



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2026

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Leeanna Duong, 410-974-2941 ext. 167, lduong@cbtrust.org

Over 80 New Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Members Dive into a Year of Service

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Bay Trust), along with partners State of Maryland, Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, BGE, and Constellation, proudly introduce a new class of 83 members to the Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Program, in partnership with the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option (the Corps), to work on natural resources issues across Maryland. Today, the incoming class was introduced to their host organizations to learn more about their job responsibilities for the upcoming year.

The Corps, administered by the Bay Trust in collaboration with DSCI, empowers young people to serve their communities and gain real-world professional skills through a 12-month stipend-supported term of service. Corps members are matched with host organizations and receive firsthand training on a wide variety of topics in the realms of climate, energy, watershed restoration, agriculture, forestry, and education.

“The strength of the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps is written in its results: a cleaner bay, a healthy state, and dozens of young people heading into meaningful careers – 40% of our members are hired by the organizations they serve, and 90% of graduates go on to full-time employment,” said **Jonny Dorsey, Maryland Secretary of Service and Civic Innovation**. “By investing in young people today, we’re building the next generation of environmental leaders and a stronger Maryland for generations to come.”

The Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2010, expanded through the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, and renamed in a bill sponsored by retiring Senator Bryan Simonaire in 2025 to honor the late Senate President Mike Miller, who originally crafted the idea with his team. In 2024, the Bay Trust partnered with DSCI to further expand service offerings for young adults to advance climate solutions, conservation, and community resilience across the state.

Today, more than 560 alumni of the Corps have become leaders in the environmental movement as well as engaged individuals in other fields bringing a stewardship ethic to their communities. A co-benefit: Many of them are hired by their host organizations following their year of service because their hosts find them so valuable, expanding the organizations’ capacity.

“There is a great need in Maryland and around the nation for skilled leaders in conservation and resilience management as we confront challenges ranging from climate change to the spread of invasive species,” said **Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Josh Kurtz**. “The

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps is preparing this next generation of environmental stewards while delivering lasting benefits for our waterways, public lands, and communities.”

During their terms of service, Corps participants collaborate directly with their host organizations to gain valuable on-the-job experience as they work to advance environmental conservation, K-12 education, sustainable agriculture practices, clean and renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency programs and other climate resiliency goals, climate adaptation activities specifically in communities disproportionately affected by climate impacts, and much more. In addition to this real-world experience, Corps members receive professional development and service-learning opportunities including grant writing and project management.

“BGE is proud of our continued partnership with the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps and recognize this next generation of environmental leaders is helping to strengthen communities across Maryland,” said **Valencia McClure, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs for BGE**, which has been supporting the program since its inception in 2010. “Investing in young people today builds a stronger workforce, advances sustainability, and creates lasting future benefits for Maryland.”

Funds for the Corps are provided by the State of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Trust (supported by the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays vehicle license plate program (the “bay plate”), a state income tax checkoff, and other sources), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation, BGE and Constellation.

“The members of the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps are doing important, hands-on work to protect Maryland’s natural resources while building the skills to become the state’s next generation of environmental leaders,” said **David Dardis, senior executive vice president and chief external affairs and growth officer, Constellation**. “Investing in this type of initiative reflects the purpose of Constellation’s CLEAN Environment Award grants: Supporting local nonprofit efforts that create cleaner, healthier communities.”

The 2026-27 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps participants will serve this year in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Caroline County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Harford County, Howard County, Kent County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Saint Mary’s County, Talbot County, Washington County, and Wicomico County.

“The Corps demonstrates the power of investing in people,” said **Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust**. “By preparing emerging leaders with hands-on experience and a passion for service, the Corps is building a stronger workforce and healthier communities across Maryland. The future of our natural resources depends on people ready to protect them.”

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps

Corps Members | 2026-2027



Elissa Frifer

Accokeek Foundation

Accokeek, Prince George's County

Elissa is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a minor in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation. She is passionate about sustainability, environmental policy, and finding practical solutions to climate and conservation challenges. For her Corps term, Elissa will be joining the Accokeek Foundation as a Natural Resources Coordinator.



