

Annual Report Addendum 2002



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Making the Connection Between Work Projects and Conservation Education

This year a new Conservation Education Program was designed for our Field Crews to help them better make the connection between their daily work and the impact that work was having on the environment. The initiative offered crews an opportunity to develop connections with the natural environment, to become stewards of the land, and to share what they learned with others.

The program culminated with each Corps Member developing an end-of-season project to be presented to the rest of the crew, family, and friends. Overall, this new initiative proved to be successful, and we plan to continue this program in 2003.

To learn more about the VYCC Conservation Education Program, please refer to page 9 in the 2002 Yearbook.



Community Crew Corps Members Amanda Priestley and Micki Shieh present their end-of-season education project about tree revetments.

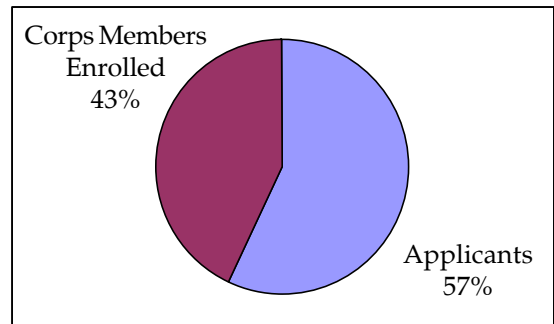
Corps Member Statistics

2002 Corps Member Demographics

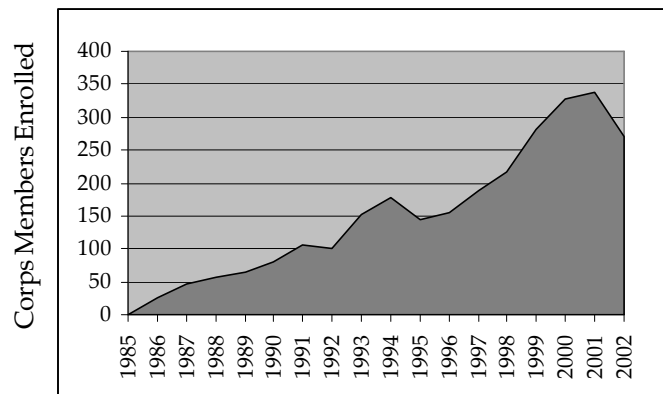
Group	Number	Percent
Total Enrollment	270	100%
Females	115	43%
Males	155	57%
Minorities	31	11%
Disadvantaged*	74	27%
Youth with Disabilities	47	17%

*As defined by the Workforce Investment Act standards

2002 Youth Enrolled vs. Applicants



Corps Member Enrollment History



“The hard work is wonderful and it gives you a sense of accomplishment. You meet wonderful people that open your eyes to different ways of life.”

- Hillary Mahoney, Corps Member

Taking Training to a New Level in 2002

This year the VYCC took its already nationally-recognized training to a new level with the incorporation of highly interactive workshops, experiential learning, and community-focused residential settings.

Many exciting changes were made, some at the suggestions of past Leaders. For example, this year was the first ever that Park Manager Training was held at a VYCC-operated park, which allowed Park Leaders to gain hands-on experience before opening day.

Another change this year was the

VYCC's return to Sterling College for Crew Leader Training. During this training came another highlight, a week-long camping excursion and work skills experience in which Leaders learned and practiced low-impact camping, specifically for large groups. These, and many more changes made this year's VYCC training the best ever.

To learn more about the 2002 VYCC Training, please refer to page 8 of the 2002 VYCC Yearbook.



The 2002 training focused on team-building and creating a sense of community on crews.

