Chesapeake Bay Trust

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

FY27 All-Hands on Deck Contest

Information Session

Sydney Tolliver – stolliver@cbtrust.org

Agenda

All Hands-On Deck

- Program Overview
- Application Information
- Example Projects
- Reminders





All-Hands on Deck (AHD) Overview

All-Hands on Deck Contest

- An opportunity for Corps Member(s) interested in organizing and hosting a one-day project for other members of the cohort to apply for funding to support their idea
  - This could be connected to your capstone, your mini grant project, workplan, or some other opportunity with your Host Organization!
  - This can be a half-day service project with time for lunch and an afternoon group activity

- The AHD application process is **competitive** and any Corps Member interested in hosting is encouraged to submit a one-day project idea



All-Hands on Deck Application

- **Application Deadline:** February 12, 2027 4:00pm EST
- **Funding Requests:** Up to $2,500
- **Review Committee:** Corps Members who did not apply to the contest & Trust staff
- **Decision:** 5 Winners will be chosen and announced in early March
- **Information & Online Application:** https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/current/all-hands/



The Contest Information can be found on the Corps Webpage:

https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/current/all-hands/

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps

2026-2027

All-Hands on Deck Contest

About the Contest

Four of the mandatory training events this year will be proposed by YOU, the Corps Members!

You will be holding four dates on your calendars for these mandatory events, and you will be required to attend 3 of the 5 dates. All Corps Members are welcome to submit a one-day project idea that can be accomplished on at least one of those four dates (cost not to exceed $2,500) in which all Corps Members participate. The goals of the project should be to:

- Accomplish on-the-ground restoration, education, energy conservation, agricultural practices, forestry practices, and/or infrastructure work.
- Educate your fellow Corps Members on the practices/issues you are addressing.
- Engage the cohort of Corps Members in meaningful service.

Project Ideas

Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- Rain garden, wetland, tree installation, or other planting activities
- Energy Audit and conservation practices
- K-12 environmental education program assistance
- Nature place space or schoolyard habitat planting projects
- Trail maintenance
- Invasive removals
- Oyster restoration projects
- Water Quality or SAV Monitoring
- Community Engagement Projects



How to Apply

Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis until **February 12, 2027 at 4:00PM EST**

Online Application Form: https://chesapeakebaytrust.us-1.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp

Application Narrative: https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/current/all-hands/

Timeline: Proposals will be reviewed by a combination of Trust staff and a panel of objective Corps community members. Decisions will be released by March 15, 2027.

Of course this is not the only opportunity to engage other Corps Members in your projects! All Corps Members are encouraged to spend 4-10 days over the course of the year at site visits with fellow participants, helping with their project(s).

Narrative Questions

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps
2026-27 All-Hands on Deck Project Days

Narrative Questions

Complete all questions in this narrative template. As much as possible please also attach photos, maps, designs, letters of support or any other additional documentation. All planting projects must include a native plant list, site plan, project design, photo of the planting/restoration site and a detailed maintenance plan.

A. Project Logistics

1. Project Date
Choose one or more from the list of five options below (multiple dates preferred). Your project *must* be able to be conducted on one of these dates: ☐ April 30, 2027 ☐ May 21, 2027 ☐ June 4, 2027 ☐ June 25, 2027 ☐ July 16, 2027
2. Project Location(s)
At what location(s) will the project be held?

Download the *REQUIRED* Narrative Questions template on the Corps webpage

- https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/current/all-hands/

Make sure to respond to each question fully, thoughtfully, and with attention to detail

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps

2027 All-Hands on Deck Dates

APRIL 30, 2027	MAY 21, 2027	JUNE 3, 2027	JUNE 25, 2027	JULY 16, 2027
45 Members	45 Members	45 Members	45 Members	45 Members
$ Budget $2,500	$ Budget $2,500	$ Budget $2,500	$ Budget $2,500	$ Budget $2,500
Include Lunch	Include Lunch	Include Lunch	Include Lunch	Include Lunch