Matt Shingleton

Adkins Arboretum

Ridgely, Caroline County

Matt is originally from Bethesda, MD, and recently graduated from Guilford College with a degree in Environmental Studies. He is passionate about environmental education and marine conservation and enjoys spending time on or near the water, whether that's sailing on the Chesapeake Bay, SCUBA diving, or exploring marine ecosystems. Matt will be spending his Corps term with Adkins Arboretum serving as a Land Stewardship Assistant.



Zara Freeland

AfriThrive

Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Zara is from Prince George's County and recently graduated from Towson University where she earned a degree in Molecular Biology. Zara is excited to learn more about environmental stewardship this year while serving as an Assistant Farm Manager with AfriThrive.



Jada Davis

Alice Ferguson Foundation

Accokeek, Prince George's County

Jada is from Accokeek, MD, and is a recent graduate of Harcum College in Philadelphia where she earned an associate's degree in Animal Center Management. In the future, Jada hopes to work at a zoo or training dogs. For her Corps term, Jada will be serving as an Environmental Educator and Coordinator with the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Anna Hyde

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Anna is from Cambridge, MD, and recently graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a B.A. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Anna has been interested in sustainable agriculture for some time, so is excited to expand her knowledge during her Corps term as an Agriculture & Forestry Assistant with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.



Fiona Kortyna

American Chestnut Land Trust

Prince Frederick, Calvert County

Fiona is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and recently graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland where she earned a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Political Science. Fiona is looking forward to returning to southern Maryland for her Corps term and serving as a Community Engagement & Education Coordinator with American Chestnut Land Trust.



Lindsay Fisher

American Chestnut Land Trust

Prince Frederick, Calvery County

Lindsay grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is a recent graduate from the College of William & Mary where she earned a bachelor's degree in Integrative Conservation. Lindsay is looking forward to a Corps year serving as a Farm Manager with American Chestnut Land Trust and getting to know her fellow Corps Members.



Samihah Keita

Anacostia Riverkeeper

Montgomery County

Samihah is originally from Washington D.C, but has lived in Maryland for the past six years where she earned an associate's degree in Social Sciences from Howard Community College. She's always had an admiration for our Earth and wanted to explore it, take care of it, and work in tandem with it so is looking forward to a Corps term as an Outreach Coordinator with Anacostia Riverkeeper.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



D'Asia Jones

Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

D'Asia is from Annapolis, MD and loves being surrounded by the bay and nature! She earned a degree in Environmental Science at a school in Upstate NY while playing basketball. She is excited to start her Corps term and get to know her fellow Corps Members while serving as a Climate and Education Assistant with the Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park.



Olivia Fey

Anne Arundel Community College

Arnold, Anne Arundel County

Olivia is from Severna Park, MD, and graduated from Swarthmore College where she majored in Environmental Science and minored in Global Studies. She spent this summer in Maine working at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge on salt marsh restoration and monitoring, but is excited to be back in the Chesapeake Region serving as a Environmental Center Technician with Anne Arundel Community College this year.



Evan Cooley

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Lothian, Anne Arundel County

Evan lives in Gaithersburg, MD, and recently graduated from Washington College with a degree in Environmental Studies and minors in Anthropology and Chesapeake Bay Regional Studies. He hopes to one day work as a national or state park ranger. Evan will be spending his Corps term serving as a Naturalist with Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.



Joe Thiringer

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks, Mayo Beach

Edgewater, Anne Arundel County

Joe is originally from Vienna, Virginia, and is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University where they earned a degree in Biology. In their free time, Joe enjoys hiking, herping, drawing, and gaming. They will be spending their Corps term serving as a Conservation and Education Coordinator with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks at Mayo Beach.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Emily Price

Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center

Millersville, Anne Arundel County

Emily was born and raised on Kent Island, MD, which has given her a strong passion for the Bay. She earned her associate's degree in Environmental Science at Anne Arundel Community College as well as a Restoration Ecology Certificate and hopes to one day become a restoration ecologist/ technician. Emily is excited for a Corps term as an Outdoor Educator with Arlington Echo Center for Outdoor Education.



Nuelle Johnson

Anne Arundel County Government

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Nuelle was born and raised in Maryland and is a graduate of the University of Maryland where she earned a bachelor's in Environmental Science and Technology. She is continuing her education, seeking a master's in Environmental Science and Policy at Johns Hopkins University. Nuelle will be spending her Corps term with the Anne Arundel County Government as an Environmental Scientist Assistant in their Department of Public Works.



