



# Michigan's AmeriCorps Introduction

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## Huron Pines AmeriCorps

More than ever, with the rapid changes Northern Michigan is facing, there is an urgent need for the conservation community to use new approaches and improve collaboration.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps: *Developing Leaders in Conservation* is a new program designed to enable conservation organizations to meet their resource protection goals. The program is administered by Huron Pines, a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to conserve the forests, lakes, and streams of Northeast Michigan.

Their belief is that stronger organizations make for better stewardship of natural resources. The innovative services that

Huron Pines AmeriCorps provides will strengthen a local community's ability to improve natural resources. 10 full-time members directly serve with nonprofit conservation groups



**Members leading a winter exploration at Hartwick Pines.**

and conservation districts. Members provide direct services to Northern Michigan resource

organizations in a variety of ways including: volunteer coordination, on-the-ground restoration and habitat improvement projects, public outreach and stewardship, consulting one-on-one with landowners, producing educational materials, completing habitat improvement projects, restoring erosion sites, developing volunteer programs, providing assistance to other nonprofit and watershed groups, and working with landowners to permanently protect their land.

Providing organizations with members greatly increases their opportunity to promote and deliver services helping to manage natural resources.

## Michigan Service Scholars Program

The Michigan Service Scholars Program [MSS] provides \$450,000 annually in scholarships state-wide to students attending Michigan Campus Compact [MCC] member campuses through a grant from The Michigan Community Service Commission and The Corporation for National and Community Service. Students complete 300 hours of

community service during one calendar year and are awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, otherwise known as an educational award, used for qualified educational purposes. Community service hours are completed during the academic year and/or over class breaks. To complete 300 hours during a regular academic year, students average 9.5-10 hours of community service per week.



**An MSS Member proudly stands with one of her community partners.**

# AmeriCorps Together We Prepare

The mission of the AmeriCorps Together We Prepare Program (ATWP) is to provide vital emergency assistance to victims and communities affected by disaster and to increase preparedness before disasters strike by recruiting volunteers and educating the community in emergency response.

ATWP members serve at 10 American Red Cross chapters across the state of Michigan, covering 32 counties. ATWP

members deliver community disaster education, respond to local and national disaster calls, and provide emergency assistance. In addition, members recruit and train volunteers, send emergency messages to the Armed Forces, and manage youth programs.

Since the program's initiation, members have traveled to 14 states to aid in relief efforts for hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and severe winter storms,

assisting over 62,000 people with their emergency needs. ATWP members have also provided disaster preparedness presentations to 35,180 Michigan residents and trained 3,250 residents in life saving skills. Members have recruited 3,155 new volunteers for the Red Cross and responded to 413 local disasters across the state. Lastly, members have worked with 616 Michigan families to provide communication to members of the Armed Forces.



**Jumpstart's members  
breaking records at Read  
for the Record Day.**

## Jumpstart

Jumpstart is a literacy-based mentor program serving Washtenaw County. Jumpstart recognizes the state of inequality in early educational experiences in America. They also recognize that quality early educational experiences have a lasting impact.

Therefore, Jumpstart pairs up college students with at risk

preschool children through placements in early education settings. Our 55 part-time AmeriCorps members work one-on-one to prepare their partner child for success in school and in life by encouraging the development of literacy and social skills needed for academic success.

The children's progress is measured through a School

Success Checklist, which assesses language and literacy, social, and initiative skills.

The results speak for themselves: children who participate in Jumpstart programs consistently build skill levels at a greater rate than non-participating children.



**Improving literacy in  
Detroit Public Schools.**

## readetroit Corps

readetroit Corps (RDC) utilizes 26 full-time AmeriCorps members to address the critical literacy needs of children identified as having extreme reading deficiencies.

Members, placed in teams of two at elementary and middle schools, focus on volunteer recruitment and youth

development. Specific activities include: conducting individual and group tutoring sessions, starting book clubs, taking students on library trips, arranging for volunteers to read with students, conducting information sessions designed to help students prepare for testing, and facilitating family

literacy nights. The program strives to increase the reading levels of students, as well as recruit community volunteers to further support local youth.

There are three core components to the RDC program: tutoring, mentoring, and volunteer management.

