



**Chesapeake
Conservation &
Climate Corps**

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

2026–27 Corps Member Information Session

February 11, 2026

Agenda



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- **About the Trust**
- **About the Program**
 - History & Current
 - Program Partnership
 - 2026-27 Program & Snapshot
- **About the 2026-27 Member Experience**
 - Project Opportunities
 - Mentorship
 - Professional Development
 - Benefits
 - Beyond the Corps
- **The Application**
 - Online Application Form
 - Narrative Questions
 - Matching Process
- **Meet the Members Panel**
- **Questions**



About the Trust

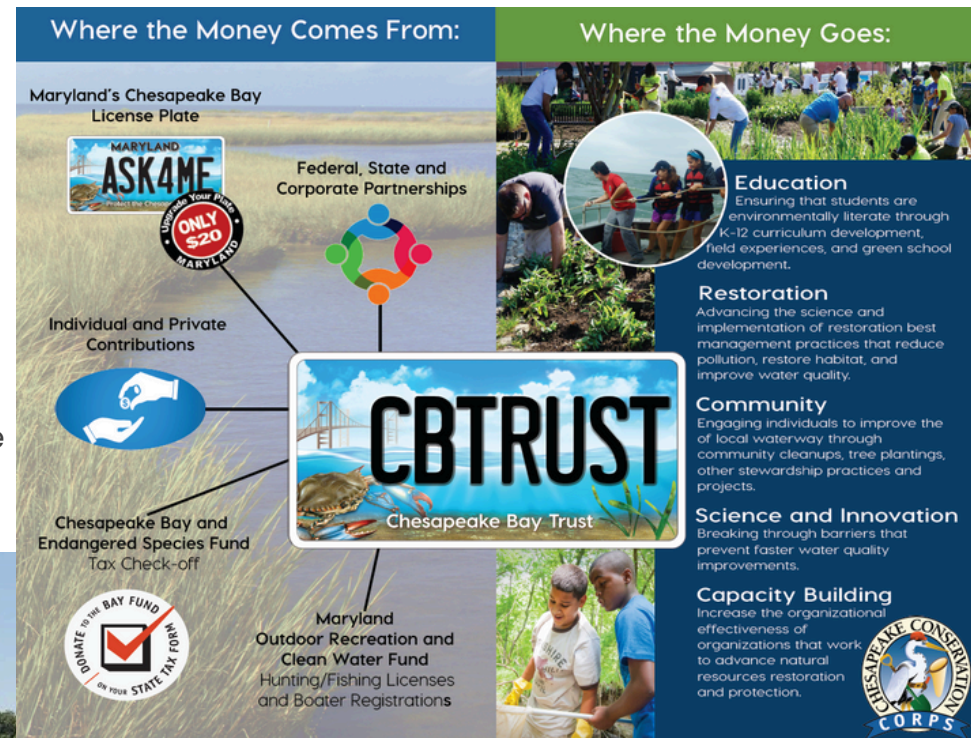


The Trust is a nonprofit grantmaking organization, first created in 1985 by the Maryland General Assembly, dedicated to improving the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Trust's goal is to increase stewardship through grant programs, special initiatives, and partnerships that support...

- 1) K-12 Environmental Education;
 - 2) On-the-ground watershed restoration;
 - 3) Community Engagement; and
- the underlying science of these three realms.

The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps is one of these special initiatives.



What is the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps?



History of the Program

- First established as the Chesapeake Conservation Corps by the Maryland Legislature in 2010 – this means 2026–27 will be our 17th Program Year!
- A Green Jobs Workforce Development Program
- A stipend-supported year of service from August to August for young adults placed at non-profits and government agencies (Host Organizations)



What is the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps?



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Where we are now

- 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act – Maryland General Assembly
 - Expanded the climate focus of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps
 - Increase in # of placements
 - Climate focused Host Organizations
 - Increase the impact in addressing the complex environmental issues of today
- Expansion of resources to address climate change, serve communities disproportionately affected by climate change, and prepare young adults for the demands and needs of the green workforce
- Change in name to Chesapeake Conservation **and Climate** Corps!



About the Program Partnership



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The Trust is proud to partner with the State of Maryland's Department of Service and Civic Innovation to implement the 2026-27 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps.