Cara Kamoie

Arundel Rivers Federation

Edgewater, Anne Arundel County

Cara is from Annapolis, MD, and is a recent graduate of Dickinson College with a degree in Environmental Science. Her undergraduate work was focused on urban and nature forestry, as well as the legacy impacts of human industry. Cara is excited to be spending her Corps term serving as an Engagement and Restoration Assistant with Arundel Rivers Federation.



Gabriela Haugh

Bikemore

Baltimore City

Bri is from Baltimore County and graduated from Salisbury University with a degree in Environmental Studies with an Earth Sciences minor. In her free time she enjoys reading, cooking, baking, and playing video games. Bri is excited to be spending her Corps term serving as a Transit Organizer with Bikemore.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



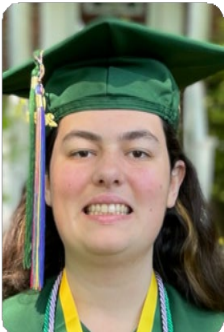
Russell Scherr
Blue Water Baltimore
Baltimore City

Russell has lived in Maryland for most of his life and recently graduated from Towson University where they earned a degree in Environmental Studies. For the past few years Russell has been engaged in a variety of season roles and service positions with AmeriCorps. For their Corps term, Russell will be a Community Engagement and Education Coordinator with Blue Water Baltimore.



Ben Dorman
Center for Watershed Protection
Fulton, Howard County

Ben is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a bachelor's in Environmental Science and Geography. Having spent much of his time over the past four years studying ecology and stream dynamics in urban areas, Ben is excited to continue similar research as a Watershed and Stormwater Assistant for his Corps term with the Center for Watershed Protection.



Isabella Majarowitz
Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming
Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Isabella is from Silver Spring, MD, and recently graduated from George Mason University with a B.A in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Social Justice & Human Rights and a minor in Sustainability Studies. They are passionate about environmental and food justice and are excited to be putting their passion to work while spending a Corps term as an Assistant Farm Manager with the Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming.



Rachel Uwimana
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Rachel is from Howard County, MD, and is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, where she earned a B.S in Environmental Science and Policy. In her free time, Rachel enjoys hiking, yoga, and reading. During her Corps term, Rachel will be serving as an Oyster Restoration Assistant with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Zoe Brookbank

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St. Michaels, Talbot County

Zoe is from St. Mary's County, MD, and a graduate of Washington College where they earned a B.S in Environmental Science and minors in Museum, Field & Community Education and Chesapeake Regional Studies. They come to the Corps after an experience working at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and are looking forward to a Corps term serving as an Educator with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.



Nick Nishioka

Chesapeake Conservancy

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Nick is from Arnold, MD, and recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Environmental Science and Technology, concentrating in Natural Resource Management. He is passionate about conservation and protecting natural resources, and is looking forward to gaining hands-on experience while serving as a Partnership Coordinator with the Chesapeake Conservancy this year.



Jasper Ferncrombie

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Jasper is from Washington D.C, and graduated from Swarthmore College with a major in Civil Engineering and a minor in Philosophy. In his free time, Jasper enjoys playing board games, running, and playing ultimate frisbee. Jasper is looking forward to a Corps term as a Programs & Engagement Associate with the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council.



Rae Stusen

City of Annapolis

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Rae Stusen was born and raised in Gilbert, Arizona, and graduated from Arizona State University where they earned a B.S of Environmental Science. Rae comes to the Corps from the Arizona Department of Water Resources where they worked as a level 2 Investigator in the Adjudications division. This year, Rae will be serving as a Climate Coordinator with the City of Annapolis.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Isabel Konopka

City of Bowie

Bowie, Prince George's County

Isabel is from Niagara Falls, New York, and recently graduated from SUNY ESF where she earned a B.S in Environmental Biology with a minor in Environmental Policy & Communication. For her Corps year, Isabel will be working with the City of Bowie's Department of Planning & Sustainability to support community-based climate action as a Climate & Sustainability Coordinator.



