



2017-18 Chesapeake Conservation Corps Class Announced

Job training program administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust provides young adults with employment opportunities in environmental service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erin Valentine, 410-974-2941, x113

(Edgewater, MD) August 22, 2017 – Today the Chesapeake Bay Trust introduced the newest class of its Chesapeake Conservation Corps, a program created by the Maryland Legislature to provide valuable job skills training for young people and promote the green economy in Maryland. The program matches young people ages 18-25 with non-profit and government organizations for one-year, stipend-supported terms of service, focused on improving local communities and protecting natural resources.

Since the program began in 2010 with an inaugural class of 16 members, the Corps has nearly tripled in size due to its popularity among young people pursuing environmental occupations and the organizations that host Corps Members each year. It has become a premier launching pad for green careers and a reliable resource for environmentally-focused organizations who are recruiting the next generation of environmental professionals. Many of the Corps Members in each graduating class have been hired directly by their host organizations, often into brand new positions, and alums can now be found throughout the professional conservation field.

“The Chesapeake Conservation Corps program continues to demonstrate the power of investing in hands-on job training programs,” said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., the initiator of this program back in 2010. “Today we celebrate both the initiation of 42 young people about to embark on this career-building experience, as well as 30 young people completing their year of service and bringing that training to the job market. This program not only helps young people find jobs, but it helps our environment and our economy.”

During their year of service, Conservation Corps Members will gain valuable on-the-job experience as they work to advance environmental conservation, K-12 education, energy efficiency programs, sustainable agriculture practices, and a host of other environmentally-focused initiatives. Today, 42 Corps participants met their host organizations at Camp Letts in Edgewater, Md., to learn more about their job responsibilities for the upcoming year.

“The National Park Service is proud to be supporting the Chesapeake Conservation Corps for the 2017-2018 year,” said George McDonald, U.S. National Park Service Youth Programs Manager. “These young people will learn and teach others the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation, a theme that will stay with them throughout their careers and lives.”

The program has grown since its initiation in 2010, given the program’s early popularity and success, due to additional investment, from the Chesapeake Bay Trust from the “Treasure the Chesapeake” license plate and Chesapeake and Endangered Species state income tax checkoff, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, BGE and others in the Exelon family, and the National Park Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, UMD Environmental Finance Center, and Environmental Concern also contributed matching funds for the program this year.

“Good companies like BGE really care about our communities and our natural resources. This program aims to develop leaders with experience and perspective to ensure that we not only embrace our natural resource treasures now but that we identify, educate and mentor future leaders to sustain current efforts indefinitely,” said John Quinn of BGE, a key funder of the program. “We hope these young people will enter the work force after their years of service in all sectors: nonprofit, government, and corporate as well. The entire community will benefit from their skill sets.”

During the course of the year, Corps participants work directly with their host organizations, receive extensive job trainings hosted by the Trust, and gain experience in grant writing and project management through a capstone project.

“We know that educating and training the next generation of environmental leaders is critical to the future of our watersheds,” said Jana Davis, Executive Director of the Trust. “We are committed to ensuring that a new generation is ready to build on the great work that is already being done and we are proud that the Chesapeake Conservation Corps ensures that the pool of talented environmental professionals continues to grow.”

Of the 42 selected participants, twelve will work for organizations in Anne Arundel County; six will work in Montgomery County; six in Baltimore City; two in Baltimore County; five in Prince George’s County; three in Talbot County, two in Frederick County; one each in Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Kent, and Worcester Counties; and one supported by NPS in Pennsylvania.

The 2017-2018 Chesapeake Conservation Corps class includes the following individuals and their host organizations:

1. Samantha Alvey, Environmental Concern, Talbot County
2. Heather Black, Izaak Walton League of America, Montgomery County
3. Nicole Blanco, Hood College, Frederick County
4. Dionna Bucci, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County
5. Linn Bumpers, National Wildlife Federation, Anne Arundel County
6. Connor Burton, Environmental Concern, Talbot County
7. William Cameron, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Prince George’s County
8. Diamonique Clark, Stevenson University, Baltimore County
9. Natalie Cohen, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Baltimore City
10. Erin Collins, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anne Arundel County
11. Shelby Cross, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel County
12. Haley Denton, Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy, Anne Arundel County
13. Sierra Duca, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Anne Arundel County
14. Maryam El-Amin, City of Greenbelt, Prince George’s County
15. Kelsey Everett, U.S. National Park Service, Anne Arundel County
16. Rachel Ewalt, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission Brookside Nature Center, Montgomery County
17. Mariah Gansel, Susquehanna Heritage Corp, Pennsylvania
18. Zachary Garmoe, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Worcester County
19. Marcus Glomset, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Prince George’s County
20. Gabriella Graham-Glicksman, Irvine Nature Center, Baltimore County
21. Anna Haley, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Anne Arundel County
22. Nora Hamovit, The Nature Conservancy, Montgomery County
23. Caroline Harper, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Anne Arundel County
24. Humon Heidarian, Eco City Farms, Prince George’s County
25. Coalter Hollberg, Anne Arundel County Govt, Anne Arundel County
26. Sara Hughes, Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Resource Assessment Service, Allegany County
27. Christopher Jackson, Town of Forest Heights, Prince George’s County
28. Aaron Jackson, Blue Water Baltimore, Baltimore City
29. Morgan Jones, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Anne Arundel County
30. Suzanne Ketcham, Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore City
31. Gabriel Lindsay, Latin American Youth Center, Montgomery County
32. Eileen McMahon, Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Baltimore City

33. Thomas Moorman, Patterson Park Audubon Center, Baltimore City
34. Rebecca Murphy, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, Talbot County
35. Leah Nugent, Chesapeake Center for Youth Development, Baltimore City
36. Yashvanth Pavuluri, City of Frederick, Frederick County
37. Lauren Roswall, American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County
38. Lilian Schneider, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anne Arundel County
39. Blake Steiner, Adkins Arboretum, Caroline County
40. Jennifer Tam, Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Maryland Biological Stream Survey, Anne Arundel County
41. Gabrielle Troutman, Potomac Conservancy, Montgomery County
42. Kaitlin Urbanski, Sultana Projects, Kent County

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by the Maryland General Assembly dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's grantees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for fourteen years: 92 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

For more information on the program and for detailed descriptions on the program participants and their activities for the year, email evalentine@cbtrust.org.