Maryland

Department of Service and Civic Innovation

About the Program Partnership



- In 2023 Governor Moore's SERVE Act initiated the Maryland Corps and Service Year Option
- The Trust is a proud partner of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program
- 2026-27 will be the 3rd year of the CCCC partnership with Maryland Corps/Service Year Option



The 2026–27 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps



Corps Member Eligibility

- Applicants must be:
 - Age 18–25 at the start of the program
 - A citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident, or have documentation confirming permission to work in the United States during the year-long term of service.
 - Available to serve full-time (approximately 40 hours per week) for the entire duration of the 12-month service term. Applicants with commitments that will overlap with their Corps requirement of serving 40 hours per week during business hours (typically 9:00–5:00pm, Monday – Friday) are not eligible for participation.
 - *For example, education (full or part-time), employment (full or part-time), service commitments, etc.*



The 2026–27 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps



The Year 17 Program

- Will run from August 18, 2026 to August 17, 2027
- The Trust anticipates placing ~80 Corps Members at Host Organizations supporting environmental projects across the state of Maryland



Corps Member Benefits

- An annual stipend of \$33,280 disbursed bimonthly
- Health Insurance if not covered by a private source, parent or guardian
- Members who reside in MD for the program duration & complete the service term are eligible for \$6,000 completion award
 - *If placed in the Corps, you must be available to serve in-person at the Host Organization in the state of MD for the duration of the program*



Program Snapshot



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- For the 2026-27 cohort we anticipate placing ~80 Corps Members
- Corps Members gain real-world experience serving full-time with an organization for a year of stipend-supported service
- Mentorship from a host organization mentor, Trust staff, and our contractual Corps Career Coach
- \$33,280 stipend (and \$6,000 completion award for Members residing in the state of MD for the duration of their Corps term)
- Health Insurance for those who are not covered by their own private source
- 10+ Trainings on various Professional Development Topics
- 1 Capstone Project
- 1 Mini Grant Opportunity
- 4 All Cohort Project Days
- 4-10 Networking Visits to fellow Corps Members/Host Organizations
- Funding to attend a regional Professional Conference or pursue a credential

Real-world Experience



A full-time experience with a Host Organization

- Full List of Potential Host Organizations: <https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/members/>
- Include local non-profits, large non-profits, municipal and State government, and Federal agencies



Host Organizations may suggest a wide range of activities in the fields of:

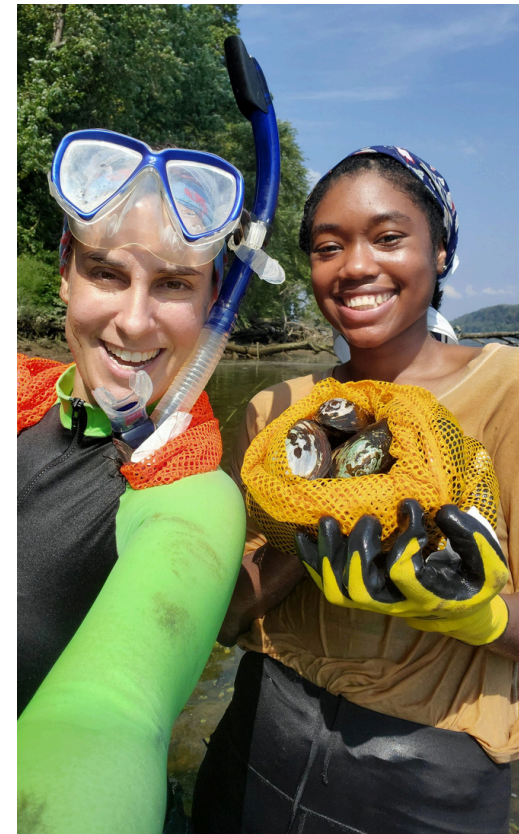
- Climate Change
- Environmental Restoration
- Energy Conservation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Forestry
- Community Engagement
- Pre-K-12 Environmental Education

Mentorship



Each Corps Member will have a Mentor assigned by their Host Organization that serves in two capacities:

- (1) Supervisor who helps to ensure the Corps Members' projects are progressing
- (2) Mentor who guides and supports the Corps Member with decisions and answering questions about:
 - What they want to do next
 - What connections and opportunities are available
 - What the Corps can do during their year to strengthen their resume for those opportunities