Meg Jarvis

Columbia Association

Columbia, Howard County

Originally from Silver Spring, MD, Meg graduated with a degree in Ecology and Conservation from the University of Brighton (in England) before returning to the watershed. Meg is glad to be back in Maryland and excited to work with the ecosystems they grew up around. For their Corps term, Meg will be serving as a Biological Science Technician with the Columbia Association.



Olivia Hawkins

Community Native Planting Project

Bladensburg, Prince George's County

From Prince George's County, MD, Olivia is a graduate of Salisbury University where she earned a B.A in Environmental Studies with minors in Urban Planning and Psychology. In her free time, she loves doing anything outdoors, but especially hiking, swimming, watching sunsets, and taking her dog on walks. For her Corps term, Olivia will be serving as a Stewardship & Program Coordinator with the Community Native Planting Project.



Mia Dyer

Cylburn Arboretum Friends

Baltimore City

Mia is from Baltimore and a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she earned a degree in Environmental Studies. Mia was a camp counselor at a small nature camp in WV for many summers and that's where she decided she wanted to keep working outdoors forever. For Mia's Corps term, she will be serving as an Education & Gardens Assistant with Cylburn Arboretum Friends.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Sofia Rodriguez

Echo Hill Outdoor School

Worton, Kent County

Sofia has lived in Maryland her whole life and graduated from Goucher College with a B.A in Environmental Studies and a minor in Spanish. She has a passion for outdoor education and environmental stewardship so is looking forward to a Corps term gaining experience with Echo Hill Outdoor School as an Outdoor Educator.



Jevon Smalls

Fair Hill Environmental Center

Elkton, Cecil County

Jevon is a graduate of Washington College where he earned a B.S in Environmental Science and Experimental Psychology with a Biology minor and is currently working towards a master's in Environmental Biology at Hood College. Jevon is excited to gain more experience in animal handling and environmental education while serving as a Community Engagement Associate at Fair Hill Environmental Center.



Mairin Conrad

Ferry Cove Shellfish

Sherwood, Talbot County

Mairin is originally from Durham, North Carolina and recently graduated from the University of Richmond where she earned a B.S in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography. Mairin is excited to be spending her Corps term as a Technician with Ferry Cove Shellfish learning more about sustainable aquaculture.



Trey Vendryes

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Towson, Baltimore County

Trey is originally from Maryland and a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where he earned a B.S in Environmental Science and a certification in GIS. Trey is passionate about conservation, restoration, and finding ways to connect people with the outdoors so is looking forward to a Corps term as a Water Conservation & Ecological Restoration Assistant with Gunpowder Valley Conservancy.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Crosby Wilkins

Housing Initiative Partnership

Hyattsville, Prince George's County

Crosby is originally from New Jersey and comes to the Corps program after completing a bachelor's in Environmental Science and German Studies at Dickinson College. In his free time, Crosby loves to do anything outside, play board games and D&D, read, and listen to music. He is excited to be spending his Corps term as an Energy Outreach Coordinator with Housing Initiative Partnership.



Allie Nowotny

Howard County Conservancy

Woodstock, Howard County

Allie is originally from Long Island, NY and recently graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree in Earth Science. In their free time, Allie loves to make art, listen to music, and hang out with their friends and cat. They also have a bit of a green thumb and a passion for pollinator plants and insects. They are excited for a Corps term as a Climate Change Educator with Howard County Conservancy.



Nailah Washington

Howard County Government, Department of Recreation & Parks

Columbia, Howard County

Nailah is Maryland born and raised and recently graduated from Towson University where she earned a B.S in Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Biology. Nailah has always loved nature and grew up hiking, fishing, and crabbing on the Chesapeake Bay so is looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Natural Resources Assistant with the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks.



Camille Lorillou

Howard County Government, Office of Community Sustainability

Ellicott City, Howard County

Camille is originally from France but has lived in Bethesda, MD, and Montreal, QC, for the past decade. She recently graduated from McGill University with a B.A in Environment and Development and has been working as a Food Loss and Waste intern for the summer. For her Corps term, Camille will be joining the Howard County Office of Community Sustainability as an Energy & Climate Assistant.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Natalie Anderson

Howard County Government, Office of Community Sustainability

Ellicott City, Howard County

Natalie is from Mount Airy, MD, and is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland where she earned a degree in Environmental Science and played on the women's soccer team. She is passionate about soil chemistry, ecological restoration, and GIS mapping. For her Corps term, Natalie will be serving as a Climate Assistant with the Howard County Government's Office of Community Sustainability.