*If your organization has capacity to accommodate more that 45 members for a project day, please indicate that in your narrative responses (additional funding will be provided to accommodate additional Corps Members hosted)

Online Application Login

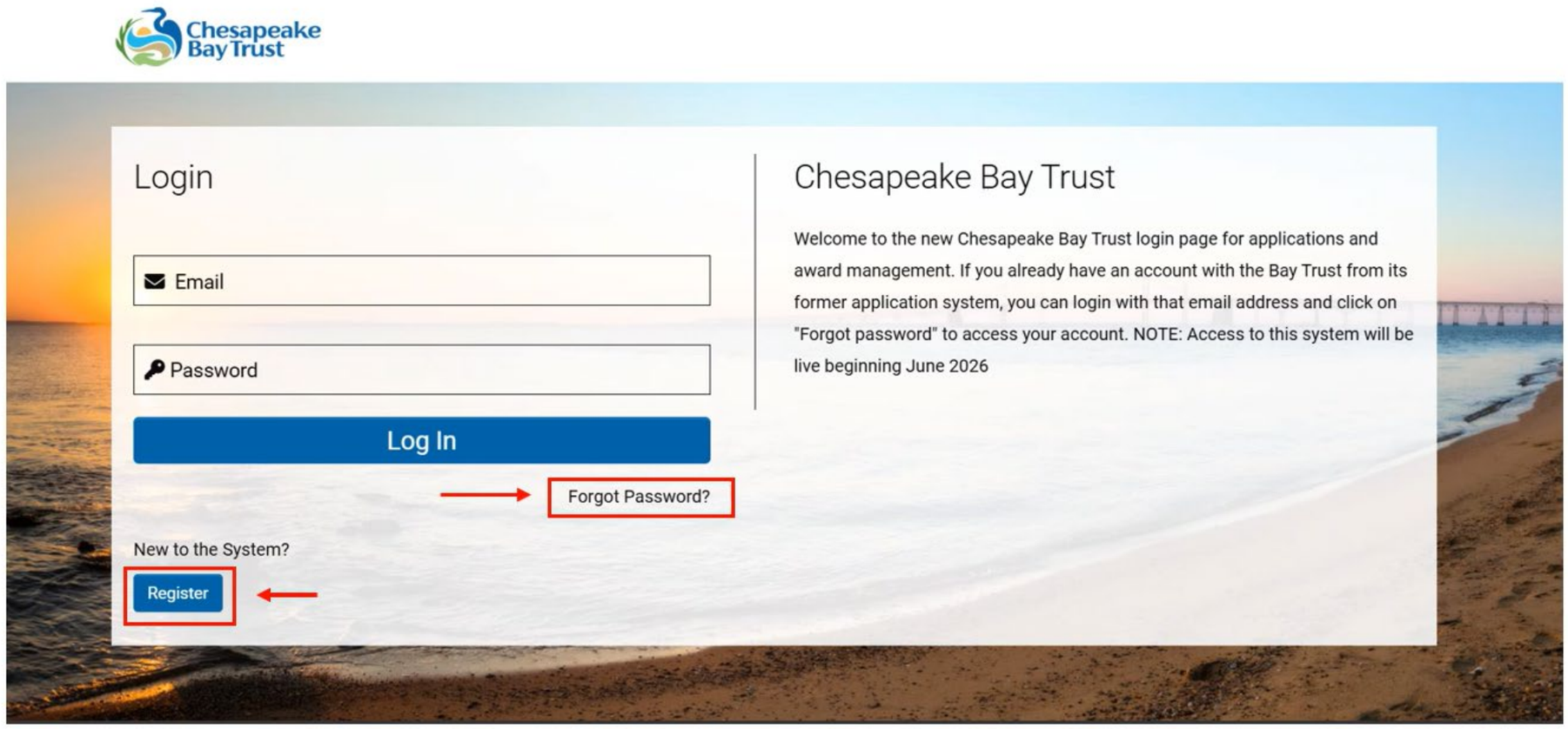
The Host Organization Mentor must start the application