Capstone Project



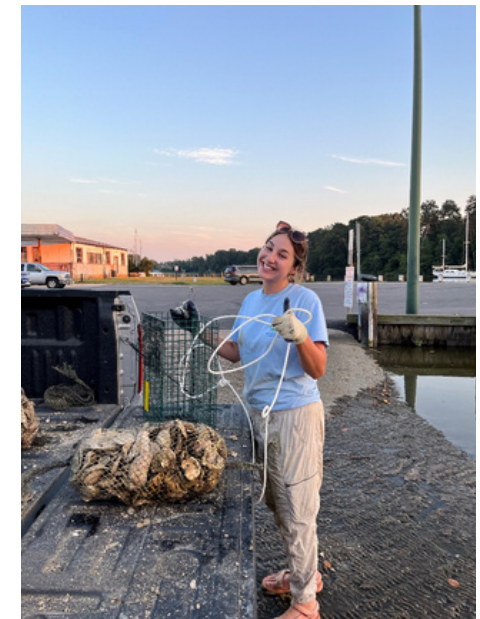
- As part of their 40 hour per week work plan, each Corps Member selects a project to lead during the year in the program (this is a required program element).
- Through leading their Capstone Project, the Corps Member gains experience and skills that aligns with what they want as their next step(s) after the program.
- Corps Alumni have used their Capstone Project to showcase their Corps experience and skills as part of graduate school and job applications.



Corps Mini Grant Opportunity



- The Trust offers a small grant opportunity for Corps Members to apply for funds from the Trust to support their Capstone Project or project they are leading with their Host Organization.
- Corps Members Gain:
 - Grant-writing experience
 - Budgeting experience
 - Additional funding to support efforts at their Host Organization



Corps Capstone & Mini Grant Example



Jamal Childs – Chesapeake Conservancy Environmental Protection Docuseries

This environmental protection project utilized a docuseries to showcase conservation success stories from Chesapeake Bay Watershed partners.



Success Stories - Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation

Unlisted

Chesapeake Conservancy
10.9K subscribers



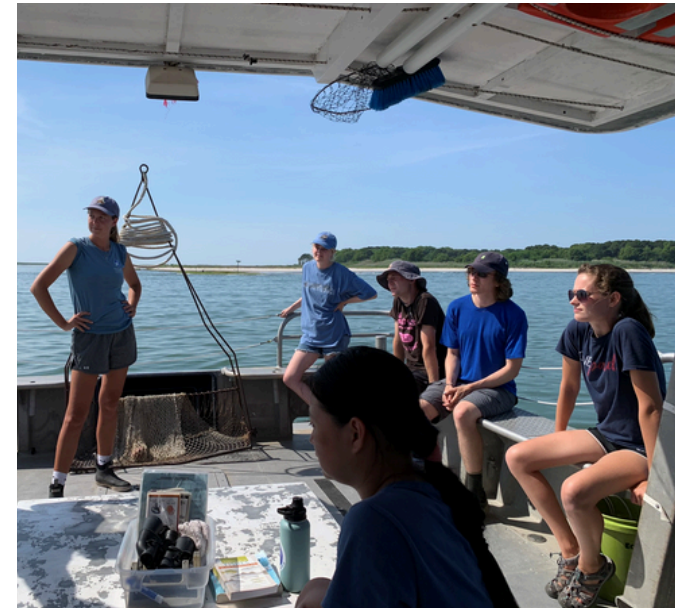
[Success Stories - Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation - YouTube](#)

Corps Cohort Trainings



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- **Why Trainings?**
 - Increase knowledge and skills in topics that will advance the Corps Members' professional careers – particularly in the environmental field.
 - Opportunity to connect and deepen relationships with fellow Corps Members
- **10+ Required Trainings for Corps Members throughout the Program Year (virtual, in-person, and overnight retreats)**
- **Training topics for the 2026–2027 program will likely include:**
 - Climate Change
 - Emotional Intelligence, Giving and Receiving Feedback, & Self-Care
 - Environmental Leadership
 - Financial Literacy
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Justice
 - Professional Development (Resume and Cover Letter Writing, Interview Skills, etc.)
 - Environmental Education Retreat