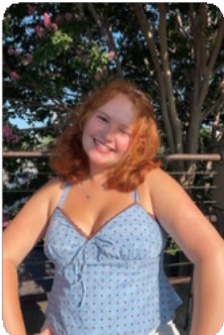


Hugo Pochan

Indian Creek School

Crownsville, Anne Arundel County

Hugo is originally from Landenberg, Pennsylvania, and recently graduated from Gettysburg College with a degree in music and environmental studies. Besides being outside, Hugo enjoys listening to and playing music of all sorts, reading, and drawing. He is looking forward to a Corps term serving as an Outdoor and Environmental Education Assistant with the Indian Creek School.



Sarah Swimmer

Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology

Baltimore City

Sarah is a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in Environmental Studies and is very interested in wildlife conservation and conservation as a tool for education. Sarah also recently worked with Parks & People in Baltimore and looks forward to continuing to build her skills as an environmental educator while serving as an Outreach Coordinator with IMET for her Corps term.



Emmett Smith

Irvine Nature Center

Owings Mills, Baltimore County

Emmett grew up in Baltimore before leaving to pursue a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont. He is passionate about environmental education and the use of place-based education to teach science so is looking forward to a Corps term serving as an Environmental Educator & Naturalist with Irvine Nature Center.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Cassia Johnson

Joe's Movement Emporium

Mount Rainier, Prince George's County

Cassia is originally from Indiana and spent several years living in another country before moving back to Prince George's County to be with family. She recently earned her CompTIA A+ certification and enjoys learning new things, especially anything related to sustainability, ethical technology, and finances. Cassia is looking forward to a Corps term serving as an Environment and Arts Outreach Lead with Joe's Movement Emporium.



Yessenia Ayala

Joy Grows

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Yassy is from Edgewood, Maryland, and enjoys reading, writing, thrifting, exploring new restaurants, and watching documentaries. She loves the environment and wants to find more ways she can incorporate sustainability into her life so is looking forward to a Corps term where she will be serving as a Youth Climate Stewardship Coordinator with Joy Grows.



Ashley Alvarado

Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore

Salisbury, Wicomico County

Ashley is originally from Silver Spring, MD, but now lives in Salisbury where she recently graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design. In her free time, Ashley enjoys painting, drawing, and sewing and is looking forward to spending her Corps term as an Earth Engagement Educator with Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore.



Cathy Apolot

Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm at St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County

Cathy is from Lincoln, Nebraska, and graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois with a B.A in Biology /Environmental Policy & Culture. Cathy enjoys trying new recipes, reading, and getting out into nature. Cathy is excited for a Corps term serving as a Regenerative Agriculture Assistant with the Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Andrew Endler

Little Portion Farm

Ellicott City, Howard County

Andrew is from Marriottsville, MD, and recently graduated from Fusion Global Academy High School. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, leather crafting, playing the guitar, going to concerts, traveling, eating at great restaurants and playing with his Schnauzer, Doug. Andrew is excited to spend this year continuing to learn about regenerative farming while serving as a Farming Assistant at Little Portion Farm.



Claudia Lazelle

Loyola University Maryland

Baltimore City

Claudia is a recent graduate of Susquehanna University where she earned degrees in Political Science and Environmental Studies with minors in Ecology and Women and Gender Studies and worked in the Sustainability Office. They are excited to learn more about sustainability in higher education while serving as a Sustainability Outreach & Grounds Coordinator with Loyola University Maryland.



Erin Tomassoni

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Erin grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and has always had a passion for bay conservation. A graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in Environmental Studies, Erin comes to the Corps from a professional role working in horticulture and plant cultivation. For her Corps term, Erin will be serving as an SAV Outreach and Engagement Assistant with Maryland Department of Natural Resources on their SAV Restoration team.



Lydia Clark

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Lydia is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland where she earned a B.A. in Environmental Science and is currently working to complete her master's degree in Marine Science at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. Lydia will be joining the Maryland Biological Stream Survey division of DNR in Annapolis where she will serve as a Natural Resources Technician.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Kaitlyn Cooper

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Watershed & Climate Services

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Kaitlyn is originally from Caroline County, Virginia, but has family from Baltimore so is familiar with the area. She is excited to contribute to environmental efforts in Maryland while serving as a Conservation Education Resource Specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the Watershed and Climate Services division. In her free time, Kaitlyn enjoys fishing, pilates, DJ sets, and a good charcuterie board.



