46% of grant awards provide Service-Learning Experiences**
 - **Learning about work through educational experiences with the goal of exploring career pathways and vocations, while also receiving academic attainments (credits, etc.)**
- **54% of grant awards provide pain On-The-Job Training experiences**



“...this experience has been one that I do not regret I pushed myself to work harder than ever on things I have struggled with in the past, I pushed myself physically and done things I didn’t know or think I was capable of, and gained a new love and interest for the natural world and for that I’m forever grateful for my time on trail crew. Truly an experience I will never forget!”

-- A Kalapuya High School participant



OREGON CONSERVATION CORPS

Fire fuels mitigation work training the land managers of tomorrow



WHAT IS OREGON CONSERVATION CORPS?

- ★ Oregon Conservation Corps is a state funded grant program
- ★ Three purposes:
 - ★ Reduce the risk of wildfires (through fuels mitigation treatments)
 - ★ Create fire-adapted communities
 - ★ Train the land managers of tomorrow
- ★ The state pushes grant dollars into communities throughout the state, those partner organizations hire youth participants
 - ★ Meaning: people aren't hired through the State
- ★ Grant funds are requested/approved by the legislature biennially (not automatically allocated to HECC)

WORK AND FIT

- ★ Most people interested in this work are interested in wildland fire, structural fire, natural resources, or being outdoors
- ★ Primarily physical and outdoor work (partners offer and accept all kinds of accommodations for folks with I/DD or physical disabilities)
- ★ New hires typically receive necessary Personal Protective Equipment from the grantee partner: pants, boots, gloves, work shirts, etc. or those needs are supported and navigated with the organization.
- ★ Work is done with a team of people (3-10 is typical), generally in the same cohort (starting at the same time) lead by a crew leader who guides both technical and soft skill development
- ★ Most recruitment seems to be folks who aren't best served in typical classroom environments, folks looking to stabilize their living situation (without homes or safety), and folks who need more coaching/mentorship supports than would be offered in a traditional job
- ★ Communities served – it is also worth noting that many OCC participants report feeling a sense of belonging and purpose. They meet and serve people in their communities who also need help and that has made many participants to feel valued
- ★ OCC focuses on training connections relevant to each participant. If folks need a drivers' license, they are supported in that effort. If they want to get their GED, that is supported. If they want college credits or connections, those are made for them. If they don't want anything to do with school, but want other training certifications that make them hireable, those are supported.

“After getting this job, I’ve been able to get on my feet, get everything stabilized in my life, and go to college.”

—Rosie, 18

“We’re making it easier for first responders to deal with fires. It’s definitely a good experience helping all these people out here.”

—Michael, 21



Comparing Corps Programs

OregonServes/ AmeriCorps

- ★ **Ages 17+**
 - ★ Current partners engage primarily college-aged youth
- ★ **Stipend-based pay, up to full time hours**
- ★ **Variable terms of service, 100-1700+ hours**
- ★ **Focus on deepening member education and skill sets through practical service**
- ★ **Program is community-based and service driven**
- ★ **Segal Education Award available for members**
- ★ **National Alumni Network**

