



Chesapeake Conservation Corps Spearhead Named as Finalist for National Conservation Award

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(Annapolis, MD) January 10, 2017 – Tara Baker, Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Youth Programs Specialist, has been nominated for a national conservation award.

Tara Baker is one of 28 finalists to be the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps’ Champion of the Year. The group is a public-private partnership launched by the federal government in 2013 to employ young people and veterans through environmental projects. Baker directs the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program and K-12 Environmental Education programs and initiatives that focus on building capacity for the advancement of environmental literacy in schools and improving the green career pathway for youth in Maryland and the region. Tara works with teachers, school systems and organizations to implement projects and programs that infuse K-12 environmental education into school curricula, promote outdoor and experiential learning and support career and leadership development in youth. Thousands of area students are able to receive outdoor experiential learning and participate in environmental outdoor field trips as a result of her work. Baker is also a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program for the Chesapeake Region.

“Tara is the perfect person to be nominated for this award,” said Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “Her dedication, passion, and enthusiasm for her job are evident. The Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program is what it is today because of the difference Tara makes in the lives of the Corps members. The Program is training the next generation of leaders to make a difference in our communities and in our environment—one of the most important ways to invest in the Chesapeake region’s future.”

In 2010, the Maryland Legislature, under the leadership of Senate President Mike Miller, established the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program to match young people with organizations throughout the state for paid, one-year terms of service. The purpose of the Corps is to provide young adults the opportunities to gain career skills and become more engaged through meaningful community service, while supporting not-for-profit organizations in accomplishing the green components of their missions. Since 2010 the Corps Program has advanced the influx of young talent into the region with half of its alumni currently working on environmental issues within the Chesapeake Bay.

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps’ Champion of the Year award will be announced during the Corps Network National Conference on February 14, 2017.

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Chesapeake Conservation Corps, visit www.cbtrust.org. With picture requests, please email Jenny Kley at jkley@cbtrust.org.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded \$80 million in grants and engaged hundreds of thousands of individuals 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 Maryland 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 and state agencies. Fully 92 percent of the Trust’s expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.