BuildWithin



- Members residing in the state of MD have the opportunity to utilize BuildWithin, an online training platform, to build proficiency in professional skills that align with their position
- Upon successful completion of the platform, Fellows will earn an Apprenticeship Credential through the Department of Labor



BuildWithin

Corps Member Community & Networking Opportunities



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- **All-Hands on Deck Project Days**

- 4 All Cohort Project days are offered each year
- Organized and hosted by Corps Members for Corps Members.
- Corps Members propose their project day and a committee of other Corps Members select which 4 are offered

- **Site Visits**

- Attend 4-10 and host ~6 throughout the year
 - Increased knowledge and skills in environmental topics and activities
 - Networking with organizations and professionals across the Chesapeake
 - Deepening relationships with fellow Corps Members

- **Local Professional Conference**

- The Trust will provide financial support for each Corps Member to attend a regional environmental conference



Beyond the Corps



16 Years, over 450 graduates

Alumni Network/Website

- Job & Professional Development Opportunities
- Networking Events
- Database of Alumni on Trust website

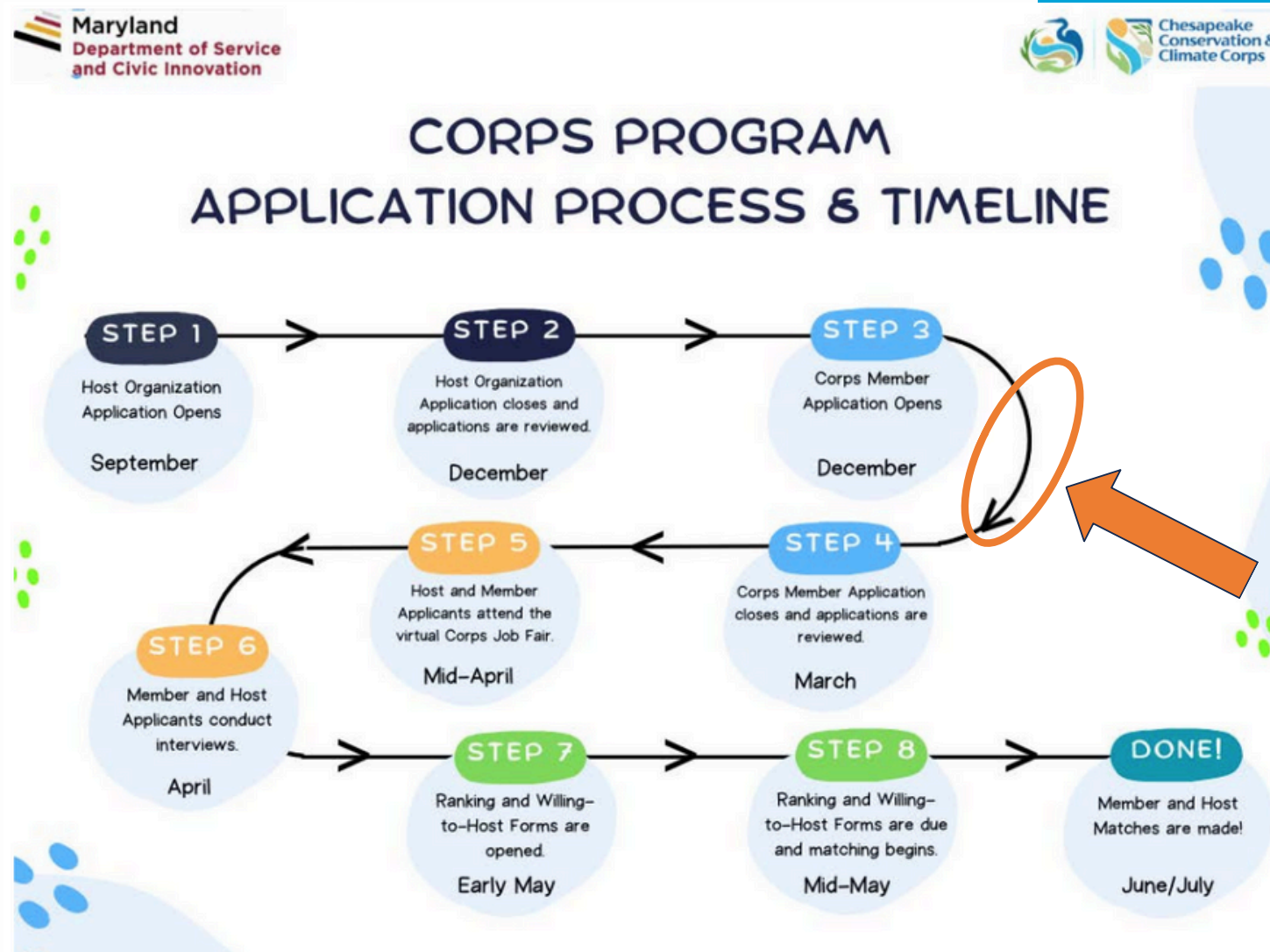
Job Potential

- Approx. 10% of members go onto another Corps service program
- Approx. 25% of members hired by Host
- Approx. 30% of members go to graduate school
- Approx. 35% of members hired by environmental organization
- Approx. 60% of members working in the region on Chesapeake Bay related issues



The Application

2026-27 Application Process & Timeline



The Application

2026–2027 Corps Member Application

Online Application Form

- Eligibility Quiz – 4 questions
- Applicant Information
- Narrative
- Optional Supplementary Documents
 - Resume
 - Letter(s) of Recommendation

Narrative Questions

- Your Story
- Your Interests
- Your Experience



Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

A Partnership with Maryland Corps/Service Year Option

2026-2027 Corps Member Application

Program Duration: August 18, 2026 – August 17, 2027

Application Deadline: March 6th, 2026 at 4:00pm EDT

Application Portal: <https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=1520&fid=35840>

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Corps Program Partners:

The [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) (Trust) is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of all our local systems, from the Chesapeake to the Coastal Bays to the Youghiogheny River.

As part of these efforts, the Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with the State of Maryland, BGE an Exelon Company, and the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation to administer the Corps program.