1. Navigate to the Login Page: https://chesapeakebaytrust.us-1.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp

2. If you have not previously signed into SmartSimple click the “Forgot Password?” button to receive a password reset email & follow the instructions in the email to complete account set-up

3. If you have already signed into SmartSimple you can login as normal

Registration for the Online Application System



Open an Online Application

Once your Host Organization Mentor logs into their account

2. Search or scroll down to the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps “Mini Grant Program”

3. Click the “Apply Now” button

Funding Opportunities

1-22 of 22

Call

ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING MINI GRANT PROGRAM

Community Forestry

Apply Now

Anne Arundel County Community Tree Planting Mini Mini-Grant
Deadline: 06/18/2027 05:00 PM
Terms and Conditions: Download Here
RFP & Narrative:
AACo_Community_Tree_Planting_RFP_FY27.pdf, FY26-Narrative-Questions_MiniAA.docx

Call

CHARLES COUNTY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Community Forestry

Apply Now

Charles County Tree Planting Grants
Deadline: 06/30/2027 04:00 PM
Terms and Conditions: Download Here
RFP & Narrative:
Charles_County_Treee_Planting_RFP_FINAL.pdf, Required_Narrative_Questions_FINAL.pdf

Call

CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION & CLIMATE CORPS

All-Hands On Deck Contest

Apply Now

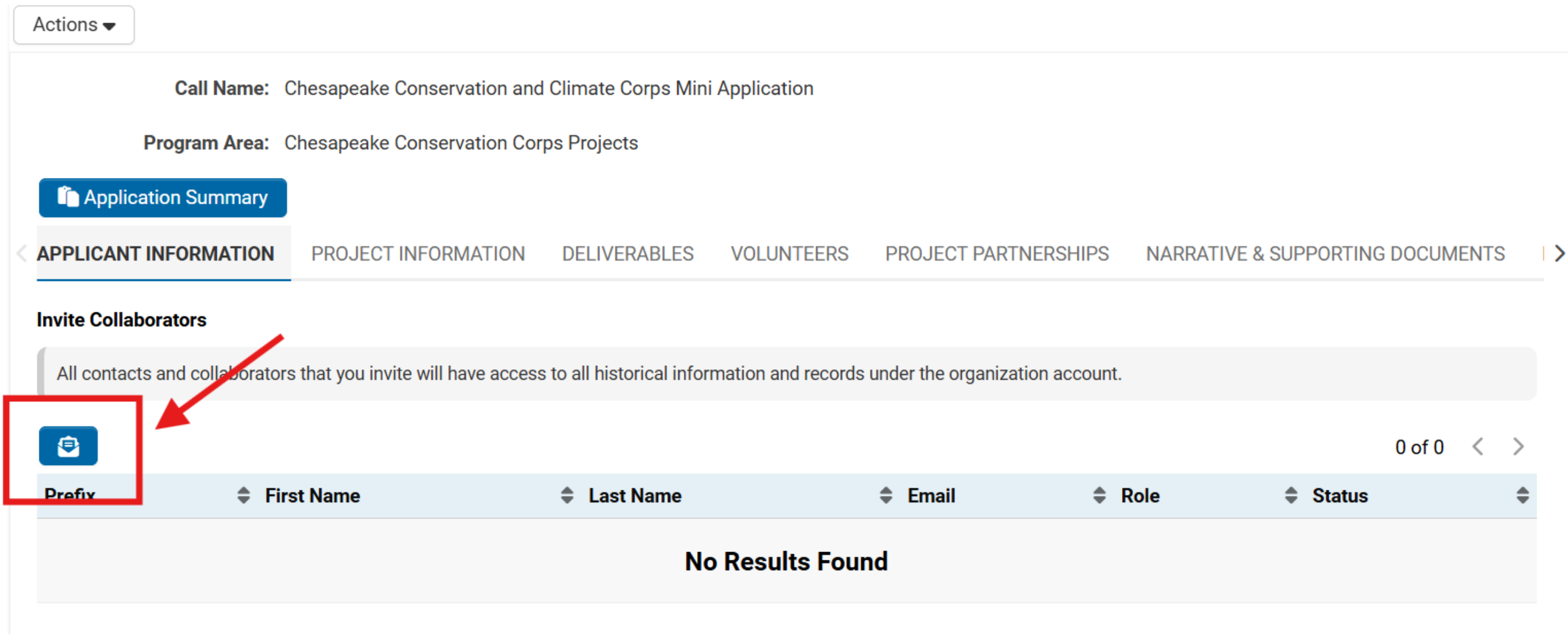
Chesapeake Conservation and Climate All-Hands Application
Basic
Deadline: 02/12/2027 05:00 PM
Terms and Conditions: Download Here
RFP & Narrative:

Open an Online Application

After the Host Organization Mentor starts the application and answers / submits the three eligibility questions

1. Invite your Corps Member as a “Collaborator” to give them editing access to the application without sharing the organization’s other information

2. Click the Mailbox icon

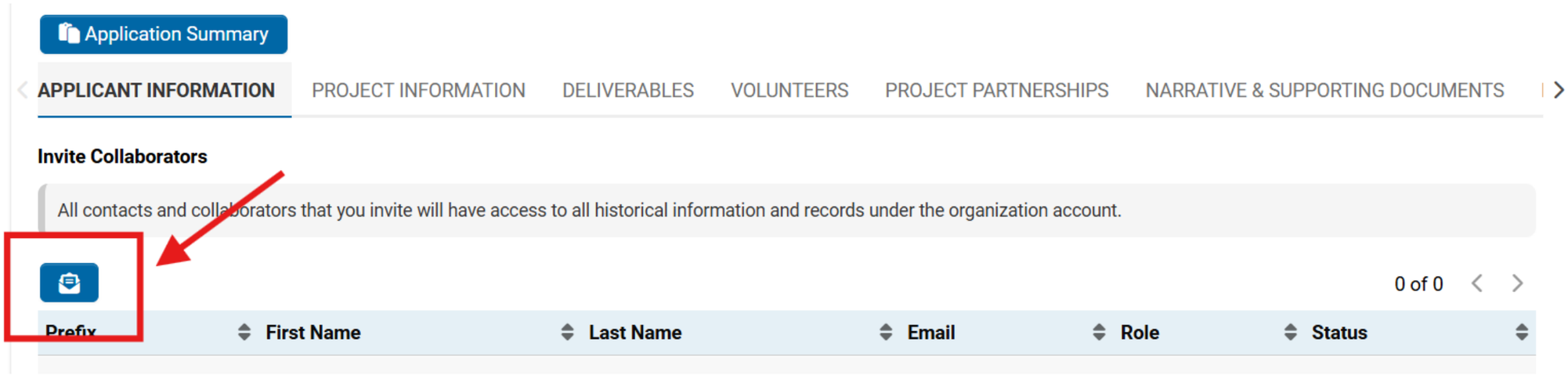


Open an Online Application

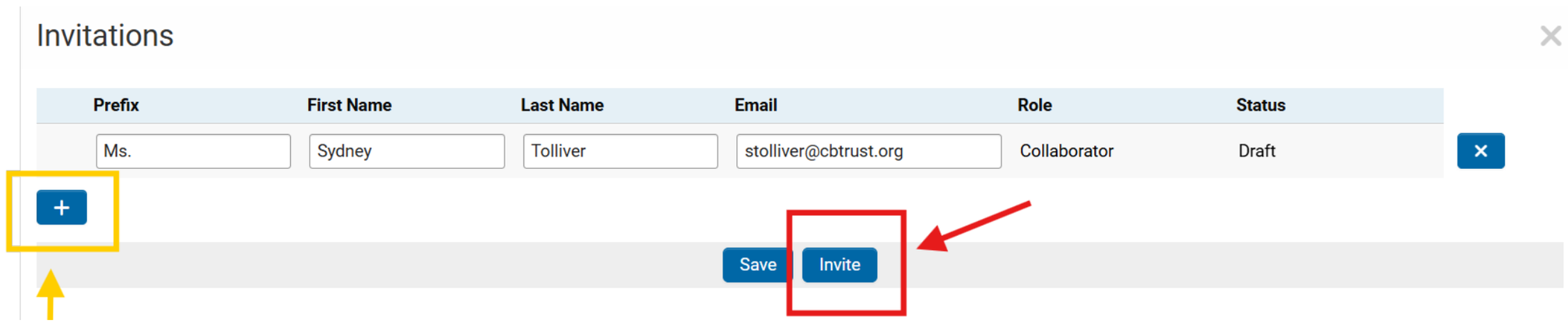
After the Host Organization Mentor starts the application and answers / submits the three eligibility questions

