



**Chesapeake
Bay Trust**

Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

FY24 Corps Member Information Session

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Agenda



- **About the Trust**
- **About the Program**
 - History & Current
 - Program Goals
- **Why Apply?**
 - 2024-2025 Program Snapshot
 - Experiences
 - Mentorship
 - Benefits
 - Beyond the Corps
- **About the Application**
 - Online Application Form & Narrative
 - Matching Process
- **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
- 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)
- Program Eligibility:
 - Age 18-25 at the start of the program
 - A citizen of the United States, permanent resident alien, or has documentation confirming permission to work in the U.S. during the year-long term of service.



What is the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps?



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!



Corps Program Goals



01

Prepare and empower young adults for careers and leadership in the green workforce.



02

Promote, restore, and protect the health of the natural resources and communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



03

Increase the impact and reach of organizations advancing practices and solutions for addressing issues impacting the health of the environment.



04

Increase the diversity and influx of young talent into the green workforce across the Chesapeake Bay region.

Program Snapshot



❖ Young adults gaining real-world experience working full-time with an organization for a year of stipend-supported service

❖ For the 2024-25 cohort we anticipate placing 50-55 Corps Members

❖ \$31,200 stipend

❖ 12 Professional Development Trainings

❖ 5 Project Days

❖ 4-10 Networking Visits to fellow Host Organizations

❖ 1 Capstone

❖ 1 Grant Opportunity

❖ Mentorship

Real-world Experience



- August 14, 2024 – August 13, 2025
- A full-time experience with a nonprofit or government agency for a year.
 - Full List of Potential Host Organizations: <https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/members/>
- Offered positions are in the fields of environmental restoration, community engagement, climate science, climate change action, environmental education, sustainable agriculture, energy conservation, and forestry.
- One of the beauties of this program is the vast variety of positions and projects accomplished by Corps Members each year.



Mentorship



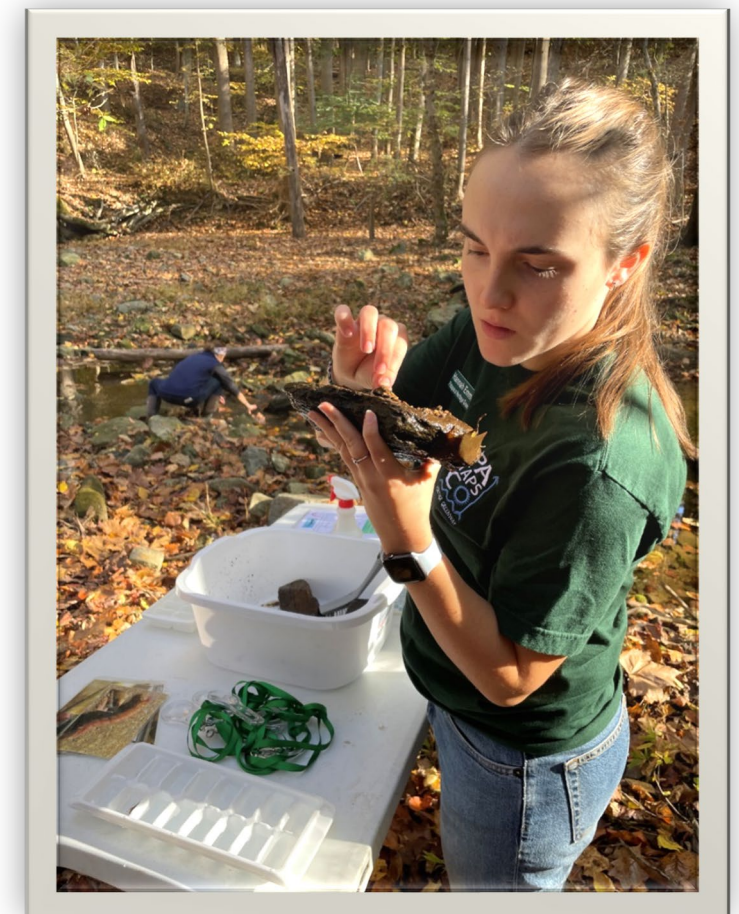
- Each Corps Member will have a Mentor assigned by their Host Organization
- The Mentor figure serves in two capacities:
 - Supervisor who helps to ensure the Corps Members' work plan is progressing
 - Mentor who guides and supports the Corps Member with decisions and answering questions about:
 - What 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