Through the partnership with the State of Maryland and following the enactment of the Climate Solutions Now Act by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022, the Trust and State expanded the climate focus of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps and the Program's ability to engage an increased number of Corps placements each year. These changes allowed the now [Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps](#) (Corps) to increase its impact in addressing the complex environmental issues of today in the face of climate change, serving communities disproportionately affected by climate change, and preparing young adults for the demands and needs of the green workforce.

Additionally, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation through their Maryland Corps/Service Year Option, the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps has incorporated additional opportunities for Corps Members to get involved in protecting their communities from the impacts of climate change while receiving green workforce and professional development training.

The Corps Program & Corps Member Opportunity:

Each successfully matched Corps Member will be placed with a Host Organization and will develop a 40 hour per week workplan that outlines their tasks, projects, and responsibilities for their term of service. The workplan will be created in partnership with their Host Organization Mentor and the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Application

2026-2027 Corps Member Application

The Matching Process

- Corps Member applications are reviewed by an external committee. Based on reviewer feedback, a subset of Corps Member applicants will be invited as finalists in the “Matching Phase.”
- During the “Matching Phase” the applications of Corps Member Finalists will be made available to potential Host Organizations and the applications of potential Host Organizations will be made available to Corps Member Finalists.
- Corps Member Finalists will submit a ranked list of Host Organizations they want to be placed with.

Key Dates

- **Member Applications** – due March 6th, 2026
- **Corps (Virtual) Job Fair** – April 27-May 1st, 2026
- **Willing to Host & Ranking Forms** – due May 15, 2026
- **Matches & 2025-26 Cohort announced** – July/August 2026



Start your Application

2026-2027 Host Organization Application

Review the Application Information Package:

<https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/members/>

Fill out & submit your Online Application:

<https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=1520&fid=35840>

**Submit your application by
4pm on March 6, 2026**

We won't be able to accept any applications after the deadline so be sure to submit early!





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Questions about the CCCC?

Reach out to corps@cbtrust.org

Get individual support with your application at our drop-in virtual office hour on zoom!

Thursday, February 26th at 4pm -
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81992886155?
pwd=OSGaF3yr9yZfMqYHsKyLySXs4Q03OE.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81992886155?pwd=OSGaF3yr9yZfMqYHsKyLySXs4Q03OE.1)

Thank You!

For more information visit
cbtrust.org