1. Invite your Corps Member as a “Collaborator” to give them editing access to the application without sharing the organization’s other information

2. Click the Mailbox icon



3. Click the plus, fill in the Corps Member’s contact information, and click invite



All-Hands on Deck Application

A Complete Application Includes:

- Narrative Question Responses
- Accurately filled out Budget (in the online application form)
- Supporting Documents

Narrative Questions can be found on Corps webpage:

https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/current/all-hands/







Example Project Types

Just some ideas but not an exhaustive list!

- Rain Gardens, Tree Plantings, etc.
- Energy Audit Installations
- Schoolyard Habitat Projects
- Nature Play Spaces
- Stream Clean-Ups
- Trail Maintenance
- Water Quality or SAV Monitoring
- Invasive Removals
- Sustainable Farming Field Day AgTivities
- Community Engagement Projects



2025 Example Project Day

Host Organization: American Chestnut Land Trust
Corps Member: Addie Brown & Devon Burke
Title: Land Stewardship at ACLT

Addie, Devon, and the ACLT team hosted the Corps cohort for a land stewardship-focused day providing a hands-on conservation and agriculture experience for all.

- Corps members spent the morning working together to conduct farm maintenance, invasive species removal, and trail maintenance

- In the afternoon Corps Members had the opportunity to go on a hike on ACLT's Holly Hill Trail or a guided canoe trip on local Parkers Creek





2026 Example Project Day

Host Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Corps Member: Em Wu
Title: Western Maryland Red Spruce Planting

Em and the TNC team hosted the Corps for a restoration and tree planting project at the Glades Preserve in Western Maryland. Corps Members contributed to the restoration of the Red Spruce-Northern Hardwood ecosystem in their historic range.

Provided opportunity to plant Red Spruce trees and reestablish a 30-acre buffer zone

The project emphasized hands-on involvement in historic restoration efforts.





Final Report

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps

All-Hands Project Day Final Report Form

Complete the final report narrative questions below. After completing your narrative questions, save this document on your computer, and then submit the document via your Chesapeake Bay Trust Online account. You can access your account using this link https://chesapeakebaytrust.us-1.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp.

---

1. Corps Member Information

Host Organization:	
Corps Member Name:	
AHD Event Date:	

2. Project Day Summary

a. Describe the event. Where was the project day held? What activities did participants engage in? Please submit digital images to supplement your written description.

b. Please describe who was engaged in the project day. How many Corps Members were in attendance? Who participated in the project day from your host organization?

Congratulations if you are selected!

If selected to host an AHD day you will be required to complete the final report document and submit a final budget between when your event is held and two weeks before the end of the Corps term

Final Reports submitted - July 30, 2027 at the latest!

Tips For Success

Carefully read the contest information – consider feasible projects, budgets, partners, opportunities for service, professional development, networking, and fun!

Think about which date(s) are feasible given your project and capacity of your Host Organization

Keep the application deadline in mind and submit early – late submissions are not accepted under ANY circumstances

Talk to your fellow Corps Members – are there potential opportunities to team up, ask what projects or opportunities are others interested in

Make sure in your Narrative Responses you are concise but detailed – remember it will be your peers reading your application and deciding which 5 projects are chosen!

Stay in contact! We want to help you be successful!

Make sure to save periodically and hit the “Submit Full Application Button”!

Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps

Questions?

Sydney Tolliver
stollliver@cbtrust.org
410-974-2941 ext. 137

Thank You!

For more information visit
cbtrust.org