Olufela Odutoye

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Watershed & Climate Services

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Olu is from Anne Arundel County, MD, and is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where he earned a degree in Geography & Environmental Systems and a certificate in GIS. Olu will be joining the Watershed and Climate Services division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources where he will serve as a Climate Education and Stewardship Impact Leader.



Fengying Guo

Maryland Department of the Environment

Baltimore City

Fengying recently earned a degree in Environmental Science & Policy and considers Massachusetts her second hometown. She is passionate about ecological restoration and environmental public health and is really excited to learn how GIS can be leveraged in these areas. For her Corps term, Fengying will be serving as a Nonpoint Source & Community Engagement Specialist with Maryland Department of the Environment in their Nonpoint Source Program.



Riya Dhar

Maryland Department of the Environment

Baltimore City

Riya is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park where she earned a B.A in Public Policy and Columbia University where she earned an M.S in Sustainability Management. Riya now lives in Howard County, MD and enjoys making art and watching movies. For her Corps term, Riya will be serving as a Climate Change Coordinator with Maryland Department of the Environment's Climate Change Program.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Andrea Bailey

Maryland Port Administration

Baltimore City

Andrea is from Brooklyn, NY, but has been living in Baltimore for the past several years and graduated from Goucher College with a B.A in Environmental Studies and Professional Writing & Rhetoric. In her free time, she enjoys getting outside for hikes and recently got into birding & bug identification. Andrea is looking forward to a Corps term serving as an Environmental Programs & Outreach Assistant with the Maryland Port Administration.



Zoe Warren

Maryland Energy Administration

Baltimore City

Zoe was born and raised in Rockville but moved to Seattle, Washington, for college where she attended the University of Washington and graduated with a B.A in Environmental Studies and a minor in Law, Societies, and Justice. For her Corps year, Zoe will be serving as a Building Decarbonization Outreach & Engagement Coordinator with the Maryland Energy Administration.



Nina Jackson

Minorities in Aquaculture

Easton, Talbot County

Nina is pursuing a master's in Applied Mathematics at Towson University and loves reading, photography, and movies. They are excited to spend their Corps term building their science communication skills and learning how applied mathematics connects with marine science while serving as a Communications Coordinator with Minorities in Aquaculture.



Ella Voos

Montessori School of Westminster

Westminster, Carroll County

Ella is from Baltimore, MD and recently graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland where she earned a B.A in Environmental Studies and Spanish and a minor in Anthropology. Ella is very interested in environmental education and getting people connected with nature so is looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Environmental Education Assistant with the Montessori School of Westminster.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Joshua Brown

National Aquarium

Easton, Talbot County

Josh is born and raised in Maryland and a graduate of Stevenson University where he earned a degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Theatre and Media Performance. Josh is interested in environmental education, animal behavior, and community outreach and looks forward to serving as a Community-based Habitat Restoration Assistant during his Corps term with the National Aquarium.



Madison Niffenegger

National Wildlife Federation

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Madison was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona and completed dual undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and Geography at the University of Arizona in Tucson. She now lives in Baltimore where she is pursuing a Masters in Environmental Sciences & Policy at Johns Hopkins University. This Corps term Madison will be serving as a Community Conservation Specialist with the National Wildlife Federation.



Rosalie Rush

Nature Forward

Chevy Chase, Montgomery County

Rosalie is originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and recently moved to Maryland after graduating from Oregon State University where she earned a bachelor's in environmental sciences with minors in GIS and Botany. Rosalie enjoys going on hikes where she can look at interesting plants and is looking forward to a Corps term as a Habitat Restoration & Community Engagement Assistant with Nature Forward.