# City-Year Detroit

City Year Detroit (CYD) is an active organization providing transformative services to the Metro Detroit community. There are nearly 60 members from around the country who have devoted 10 months of their lives to helping the youth of Detroit. CYD's service activities can be broken down into three categories: school-based programs, Heroes programs, and physical community service. In the school-based programs, AmeriCorps members serve daily in Detroit Public

Schools to provide tutoring. In addition, after school programs are held where the students have the opportunity to engage in enrichment activities and homework help. The Heroes program is a Saturday service learning initiative offered to middle school and high school students. The Heroes discuss life topics such as hunger, racism, environmentalism and poverty, and then engage in relevant community service in an effort to make a difference. Finally, the AmeriCorps



**City-Year members and volunteers planted over 90 trees on Make a Difference Day.**

members engage in various physical projects on Fridays, serving throughout the Metro Detroit area.



## MI Environmental Stewardship AmeriCorps (MESA)

The Great Lakes basin is the largest source of freshwater on Earth. The 14 full-time members of Michigan's Environmental Stewardship AmeriCorps (MESA) serve in 44 counties and are committed to protecting this critical natural resource. A main focus of MESA is groundwater protection, since over half of Michigan residents depend on groundwater as their source of

drinking water. MESA members help the public to protect groundwater resources by conducting both group and one-on-one environmental risk assessments with homeowners. These risk assessments teach homeowners simple and effective ways to have a positive environmental impact. In 2006-07, more than 11,900 people received environmental education

at information booths and 22,600+ environmental risk assessments were completed with homeowners. MESA members also reached over 27,300 students through educational programming about how to be life-long stewards of the environment.



**Installation of a community rain garden.**

## Volunteer Muskegon

The goal for Volunteer Muskegon's AmeriCorps is to collaborate with organizations and agencies in the community that need them the most!

With 15 full-time and 5 part-time members, their mission is to reach out and make a difference within the community, mainly by impacting youth. Their aim is to increase the

developmental assets of youth by getting them involved in service learning projects while addressing community needs. While doing so, members encourage youth to take on roles of leadership in their community. Members serve in school systems, health organizations and different non-profit agencies.



**Youth serving a meal at a local homeless shelter.**

## Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps



Members getting ready to get things done.

Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District AmeriCorps members are “getting things done” by providing children with the tools to succeed academically and socially.

They currently have 9 full-time members serving in 8 schools. Each member is dedicated to serve 1,700 hours in not only their schools, but their communities as well. They

serve students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade whom were identified by their teachers as needing academic or social assistance. Members encourage student responsibility by being reliable and consistent role models that positively influence the children, schools and communities. The program strengthens the area by recruiting non-AmeriCorps volunteers to come together and help with various projects throughout Charlevoix and

Emmet Counties. They also promote and raise awareness of AmeriCorps by giving a minimum of 20 different community presentations to inform people of their beneficial presence and ultimate goals for the year. In addition, Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps expands opportunities for members by fostering invaluable relationships and life and job skills that will carry with them during their AmeriCorps service and beyond.

## 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative

All youth need positive, caring, nurturing adults to reach their optimum potential.

The 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative seeks to involve youth, aged 5 to 19, in one-on-one, peer and small-group mentoring models. The program was developed to ensure that all children have ongoing relationships with stable and caring individuals.

Mentoring programs within the 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative strengthen mentoring efforts for families, neighborhoods, communities, and cities. Throughout Michigan, they extend the resources of Michigan State University Extension and Mentor Michigan to address this important need.

In 43 sites around the state,

55 full-time AmeriCorps members are actively involved in screening, training, and recruiting mentors; matching and supporting mentors and mentees; developing community partnerships; and building capacity for mentoring programs.



Members taking action to rebuild in Southeast Michigan.

## Michigan's AmeriCorps Partnership

In a world faced with poverty, natural disaster, educational challenges, and the obstacle courses of life, who overcomes? More importantly, who stands at the side of those who are in need? Michigan's AmeriCorps Partnership does!

They understand that people can make a difference in the

lives of those who may have lost all hope.

Their goal is to focus on human need issues through direct service program activities related to education, urban planning, social work, health, and economic development. There are a total of 55 members in the

program, 19 full-time members and 36 part-time members. All the members are serving individuals and nonprofit organizations in the Detroit area.