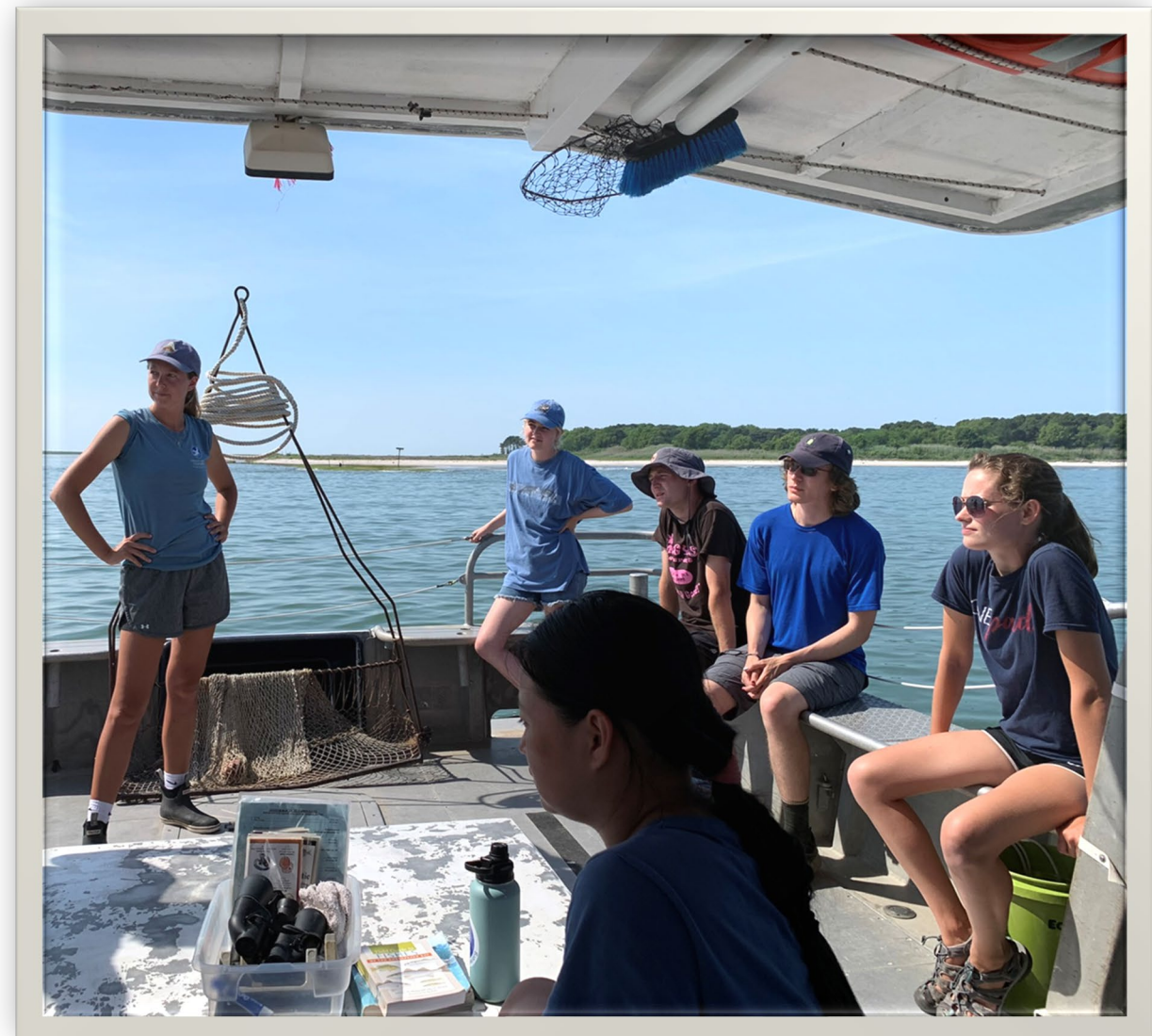
- The Capstone is a required Corps element
- A project selected by the Corps Member which they lead over the course of the year
- Meant to be a project where the Corps Member gains experience and skills that aligns with what they want to do next.
- We've had numerous Corps Members showcase their capstone projects in grad school applications and on job interviews.



Trainings



- 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
- 12 Trainings for Corps Members throughout the Program Year
 - Required element
 - Range in topic, facilitators, length, and format
- Topics for the 2024-2025 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
 - Professional Conference



All-Hands on Deck & Site Visits



- All-Hands on Deck
 - A funding opportunity for Corps Member(s) interested in organizing and hosting a project day for their fellow Corps Members.
 - 5 All-Hand on Deck project proposals selected each year (attendance required at 3 of 5)
 - Range in topics and projects:
 - Tree and native plantings
 - Trail management
 - Rain garden installation
 - Storm drain murals
 - Invasive removal
 - SAV monitoring
 - Building outdoor classrooms
 - Wildlife monitoring
- Site Visits
 - Attend 6-10 and host ~6 throughout the year
 - Goals of:
 - Increased knowledge and skills in environmental topics and activities
 - Networking with organizations and professionals across the Chesapeake
 - Deepening relationships with fellow Corps Members



