

A proud member of the REDF portfolio and subgrantee of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) program

CCNB "Pioneers" Forge Their Own Paths



The Pioneers in their new clothes on Interview Day

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From the CEO's desk

Program updates

CCNB bulletin board

CCNB's first cohort of the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps Career Pathways Program has come full circle. The program provides young adults the opportunity to work for six months performing stream maintenance work for the Sonoma County Water Agency, and then work for an additional six months as interns in one of several fields, including water mechanics, fleet mechanics, sanitation systems and fisheries.

From hands-on work experience to learning about job opportunities at the County to interviewing for and being placed in paid internships, the self-dubbed "Pioneers" have benefited from every aspect of this opportunity.

As the timeline for this first group of interns came to a close, CCNB corpsmembers were called to interview for regular jobs at the County. Our dedicated staff worked with each corpsmember, coaching them for their interviews and providing one-on-one support to meet their individual needs. A month later, we received the calls we had all been anxiously awaiting: our corpsmembers were getting job offers! The feeling among staff when this news breaks is indescribable; it truly takes a team effort — including that of the corpsmember — to reach this goal.

Corpsmember Mario Luna's dedication to his own success is an inspiration to all who come in contact with him. During his time at CCNB, this young father earned his high school diploma, as well as his Flagger and OSHA-10 certificates. After participating in a six-month internship in the Waste Water Collections Department at the Sonoma County Water Agency, Mario was hired by the agency as a Maintenance Worker I (Extra Help), making a living wage to support his family.

As we hear of more successes like Mario's, our gratitude for our partnership with the County and other partners continues to grow, and we look forward to sharing more achievements as our second cohort, the "Trailblazers" makes their way through the program.



Pioneers acquiring on-the-job training skills

EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT

CONSERVATION





A recent article I read in *The Press Democrat* described the abundance of wildflowers that have sprung up in areas affected by October's fires. Reading about the resilience of nature got me to thinking about the resilience of our communities and our corpsmembers and that how, with the changing of the seasons and new growth all around us, we have so much to celebrate.

Organizationally, spring has sprung at CCNB with exciting new projects in the works that will give our corpsmembers additional skills and invaluable enrichment experiences. Specialized crews will participate in historic restoration work on the famed Dipsea steps, and ecological monitoring and nature-based adaptation in San Francisco Bay. They will also be installing energy and water saving products in low-income housing developments. Our corpsmembers themselves are growing emotionally while earning certifications in our newly expanded trades training program, preparing them for a variety of careers.

As we transition into summer and prepare for some of our biggest recycling efforts like NASCAR and the Marin County Fair, we pause to celebrate this positive growth and invite you to attend some of our own events in the coming months. Our annual high school graduations are always an inspiring and emotional way to support our corpsmembers as they come full circle in our program. Later in the fall, this year's reimagined annual CCNB fundraiser at a private ranch in Petaluma is celebrating our nourishment of young lives and love for the environment. Details about both events can be found on Page 3 of this newsletter.

I hope to see you at graduation or at our fundraiser so we can all celebrate and continue to work together for a positive future... for our corpsmembers and for our environment.

Mailee Eckert



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Corpsmembers Aid in Fire Prevention

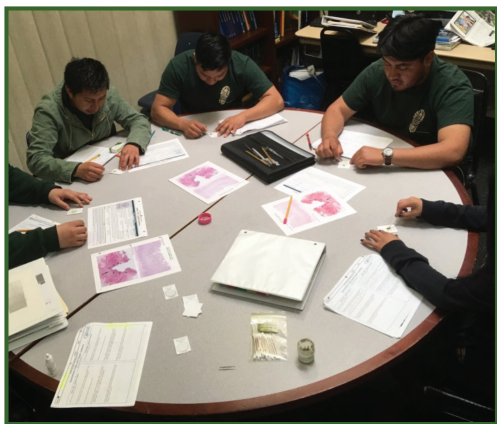
Crews from San Rafael have been putting their construction skills to use to help the Town of Fairfax prepare for emergencies by recently installing 85 stairs and a retaining wall on a section connecting Manzanita Rd. and Frustuck St. In total, our crews have spent eight weeks on the project and built 259 stairs as part of an effort to provide emergency egress routes for Fairfax residents to use in the case of a wildfire. Stairbuilding projects are an opportunity for Natural Resources crew members to gain baseline exposure to basic construction techniques, tools, and methods. Three different crews have had the chance to work on sections of the project, totaling more than 20 corpsmembers.