# Smart Choice Project



Through the Smart Choice Project in Benton Harbor, 10 full-time AmeriCorps members help youth realize their full potential as responsible, productive, and caring citizens. Five members serve elementary and middle school students at the Boys and Girls Club's Main Street Site, and five members serve youth ages 14-18 at the Boys and Girls Club's Teen Center. All programs support services in the following areas: character and leadership development; academic and career

development; the arts; health and life skills; and sports, fitness, and recreation.

Through these program areas, AmeriCorps members provide youth with opportunities to increase their sense of self-worth in many different ways. They learn to master new skills that are useful for future employment and to sustain positive relationships with adults and other youth. They also learn about technology to improve their academic performance. The youth furthermore develop and recognize

their emotions to appropriately express them and to better understand and respect their own and others' cultures. AmeriCorps members help to increase their sense of belonging in their community, learn how to live healthier lives, and understand the importance of values such as honesty, justice, and respect. Lastly, members help recruit community volunteers to support local youth.



Students delivering cards to a local nursing home.

## Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps\*VISTA

The Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps\*VISTA (MCC VISTA) program was created through a partnership between MCC and the Michigan Corporation for National and Community Service state office. MCC promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular,

and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning, and civic engagement. The program has 13 full-time members who act as transformative agents between higher education institutions and their communities. Members create service opportunities to engage students in order to gain a richer and more valuable experience outside the

classroom. Members build beneficial relationships, which lead to partnerships between organizations and colleges, enhance the quality of campus community service, improve student leadership, and increase the number of students coordinating programs and students in direct service.



MCC VISTAs participating in a team building project.

## Neighborhood Youth Development - Camp Fire USA

Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council builds caring, confident youth and future leaders. In doing so, they seek to positively influence the life development of children and youth through cooperatively developed community efforts.

Camp Fire USA hosts year-round programs, which include providing after-school and summer programs

in Grand Rapids' low-income neighborhoods, introducing life skills programming to elementary school youth in Grand Rapids Public Schools, and providing small group experiences for youth across West Michigan.

They serve 2,400 inner-city, at-risk students of the Grand Rapids Public Schools. They have a total of 23

members: 5 full-time, 14 part-time, and 4 reduced half-time.

Camp Fire members getting ready to serve.



# Michigan Habitats AmeriCorps



Volunteers building a house in Webberville, MI.

Michigan Habitats AmeriCorps mission is to increase the capacity in the state of Michigan to build simple, decent homes in partnership with people in need. Their focus is to affiliate with local chapters of Habitat for Humanity International to build and rehabilitate affordable housing. They currently have 18 members serving with Habitat for Humanity: 11 full-time and 7 part-time. Habitat for Humanity

International offers homeownership opportunities to families unable to obtain conventional home financing. Generally, those whose income is 30-50% less of the area's median income will receive assistance. In most cases, prospective Habitat homeowner families make a \$500 down payment and contribute 300 to 500 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction of their home or someone else's home. Because Habitat houses are

built using donations of land, material, and labor, mortgage payments are kept affordable.

Through this program, more than 200,000 volunteers have been recruited and trained to build homes. Michigan Habitat affiliates have built more than 2,200 homes, providing more than 10,000 individuals with proper housing. Michigan affiliates are currently building 200 homes annually.



Healthcorps members attend valuable training.

# MPCA Community HealthCorps

The Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) Community HealthCorps program engages 17 full-time and 2 part-time AmeriCorps members to address patient self-management, school-based health, community outreach and enrollments needs.

Members are placed in community health centers or

health-related sites across Michigan. The MPCA Community HealthCorps Program uses community outreach to inform the public about preventative health care measures and health plans available to the uninsured.

Members help patients take a more active role in the daily management of their illnesses

disparities in Michigan.

Community forums are used to inform the public about health issues.

AmeriCorps members make more than 3,000 patient contacts, recruit in excess of 300 volunteers, serve over 1,500 volunteer hours, and contribute +30,000 hours of community service.



Elementary students at the school's career day.

# MARESA Michigan's AmeriCorps

The MARESA Michigan's AmeriCorps program is located in the central Upper Peninsula and is coordinated by the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA).

The 12 full-time and 4 part-time members serve in both Marquette and Alger counties.

The members serve in elementary, middle, and high school settings.