VYCC Crews: Conserving Around the State

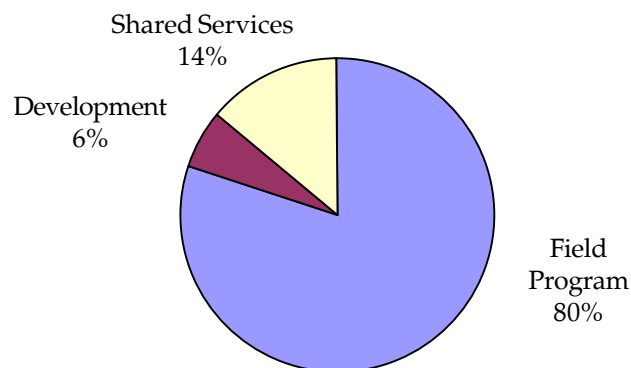
VYCC crews complete high-priority conservation projects in every county of the state, impacting local communities and the state as a whole. In fact, since 1999 the VYCC has completed more than 383,260 hours of service state-wide. The VYCC would like to thank all the donors and sponsors that have made this state-wide effort possible.



A sampling of VYCC project sites across the state for 2002.

2002 Revenue & Expenses

Expenses by Program



Revenue

Annual Fund	\$386,039
Job Readiness Grant	\$223,000
Urban Corps Grant	\$250,000
Community & Trails Grants	\$253,293
Park Stores	\$82,268
State Park Grant	\$453,470
Watershed Grant	\$25,000
Miscellaneous	\$12,615

Total Revenue \$1,685,685

Expenses

Volunteer, Community, & Development	\$95,662
Shared Services	\$240,119
Wilderness & Roving Crews	\$487,841
Community Crews	\$135,861
Park Stores	\$43,169
State Park Crews	\$666,933

Total Expenses \$1,669,585

Financial records audited annually by Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C.

Corps Member Stories

“Chad”

Chad had a super smile, positive attitude, and proved to be the most hard working Corps Member on the crew. Chad’s challenges were verbal and written communication. He expressed himself mostly through short mumbled phrases and hand gestures; his vocabulary was extremely limited. Coping with his communication deficiency was a hurdle that he had not yet conquered. His challenge had affected his self-esteem and had hindered him from developing peer relationships throughout life. Not only did Chad struggle communicating with the group, he was also terrified of the WoRD program. At the beginning of the session, we helped him identify a number of goals, a few being “to maintain a positive attitude, discover a greater outlook on the way I live my life, and to affect how others view me.” As Crew Leaders, we guided him through WoRD sessions by tutoring him in the evenings. We read aloud with him and provided techniques for him to express himself through journaling. Both during WoRD sessions and informally, he had the complete support of the crew, and we all observed his comfort level and abilities improve as each day passed. By the end of the four weeks Chad had undergone a complete transformation. We could see the progress he had made in the way he carried himself...much more confidently! In our Weekly Evaluation form, we noted some of his VYCC successes that have built a foundation for the future. “For the past week Chad has taken the time to talk individually with each of the members of the crew... He is opening up to the crew on a person-to-person basis...Chad feels comfortable talking with everyone and his opinions during WoRD are highly regarded.” I would have Chad on my work project any day!



Community Crew Corps Member Emily Rooney and Crew Leader Bryan Emerson smile while working at the project site.

“Pamela”

Pamela came to North Hero in June. She is the youngest of three, the only girl. She lost her father at 7, and was left at home alone at 15 while her mother spent a month in detox, an experience that haunts her still. From the start I could tell that Pamela had trouble with spelling. One day I offered my help. She informed me that she did not want it. She was dyslexic, had lots of trouble with scholastics, and was done with learning for a while. I told her I would respect her decision. Later, however, Pamela confided that she really did want to go to college, Sterling College to be specific, but didn’t think her grades would get her in. As I watched Pamela excel daily, her strong desire to learn proved to me that she deserved the chance to go to college. I decided then that I was going to do whatever I could to help her get there. I called Sterling College to find out if anything could be done. One day, Pamela intercepted a call from Sterling, and to my surprise, arranged to attend an orientation session. Seeing the excitement in her eyes was priceless. She couldn’t wait to tell her mom!

Soon after, as I was reading journals, I read something that touched me deeply. At the end of Pamela’s journal entry for the day, she had written, “You can fix my spelling if you have the time. Thanks for everything. Pamela.” As I think back now, I wonder who got more out of this summer - Pamela with her one season at North Hero and a potential future at Sterling College, or me with that one journal entry.

“My experience with VYCC taught me that I can accomplish much more than I ever thought I could.”

- Katie Shafer, Corps Member