Corps Small Grant Opportunity



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



Beyond the Corps



14 Years, over 300 graduates

Alumni Network/Website

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

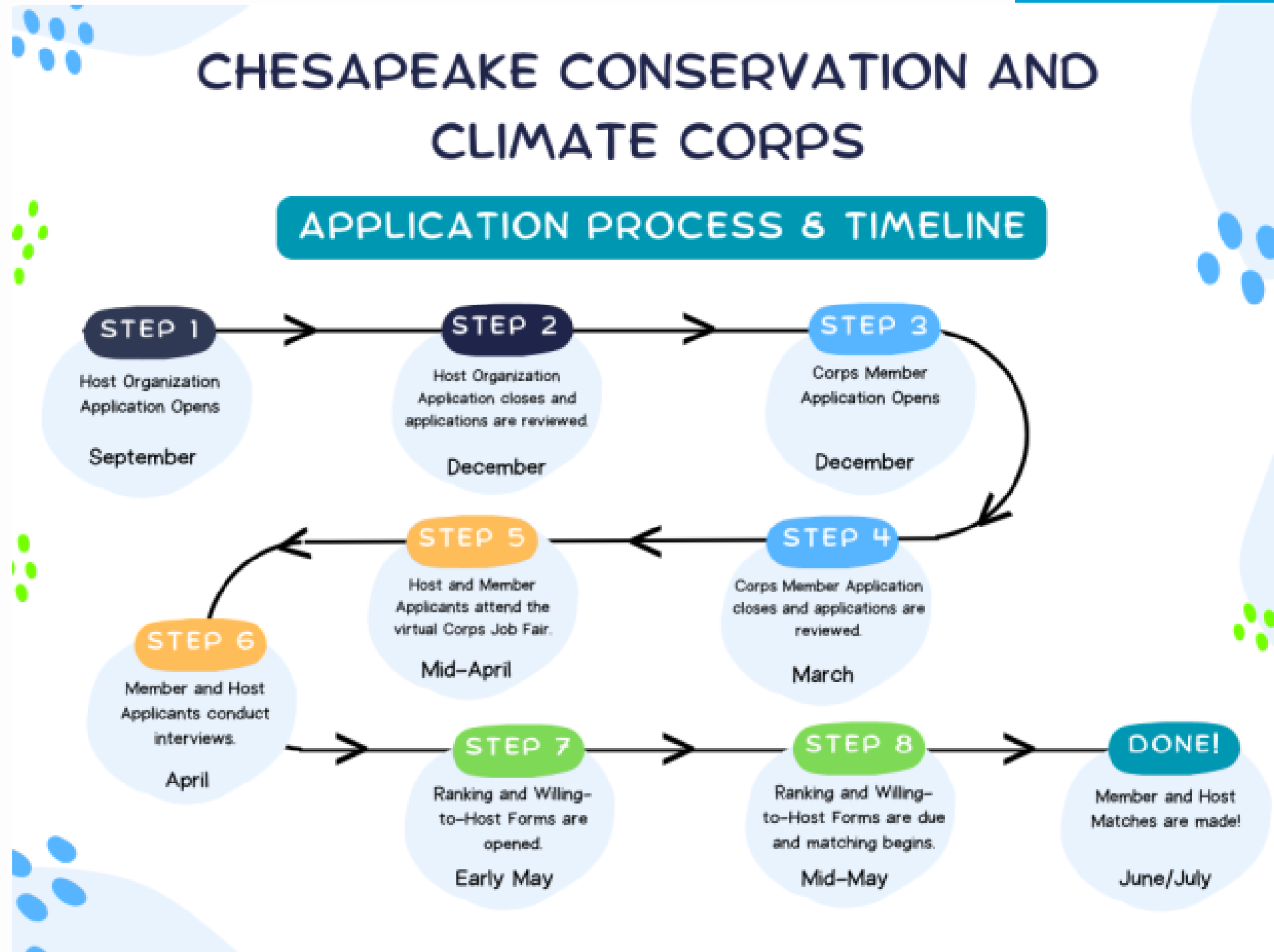
Job Potential

- 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. Approx. 60% of members working in the region on Chesapeake Bay related issues



The Application

2024-25 Application Process & Timeline



The Application

2024-2025 Corps Member Application

Online Application Form

- Eligibility Quiz – 2 questions
- Applicant Information
- Narrative
- Optional Supplementary Documents
 - Resume
 - Letter(s) of Recommendation

Narrative Questions

- Your Story
- Your Interests
- Your Experience



Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Member Application

2024-2025 Corps Class



Chesapeake Bay Trust | 108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403
(410) 974 - 2941 | www.cbtrust.org

The Application

2024-2025 Host Organization 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 7, 2024
- Corps (Virtual) Job Fair – April 17-19, 2024
- Willing to Host & Ranking Forms – due end of May 2024
- Matches & 2024-25 Cohort announced – June/July 2024



How to Apply



Review the Corps Member Application Package & Download the Narrative Template

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

Fill out the Online Application Form

- ❖ <https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=1520&fid=35168>

Check out the list of Potential Host Organizations

- ❖ <https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-2025-Potential-Host-Organization-Descriptions.pdf>

**Submit your application before the due date on
Thursday, March 7th, 2024 by 4pm EST**



Questions?

Thank You!

For more information visit
cbtrust.org