Keny Shah

Nepali American Cultural Center of Baltimore

Glen Arm, Baltimore County

Keny is a graduate of Towson University where she earned a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. Service has always been a big part of who Keny is. She's been involved in her community from a young age and enjoys bringing people together through conversation, events, and service. Keny is spending her Corps year serving as a Community Outreach Specialist at the Nepali American Cultural Center (NACC) / Hindu Buddha Temple.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Cora Dieguez

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Cora is from Annapolis and a recent graduate of Coastal Carolina University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Sustainability and Coastal Resilience with a minor in Marine Science. In her free time, Cora enjoys SCUBA diving, hiking, kayaking, paddleboarding, and spending time outdoors. She is excited to be spending her Corps term serving as an Observation Program Assistant with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.



Colin Brown

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Colin is from Ellicott City, MD, and is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park where he earned a degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science. As part of his studies, Colin completed a senior research project that analyzed the financial benefits of environmental data. Colin is excited to be spending his Corps term serving as a Research and Outreach Assistant with the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.



Jameelah Destry

NorthBay Education

North East, Cecil County

Jameelah is originally from Washington D.C, but grew up in Maryland and recently earned her bachelor's degree in biology with minors in environmental science and photography from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her long-term career goal is to become a marine ecologist incorporating her photography into her research. Jameelah is looking forward to a Corps term as an Environmental Educator with NorthBay Education.



Isobel Hamilton

Oyster Recovery Partnership

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Isobel is a recent graduate of Smith College in Massachusetts where she earned a B.A in Environmental Geosciences. She loves spending time outdoors and bringing a book of crosswords everywhere she goes. Isobel is happy to be back in Maryland for her Corps term where she will be serving as a Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator with the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Ian Smith

Potomac Conservancy

Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Ian is from Baltimore City and is a recent graduate of Tulane University where he earned a bachelor's in Environmental Studies and Political Science. In his free time Ian enjoys being outdoors, exercising, video games, and hydroponics. Ian is looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Communications and Community Engagement Associate with the Potomac Conservancy.



Jas Scott

Prince George's County Public Schools, William S. Schmidt Center for Outdoor Education

Brandywine, Prince George's County

Jas is from Accokeek, MD, and is a graduate of Towson University where they earned their B.S in Psychology. Jas is interested in all types of crafting and runs a small business called Craft Chaos. Jas is looking forward to a Corps term where they will be serving as an Environmental Literacy Assistant with Prince George's County Public School's William S. Schmidt Center for Outdoor Education.



Daniel Vasquez

Rock Creek Conservancy

Bethesda, Montgomery County

Daniel is from Rockville, MD, and is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park where he earned a degree in Environmental Science, focusing on marine and coastal management. Daniel brings a background in youth environmental education to the Corps where he will serve as an Engagement & Restoration Coordinator with Rock Creek Conservancy.



Grace "Kirby"

Scenic Rivers Land Trust

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Kirby is a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland where they earned a degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Anthropology. They enjoy hiking, traveling, crafting, and just relaxing outside and are looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Land Stewardship and Community Engagement Coordinator with Scenic Rivers Land Trust.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Gwyneth Rhudy

Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum

Towson, Baltimore County

Gwyneth is from Fallston, MD, and is a recent graduate of Salisbury University where she earned a B.A in Environmental Studies with minors in Marine Science and Sociology. Gwyneth enjoys gardening and volunteered at SU's apiary. She is looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Preserve & Arboretum Assistant with Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum.



Khushi Patel

ShoreRivers

Easton, Talbot County

Khushi is originally from Salisbury, MD, and recently graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland where she earned a B.A in Environmental Studies. She's stoked to return home to the Shore for her Corps year with ShoreRivers and get to implement and continue to grow the skills she learned in college where serving as a Watershed Science and Education Coordinator.



Sadie Rozics

Susquehannock Wildlife Society

Darlington, Harford County

Sadie grew up in Baltimore County and recently graduated from the University of Aberdeen (in Scotland) with an undergraduate degree in Animal Behaviour. The past few months, she has been the Nicholas A. Rados Oyster Restoration and Research Intern at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Sadie is looking forward to a Corps term serving as a Wildlife Conservation Technician with the Susquehannock Wildlife Society.



