

Wildland Fire Suppression Training in Sonoma County

Earlier this year, our Sonoma corpsmembers and supervisors who are a part of our Natural Resources Crews had the opportunity to learn valuable skills and knowledge about wildland fires. The team took part in what is called **Basic 32** training, funded through a grant from The Watershed Research and Training Center and facilitated by their team.

Corpsmembers and supervisors also had the chance to learn skills in wildland fire suppression, getting practice with common fire line hand tools. The trainers stressed safety and taught corpsmembers and staff how to work safely in wildland fire environment and be aware of their surroundings. Luckily, some of our more senior corpsmembers and staff had experience working in the same location where we held the training! Local landowners volunteered their land for the training after being impressed with two years' worth of work our crews did with Sonoma Resource and Conservation District on their property near Mark West Springs in 2020 and 2021.



This **Basic 32** training certified 17 of our corpsmembers as **Firefighter Type II (FFT2)**, and others now understand the steps they need to take next to achieve this themselves. For our corpsmembers who have many personal or systematic barriers in their lives such as low education attainment and opportunities, system-impacted families, and poverty, the opportunity provided by the Watershed Research and Training Center was a way for participants to get real applied experience and a certification that will assist them in career advancement in wildland firefighting. Some of the corpsmembers have even applied to the local Fire Forward program to continue their wildland firefighting training and career advancement. Because of support from The Watershed Research and Training Center and our staff, these corpsmembers now have their foot in the door into careers in firefighting. For a few of these corpsmembers, they are close to making their dream career a reality.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Serving Nearby Counties
Kincade Fire Settlement

Inaugural FIRE Foundry Crew
Corpsmember Job Placements



“When I first started, I never thought I’d be where I am today but with the drive and positive feedback and help from my supervisors I was able to achieve my goals and exceed my own expectations for myself.”

~ CORPSMEMBER AND CREW LEADER **MIKAL H.**

Fire Prevention More Important Than Ever

On behalf of our Board, staff, and especially our corpsmembers and the communities we serve together, Conservation Corps North Bay is proud to share that our Sonoma County programs have been named a beneficiary in PG&E's Kincadee Fire settlement.

These funds, spread over five years, come at a critical time for CCNB as we expand our work crews in Sonoma County to provide even more essential services around fire prevention, flood mitigation, and landfill diversion. While our project partners fund the hands-on training for our crews, this growth is resulting in the need for additional resources to increase our capacity to offer wraparound services and career readiness support for the growing number of young people in our program. The settlement will make it possible for CCNB to add this capacity now instead of raising additional funds over time, ensuring that all corpsmembers current and new will receive equitable levels of support from our Career Pathways team.

We are incredibly grateful for our donors and partners who make our current level of programming possible and enable CCNB to help hundreds of corpsmembers each year on their paths to achieving their career goals. It is because of you that we are in a position to grow to serve even more who will gain critical job skills while protecting the North Bay from the impacts of climate change.

We recognize that recovery from these horrific fires will take many years and appreciate that these funds will support corpsmembers - who themselves have been affected by recent fires - as they work to help prevent future disasters in Sonoma County. We look forward to sharing outcomes as CCNB continues to adapt to the growing needs of our communities and thank you for continuing this journey with us.

Corpsmembers Making Moves!

Corpsmembers are achieving their goals left and right thanks to support from our Career Pathways team. Corpsmember Warren got a job with a local Parks and Recreation department, corpsmember Chris was hired as a supervisor with CCNB, and corpsmember Elizabeth has been hired as a dispatcher by the County of Marin. Other corpsmembers are renewing their passports, getting their drivers' licenses, and opening bank accounts, opening the door to countless new opportunities.



GREEN NOTE:

It's not too late to be planting in your garden! One of the best ways to save water is to plant native species. If you're looking to improve your garden by planting a specific color or attracting a certain pollinator, it can be hard to find the perfect fit. We found the website calscape.org to be a very useful tool; you can search for plants by region, color, height, bloom time, which pollinator you want to attract, and even the nursery that carries it!

OUR TEAM IS GROWING!

The CCNB team is expanding and evolving to keep up with the increase in programs for corpsmembers and services for the community.

Visit our website to get to know our new team members:
ccnorthbay.org/about-ccnb/our-team/



Broadening Our Reach

Spring has sprung and kept our Zero Waste team busy! Not only have our program offerings expanded tremendously in the last few years to include mattress recycling, carpet recycling, and edible food recovery, but our services have also been requested in counties outside Marin and Sonoma.

These past few months have given our corpsmembers opportunities to visit our larger neighboring cities. Our crews have been attending the monthly Oakland Block Party to collect mattresses. Just in the first three months of 2022, our crews collected 164 mattresses for recycling from Oakland residents. In February, corpsmembers serviced more than 50 recycling bins at parks and beaches on both sides of the Golden Gate Bridge, getting to work in San Francisco thanks to funding from the National Park Foundation.

Late in March, crews traveled to the far edge of Solano County to hold our first ever E-Waste and tire collection event for the City of Rio Vista and neighboring residents. Our crews were able to serve 145 residents and collect 6,192 pounds of E-Waste along with 208 tires. In past years, our crews have gone as far north as Fort Bragg to host events like these.

This work is all in addition to the projects we tackle here in our two home counties. Corpsmembers are especially excited for these opportunities that allow them to work extra hours, travel, experience new communities, and see more of beautiful northern California.

First FIRE Foundry Recruits Start Off Strong

This year, we are joining partners across Marin County to offer a new career track for young people interested in careers in the fire service: the FIRE Foundry. The goal of the program is to establish a science and technology-savvy, community-oriented wildfire prevention workforce by providing job training and skills development for underrepresented community members in Marin County and the surrounding Bay Area. FIRE Foundry is a career pathway program designed to support community members through career exploration in the fire service and strengthen competitiveness for future employment as firefighters or related careers in medicine, public safety, and environmental preservation. The FIRE Foundry works with recruits throughout the entire process of becoming a firefighter from the day recruits begin to express curiosity about this career path and are accepted into the program.

The inaugural crew of 12 includes several CCNB alumni. They have been reducing fire fuels all over Marin County, learning valuable skills, and building camaraderie with their team. Recruits are also receiving mentoring and wrap-around support services as they make their way through subsequent phases of the program, including family and housing support to ensure participants are free to engage in training and coursework. You can learn more about this program online on our website or at FIREFoundry.org.



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About CCNB

Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the oldest local nonprofit youth conservation corps in the country. Serving Marin and Sonoma Counties since 1982, CCNB has helped thousands of young people achieve their goals through education and job skills, while serving the environment and community. Our mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable community.

Follow us on your favorite social media channels to stay up-to-date on all our projects, corpsmember spotlights, and program expansion announcements!



CCNorthBay.org

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