They provide educational support services such as mentoring, tutoring, after-school activities, service-learning projects, technology, and career support.

They also promote community involvement in schools and nonprofit educational institutions.

# Faith in Youth Partnership



## Mentors for the middle-school get ready to serve.

The Faith In Youth Partnership is a collaborative initiative with Good Samaritan Ministries, Holland and Zeeland area middle schools, six churches, and the AmeriCorps

program. Their mission is to foster caring relationships between adult volunteers and middle school students. There are currently 11 members serving (8 full-time, and 3 part-time). Members focus on improving the students' academic achievement and promoting a sense of well being. This is done through mentoring, one-on-one tutoring, and after school drop in. Members coordinate small group mentoring and larger after school activities at church sites. They are responsible for engaging the resources of the

church to serve youth by recruiting church members to serve as mentors, tutors, or supervisors of larger youth groups. They also have a weekly presence in three area school districts, with each district allowing members to meet with youth over lunch hours. Now in its third year, the program has become a vital asset in the surrounding communities. Through this partnership, youth have found new, safe communities that care and volunteers have been enriched by reaching out to those in need.

# Downriver CARES AmeriCorps

Downriver CARES (Community, Action, Resources, Education, and Service) promotes social and emotional readiness for children, adults, and families within the Guidance Center of Southeast Michigan and the Downriver Communities. They have 28 members (18 full-time and 10 part-time). Service activities include: enrichment programming and out

of class time involvement with preschoolers and school age youth; developing group mentoring projects for children and/or families; planning service projects with teens; engaging community volunteers; supporting and encouraging parents through play groups and support groups; planning recreation activities; facilitating activities that promote

self-esteem and build assets for children, adults, and families; and providing home-based support to families.

Members support these program functions Monday through Thursday and come together every Friday to perform community service projects throughout Metro Detroit.



Safety Patrol Project in Detroit.

# Superior AmeriCorps

Superior AmeriCorps, first known as Copper Country AmeriCorps (est. 1997), is a team of 35 full-time members that serve seven western Upper Peninsula counties. Their mission is to strengthen the communities for youth. They do this by creating opportunities in education and child development, fostering collaboration among entities serving youth, and

promoting an ethic of service. The service areas include Head Start, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, CLK Horizon Schools, Bridge Schools, Copper Country Intermediate School District, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, BHK Great Explorations, and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. The group works in a wide range of environments and each site is a

great place to tutor, mentor, teach, and learn. Superior AmeriCorps is proud to be in the Upper Peninsula. Members of this team are honored to be positive role models for area youth.