Corinne Frederick

The 6th Branch

Baltimore City

Corinne is from Baltimore City and is a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland where she earned a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Public Policy Studies, with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She has a background in non-profit agriculture and a passion for cooking. For her Corps year, Corinne will be serving as a Education and Urban Agriculture Assistant with The 6th Branch.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Peyton Moncrieffe

The Low Impact Development Center

Beltsville, Prince George's County

Peyton recently moved back home to Bowie from Baltimore where she attended, and recently graduated from, Loyola University Maryland with a BBA in Sustainability Management and a B.A in Global Studies. Peyton is passionate about the environment, social equity, and building sustainable communities and is looking forward to a Corps term leveraging these passions as a Environmental Infrastructure Coordinator with the Low Impact Development Center.



Isabella Andrus

The Nature Conservancy

Rockville, Montgomery County

Izzy is from Portland, Oregon, but spent the past four years at the University of Richmond, where she recently graduated with a B.S in Environmental Studies and a minor in Anthropology. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, and thrifting and is excited to join The Nature Conservancy as an Ecological Restoration and Land Management Assistant for her Corps term of service.



Jeremy Mercado

Town of Edmonston

Hyattsville, Prince George's County

Jeremy is originally from Prince George's County but left to earn dual degrees in International Relations and Environmental Studies at Salisbury University on the Eastern Shore. He enjoys time spent outdoors and is looking forward to a Corps term serving as the Town of Edmonston's Environmental Program Manager.



Dylan Berardo

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Dylan is a graduate of the College of William and Mary where she earned a degree in Biology and Environment & Sustainability. She comes to the Corps after a year teaching AP Environmental Science in her hometown of Richmond, Virginia and is eager to go back to doing field work. Dylan is excited to start her Corps term as a Conservation Planning and Habitat Restoration Assistant with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027

Members



Asher Zack

University of Maryland, Environmental Finance Center

College Park, Prince George's County

Asher grew up in the Potomac / Rockville area of Maryland before leaving to study at The Ohio State University where he recently graduated with a degree in Natural Resource Management specializing in Administration and Management. For the upcoming Corps term, Asher will be serving as a Watershed Restoration and Climate Project Assistant with the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center.



Queen Cornish

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point Laboratory

Cambridge, Dorchester County

Queen is an environmental anthropologist with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Washington College. Their academic career is sprinkled with traditional ecological knowledge, applied ecology, art studio, and philosophy and they are looking forward to a Corps experience as a Community Engagement Associate with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Laboratory.



Meena Toolaabee

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Integration & Application Network

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Meena is from Baltimore County and has always known they wanted to work in the environmental space. She recently graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.S in Civil and Environmental Engineering. For her Corps term, Meena will be serving as a Climate Resilience Assistant with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in their Integration and Application Network division.



Alessandra Diric

University of Maryland, Sea Grant Extension

Cockeysville, Baltimore County

Alessandra was born and raised in the Philippines before relocating to Baltimore County. She recently graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park where she earned a B.S in Biology: Ecology & Evolution. Her prior experience has primarily been on the monitoring side of restoration so she's excited to be serving as a Watershed Protection and Restoration Coordinator with the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension this year.

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps | 2026-2027 Members



Assata Hanif

USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge

Laurel, Prince George's County

Assata is from Baltimore and recently graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a B.A in Environmental Studies and a minor in Sociology. She comes to the Corps from a position as an Environmental Educator with Parks & People Foundation. Assata will be spending her Corps term as a Visitor Services Outreach and Education Assistant with USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge.



Brooklyn Lindsey-Taylor

Washington College Center for Environment & Society

Chestertown, Kent County

Brooklyn was raised in Caroline County where their family has been for several generations but spent the last few years in Bellingham, Washington, where they attended Western Washington University's Fairhaven Interdisciplinary College and earned a B.A. in Regenerative Earthwork & Ecological Histories with a minor in Critical Disability Studies. Brooklyn will spend their Corps term as a Watershed Innovation and Climate Resilience Assistant with Washington College Center for Environment & Society.



Daniel Siegel

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Baltimore City

Originally from Bethesda, MD, Daniel went to school at Florida State University before returning to Maryland. He now lives in Baltimore and spent the last year working as an outdoor educator in Anne Arundel County. Daniel enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, biking, and reading. Daniel will spend his term serving as an Environmental Programs Coordinator with the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore



###

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area, from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. Every year, the Trust empowers about 400 groups by providing grants and technical assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Protect the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments such as Prince George's County. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: On average, 90 cents of every dollar goes to programs.