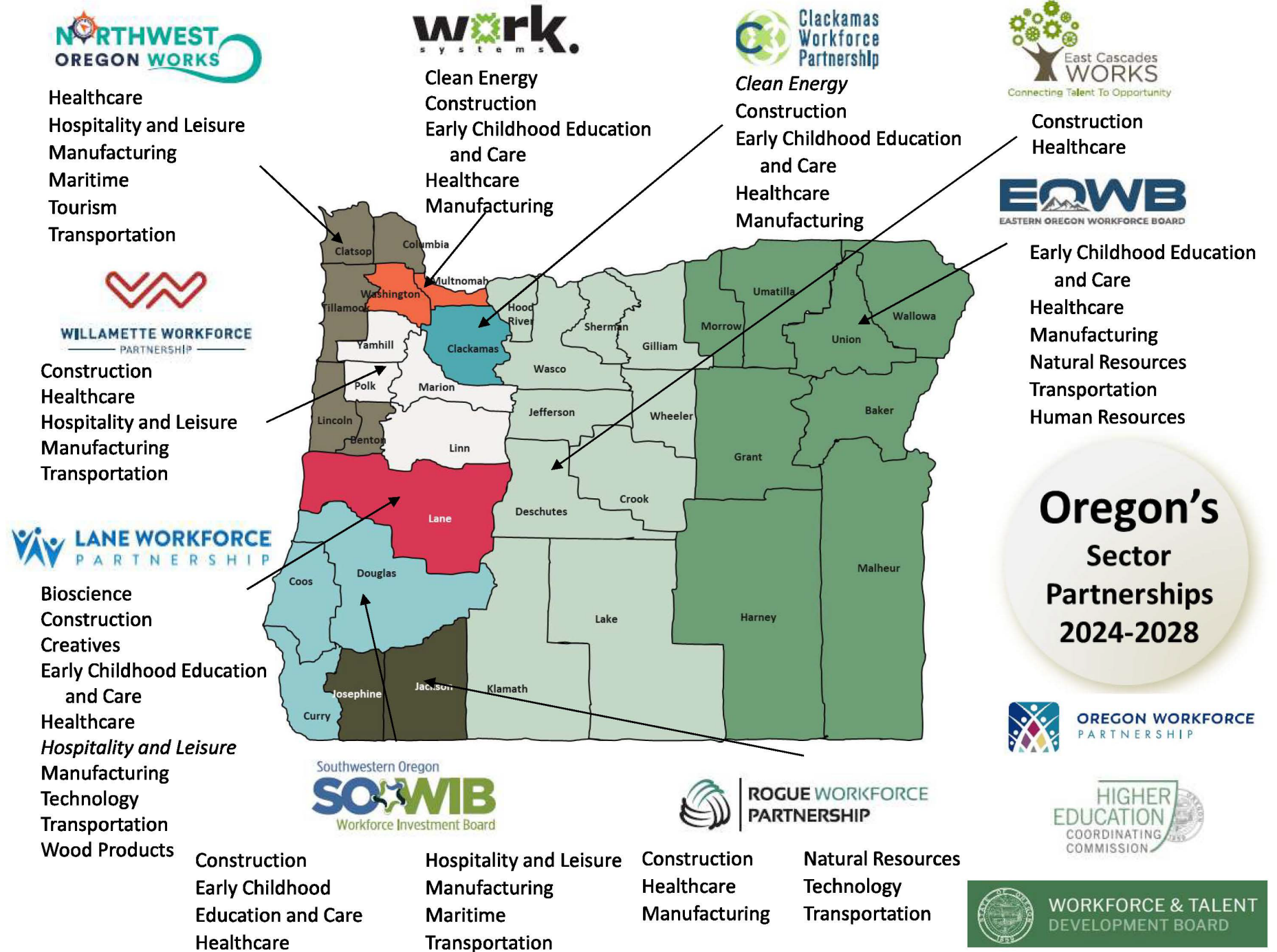
Oregon Youth Corps

- ★ **Ages 13-24**
 - ★ Current partners work with primarily high school-aged youth
- ★ **Paid work experience, mostly part-time**
- ★ **Commitments as few as 7 weeks long, including summer jobs**
- ★ **Focus on building essential employability skills, foundational skills for future jobs**
- ★ **Work is stewardship and community-based**
- ★ **Wraparound supports provided, with an emphasis on education (GED, credits, etc.)**

Oregon Conservation Corps

- ★ **Ages 16-26**
 - ★ Average age of current participants is 20 years old
- ★ **Competitive pay, part-time to full-time**
- ★ **No set terms of service, may be 8-weeks to 2+ years depending on partner and participant needs**
- ★ **Work is focused on creating fire-adapted communities, fuels removal, and land management**
- ★ **Paid training for industry-recognized credentials, may include college credits**

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS



CURRENT PARTNERS

Oregon Conservation Corps	Oregon Youth Corps			OregonServes Commission
Alternative Youth Activities	Al Kennedy High School	Fossil School District	Rivers of Life Center	Confluence Environmental Center
AntFarm	Alternative Youth Activities	Gilliam County	Sherman County Youth Prevention	Heart of Oregon Corps (Food Heros)
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council w/ Heart of Oregon Corps	AntFarm	Heart of Oregon Corps	The Next Door, Inc.	Rogue Workforce Partnership
Community Services Consortium	Ash Creek Forest Management	Impact Northwest	Tillamook School District	Sabin Community Development
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis	Integral Youth Services	Training and Employment Consortium	St. Vincent de Paul La Pine
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion & Polk Counties	Kalapuya High School	Wallowa Resources	The Stronghold
Eastern Oregon Workforce Investment Board	Cascade Education Corps	Lake County School District	★ Questions? Need connected to a partner in your area? Contact us at: hecc.oregonyouthworks@hecc.oregon.gov	
Heart of Oregon Corps	Community Services Consortium	Looking Glass (Riverfront School)		
Integral Youth Services	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	MLK Jr. Education Center		
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Northwest Youth Corps		
Northwest Youth Corps	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Parrot Creek		
Phoenix School of Roseburg	Coos Watershed Association	Phoenix School of Roseburg		
The Nature Conservancy	Coquille Indian Tribe	Project Youth +		
Wallowa Resources	Engaging Every Student	Reynolds Learning Academy		





THANK YOU

oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov

hecc.oregonyouthworks@hecc.oregon.gov