Earth Week Events Keep Crews Busy

Recycling crews organized a variety of Earth Week activities throughout the North Bay and had many opportunities to educate the public and collect recyclables. Highlights included tabling at Sonoma State University and Sir Francis Drake High School and hosting e-waste collection events in San Rafael and Santa Rosa. The crew pictured above collected e-waste at Guide Dogs for the Blind and even got to meet some guide dogs-in-training!

Additionally, in partnership with an organization called *All One Ocean*, recycling crews planned targeted litter abatement activities in the City of San Rafael. Working with a cadre of community volunteers, our crews participated in litter removal activities at two separate locations, in an effort to reduce the impacts of litter in our waterways and ocean.



Future Scientists in Action!

Students in our John Muir Charter School are learning to compare lab samples! In this photo of a biology class in April, they are shown working on a medical biology lab assignment; photographed while assembling a mock test sample treated with an indicator chemical. Students had already examined the photos of a microscopic view of a normal stomach lining, compared those with the patient's sample, and analyzed the patient's symptoms in order to assist with a diagnosis of a digestive disorder of the patient.

Q: What did the students correctly identify as the disorder?

A: Ulcers!



Career Ideas and College Enrollment Tips

Corpsmembers engaged in an entrepreneurship panel in which they heard from professionals who successfully started their own businesses. The panelists included a former music producer/eco DJ, a cheesecake baker, and a coffee roaster. The corpsmembers were thoughtfully engaged and asked great questions. After the panel concluded, the entrepreneurs met with corpsmembers to answer individual questions.

In another session, corpsmembers received an overview of the Santa Rosa JC, how to enroll, how to pay for college, and the differences between the college's certificate, AA, and CSU transfer requirements. With registration being open, many in attendance enrolled and selected classes for either the summer or fall semesters.

Green Notes Recycling Tips



A Code Doesn't Always Equate to "Recyclable"

In 2017, China discontinued recycling the West's contaminated paper and plastic products. Left to repurpose our own recyclables, an understanding of the "numbers" and recycling only those plastics that are truly recyclable will help avoid your entire blue bin's contents ending in the landfill.

1 PETE

2 HDPE

3 V (or PVC)

4 LDPE

5 PP

6 PS 7 Other

No Code

Green is accepted by all recyclers. Black is becoming more widely accepted but **Red** can contaminate the entire recycling system. Marin residents can check their city's website for the black and red rules and the "Sonoma County 2018 Recycle Guide" is online for Sonoma residents.

Rule of thumb—if in doubt throw it out.



Upcoming CCNB Events



**Join us in congratulating
the 2018 Graduating Class
of Conservation Corps North Bay's
John Muir Charter School**

Saturday, June 16, 2018 3–5pm Santa Rosa Junior College -
Petaluma Campus 680 Sonoma Mountain Parkway, Petaluma
Carole Ellis Auditorium - Building #300
To RSVP, please email development@ccnorthbay.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 5:30–9:30 PM

Celebrate! A Path to a Better Future

A community gathering to honor our corpsmembers
and show our love for the environment.

Enjoy a fun evening getting to know our corpsmembers
while enjoying delicious local food and wine at a
breathtaking private ranch in Petaluma.

CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY
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A path to a better future.

ABOUT CCNB

Since our inception in 1982, CCNB has helped more than 12,000 young men and women break the cycle of poverty while serving our environment and communities.

We provide year-round job training and education services to 250 corpsmembers every year. Our programs prepare young people from all corners of the North Bay to become environmental leaders, to develop an ethic of service and to enter the workforce with useful skills.

CCNB volunteers and corpsmembers have performed nearly three million hours of work on 150,000 acres of public lands. If you haven't seen them throughout the region doing their work, you've seen the results of their labors in pristine trails, clear rivers and streams, reduced flooding, fewer wildfires, and reduced carbon footprint.

In short, at CCNB we teach young adults with uncertain futures to create a better future for all of us.

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