



**APPALACHIAN
CONSERVATION CORPS**
A program of Conservation Legacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3/8/2022

Contact: Zach Foster
Appalachian Conservation Corps Director
zach@conservationlegacy.org
(540) 383-1297

Appalachian Conservation Corps Intern Selected by The Corps Network as 2022 Corpsmember of the Year

Kalen Anderson to Receive One of Four Awards Granted Nationwide

HARRISONBURG, VA — Kalen Anderson, former Appalachian Conservation Corps' (ACC) Werowocomoco project intern, will be recognized by [The Corps Network](#), the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, as a 2022 Corpsmember of the Year.

The Corps Network presents the [Corpsmember of the Year Award](#) on an annual basis to young adults chosen from among the approximately 25,000 individuals who serve in [member organizations](#) of The Corps Network every year. The Corpsmembers of the Year are young people who, through their term of service in a Corps, have demonstrated personal growth, outstanding leadership skills, and a sincere commitment to helping their community. All winners of the Corpsmember of the Year Award are nominated by their Corps.

During his Werowocomoco project internship, Kalen exemplified these qualities. As a member of the Nansemond Tribe, Kalen used his water quality training to contribute to his tribe's work with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance on Oyster Bed Recovery projects on the Nansemond River.

The Werowocomoco internship project exemplifies a collaboration between federal land management agencies, conservation service corps, and Native communities. The National Park Service is collaborating with seven tribal partners—the Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Nansemond, Chickahominy Eastern Division, and Chickahominy—to learn more about Werowocomoco, incorporate it into the National Park System, and accurately and respectfully interpret it for future visitors. The Werowocomoco project interns work closely with National Park Service (NPS) during their service terms, learning about all aspects of park management.

Kalen hopes to continue his relationship with AmeriCorps and the National Park Service, and apply the education awards he has earned during his service terms to obtain a Bachelor's degree. Kalen reflects on his experience; "The skills and relationships I have built so far from being a Corps member can transfer to any career endeavor I may have in the future. I want to become an Indigenous Environmental Specialist to contribute and help local tribes work on environmental programs and projects after I graduate."

Appalachian Conservation Corps is one of more than 140 member organizations of The Corps Network. As defined by The Corps Network, [Corps](#) are local, state or national programs that engage young adults (generally ages 16 – 25) and veterans (up to age 35) in service activities addressing conservation and community needs. Through a term of service that could last from a few months to a year, Corps participants – or "Corpsmembers" – complete meaningful projects while gaining job experience and developing in-demand skills.

"The Corpsmembers of the Year are role models. These are young people who have earnestly invested their energy in civic engagement. Their personal stories and accomplishments are an inspiration to other young adults and veterans serving in national service programs across the country," said Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO of The Corps Network. "Today's Corpsmembers represent the skill and potential of a new generation of conservation and community leaders. As our country looks to establish a Civilian Climate Corps initiative, we must turn to bright, hardworking people like Kalen Anderson for guidance. Thousands of Corpsmembers help strengthen communities across the country every year, but this award celebrates those who have gone above and beyond. The Corps Network is humbled to engage with such inspiring people as Kalen Anderson and programs like Appalachian Conservation Corps' Werowocomoco project."

"I'm impressed with Kalen's work at Werowocomoco," said Zach Foster, Appalachian Conservation Corps Director. "He has shown leadership and drive in his efforts to build a deeper understanding and engagement at the site and within the community. Kalen has been a mentor to his peers and brings a great perspective to the work. I'm so grateful for what he has contributed to the development of Werowocomoco and to this internship!"

The four 2022 Corpsmembers of the Year will be honored at The Corps Network's annual national conference, taking place virtually April 4 – 6, 2022. The theme for the event is "We Are the Civilian Climate Corps: A CCC for a New Generation." For more information about the conference, please visit corpsnetwork.org/conference. For more information about Appalachian Conservation Corps, please visit appalachiancc.org.

###

APPALACHIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The Appalachian Conservation Corps (ACC) moves forward from the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps to engage young people in conservation service projects. Through meaningful work on the land, ACC crew members will develop the ability to work and lead within

a crew in a challenging and supportive environment. Over the course of the program, crew members deepen their connection to the local community and landscape as well as the greater conservation movement. Appalachian Conservation Corps centers on growing opportunity from roots in service, community and wild places.

CONSERVATION LEGACY

Conservation Legacy provides support for local conservation service programs under the leadership of a national organization, delivering high quality programming in communities across the country to produce enduring impact through local action. In 2019, Conservation Legacy engaged over 2,400 youth, young adults and veterans in conservation, restoration and community development projects and contributed 1.3 million hours of service to public lands. Conservation Legacy programs engage participants on diverse conservation and community service projects that provide opportunities for personal and professional development and meet the high priority needs of public land managers and community partners. Working in close collaboration with partners across the country, Conservation Legacy advances goals of increasing opportunities in conservation, stewardship, national service and workforce development.

THE CORPS NETWORK

The Corps Network, the national association of Service and Conservation Corps, provides leadership and support to over 140 Corps across the United States. Through advocacy, and providing Corps access to funding opportunities and expert guidance, The Corps Network annually enables approximately 25,000 Corpsmembers to strengthen communities, improve the environment and transform their lives through service. To learn more about The Corps Network, visit corpsnetwork.org.