# Program List and Contact Information

PROGRAM	DIRECTOR	CONTACT	WEBSITE
AmeriCorps Alums	Christy Hicks	(202) 725-4180 <a href="mailto:hicks@handsonnetwork.org">hicks@handsonnetwork.org</a>	<a href="http://www.americorpsalums.org">www.americorpsalums.org</a>
AmeriCorps Together We Prepare	Jordan O'Neil	(616) 456-8661 ext. 3503 <a href="mailto:joneil@ggr.redcross.org">joneil@ggr.redcross.org</a>	
Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps	Dennis Halverson	(231) 547-9947 <a href="mailto:halversond@charemisd.org">halversond@charemisd.org</a>	
City-Year Detroit	Nicole Byrd	(313) 874-6861 <a href="mailto:nbyrd@cityyear.org">nbyrd@cityyear.org</a>	<a href="http://www.cityyear.org">www.cityyear.org</a>
Downriver CARES AmeriCorps	Joseph Spain	(734) 785-7705 x 7209 <a href="mailto:jspain@guidance-center.org">jspain@guidance-center.org</a>	<a href="http://www.guidance-center.org">www.guidance-center.org</a>
Faith in Youth Partnership	Robyn Afik	(616) 392-7159 <a href="mailto:rafrik@goodministries.com">rafrik@goodministries.com</a>	<a href="http://www.goodsministries.com">www.goodsministries.com</a>
Huron Pines AmeriCorps	Lisha Ramsdell	(989) 344-0753 x 29 <a href="mailto:lisha@huronpines.org">lisha@huronpines.org</a>	<a href="http://www.huronpinesamericorps.org">www.huronpinesamericorps.org</a>
Jumpstart Michigan	Christie Cadmus	(734) 487-3118 <a href="mailto:ccadmus@emich.edu">ccadmus@emich.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.jstart.org">www.jstart.org</a>
MARESA- Michigan's AmeriCorps Program	Joseph Zahn	(906) 226-5130 <a href="mailto:jzahn@maresa.k12.mi.us">jzahn@maresa.k12.mi.us</a>	
Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership	Addell Austin Anderson	(313) 593-0937 <a href="mailto:addell@umich.edu">addell@umich.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.ginsberg.umich.edu/americorps">www.ginsberg.umich.edu/americorps</a>
Michigan Environmental Stewardship AmeriCorps	Suzanne Ebright	(517) 241-2154 <a href="mailto:ebrights@michigan.gov">ebrights@michigan.gov</a>	
Michigan Habitats AmeriCorps	Tonya Harrington	(517) 655-1872 <a href="mailto:tharrington@inghamhabitat.org">tharrington@inghamhabitat.org</a>	<a href="http://www.habitatmichigan.org/programs/americorps">www.habitatmichigan.org/programs/americorps</a>
MPCA Community HealthCorps	John Taylor	(517) 381-8000 x 229 <a href="mailto:jtaylor@mpca.net">jtaylor@mpca.net</a>	<a href="http://www.nachc.com/healthcorps">www.nachc.com/healthcorps</a>
Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA/ Michigan Service Scholars Program	Ryan Fewins	(517) 492-2448 <a href="mailto:rfewins@micampuscompact.org">rfewins@micampuscompact.org</a>	<a href="http://www.micampuscompact.org">www.micampuscompact.org</a>
MSU Extension: 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative	Julie Chapin	(517) 432-7575 <a href="mailto:chapin@msu.edu">chapin@msu.edu</a>	<a href="http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyfl/youth/mentor/general.htm">http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyfl/youth/mentor/ general.htm</a>
Neighborhood Youth Development	Katie Warren	(616) 949-2500 x 30 <a href="mailto:katie.warren@campfireusawmc.org">katie.warren@campfireusawmc.org</a>	<a href="http://www.campfireusawmc.org">www.campfireusawmc.org</a>
readetroit Corps	Pandora Brown	(313) 571-3400 <a href="mailto:pandorabrown@cisdetroit.org">pandorabrown@cisdetroit.org</a>	<a href="http://www.cisdetroit.org">www.cisdetroit.org</a>
Superior AmeriCorps	Stacy Crouch	1-800-236-5657 <a href="mailto:slcrouch@bhkfirst.org">slcrouch@bhkfirst.org</a>	<a href="http://www.superioramericorps.org">www.superioramericorps.org</a>
The Smart Choice Project	Tracy Cleveland	(269) 926-8766 <a href="mailto:bgclubvol@parrett.net">bgclubvol@parrett.net</a>	
Volunteer Muskegon's AmeriCorps	Lisa Schillaci	(231) 722-6600 x 15 <a href="http://americorps@volunteermuskegon.org">americorps@volunteermuskegon.org</a>	<a href="http://www.volunteermuskegon.org">www.volunteermuskegon.org</a>

## AmeriCorps Alums

AmeriCorps Alums is a national network of civic leaders who are actively engaged in shaping America's communities. There are more than 400,000 alumni of AmeriCorps National Service who together constitute a powerful force for change. Alums chapters bring together those with a

commitment to service in an effort to connect, support, and mobilize AmeriCorps alumni to strengthen communities and the nation. Alums help others continue to "get things done" by connecting people, advancing their commitment to service, supporting and advocating for AmeriCorps programs, and

building the capacity of alumni to be agents of change. Members do not have to be an AmeriCorps alum to be involved. Visit [www.americorpsalums.org](http://www.americorpsalums.org) to find events and meet with local chapters and see how citizens can continue to "get things done!"



**Home rebuilding project on Make a Difference Day.**

## Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Council 2008

Diana Alan  
Raquel Balderas  
Jamie Cianfarani  
Mutebi Gardner  
Paul Jedele  
Kyna King

Leslie Kingsley  
Emily Cousins  
Raymond Murry  
Bonita "B" Neveau  
Amelia Nicolson



Catherine Paul  
Casey Ressler  
Stefanie Roderer  
Ashley Ruth  
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