



STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

conservation begins here.



US Army Corps of Engineers.

2022 PARTNER REPORT TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



SCA AmeriCorps intern Alejandra Larranaga inputs the GPS locations of each discovered Western Pond Turtle nest for future studies.

For decades, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) has assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in protecting, sustaining, and improving our nation's natural and human-made environment. In the process, together we have provided transformative service opportunities for young people from every community in the country. This year, 50 SCA participants rendered over 38,000 hours of service at 18 ACE facilities.

- **GPS Surveys:** an ongoing, multi-year effort to update geospatial databases in support of USACE recreational assets
- **Water Safety:** boat patrols, safety presentations, and interpretative assistance at Burnsville Lake in West Virginia
- **Forest Management:** Emerald Ash Border monitoring and forest inventoring for the Rivers Project outside St. Louis

Additionally, SCA participants augmented climate resiliency, enhanced equity and environmental justice, and completed essential conservation projects. We look forward to continuing our support of USACE in 2023 and beyond.

SUMMARY

USACE Sites	18
SCA Members	50
SCA Member Service Hours	38,539

SCA PROGRAM MODEL

	MEMBERS	SERVICE HOURS
Conservation Internships	40	28,950
Conservation Corps (Teams)	10	9,589

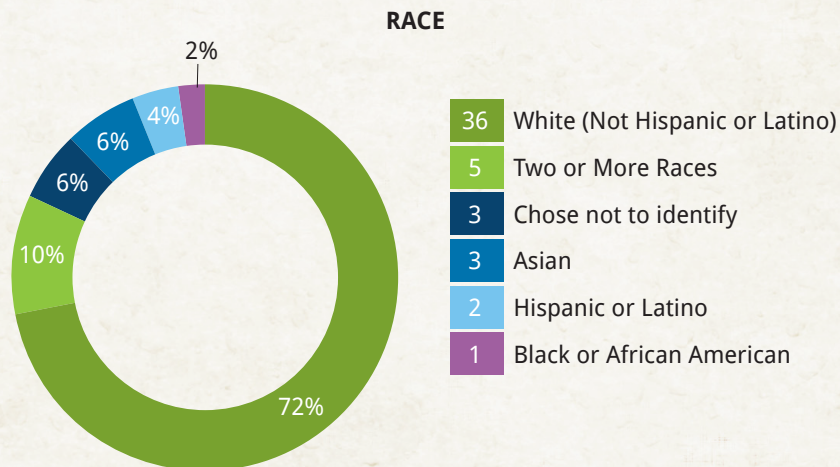
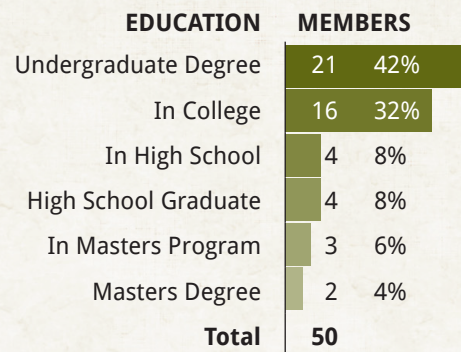
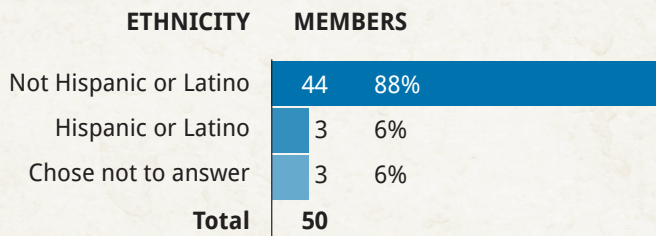
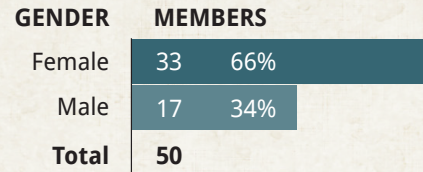
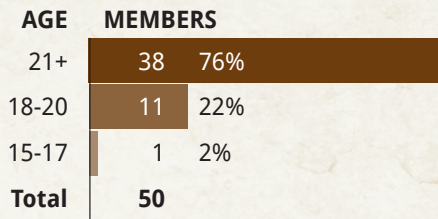
MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

	MEMBERS
Visitor Services and Site Operations	14
GIS/GPS	12
Natural Resource Management	10
Wildlife Management	6
Cultural/Historical RM	3
Recreation Management	3
Education and Interpretation	2

SCA-USACE SITES

	MEMBERS
National GIS Program (multiple Lakes)	10
Willamette Valley Project	8
Libby Dam	6
Clarkston Natural Resource Office	5
Albeni Falls Dam	3
USACE Rivers Project Office	3
Alum Creek Lake	2
Lower Granite Project	2
Raystown Lake	2
Atwood Lake	1
Bailey Lake	1
Bluestone Lake	1
Burnsville Lake	1
Deer Creek Lake	1
Dillon Lake	1
Dworshak Reservoir	1
Summersville Lake	1
USACE Illinois Waterway	1

MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS



“Watercraft inspection and education stations are the front line in preventing the spread of invasive aquatic organisms into the pristine and valued waterways of Montana. Our SCA interns are a major part of that ecological defense.”

– SUSAN JAMES, RANGER, LIBBY DAM

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS



Raystown Lake, PA

Hesston, PA

Wildlife and fisheries management, threatened and endangered species monitoring, habitat enhancement, trail maintenance, site mapping, and public safety were all part of SCA's 2022 work plan at Raystown Lake Project. "I worked on protecting turtle nests and recording data," said Natural Resource Assistant Alexia Maxim. "Being able to teach others about the work I was doing—I did not realize how much people really cared about the things we were doing in and around the project."

For Water Safety Intern Rachael Gwinn, the educational events she planned and executed resulted in myriad public benefits as well as enduring personal rewards. "I helped teach kids the importance of water safety and wearing life jackets," she recalled. "I really felt proud at Chalk the Walk. I organized the event and worked hard to get businesses to donate prizes and the kids drew really awesome water safety drawings."

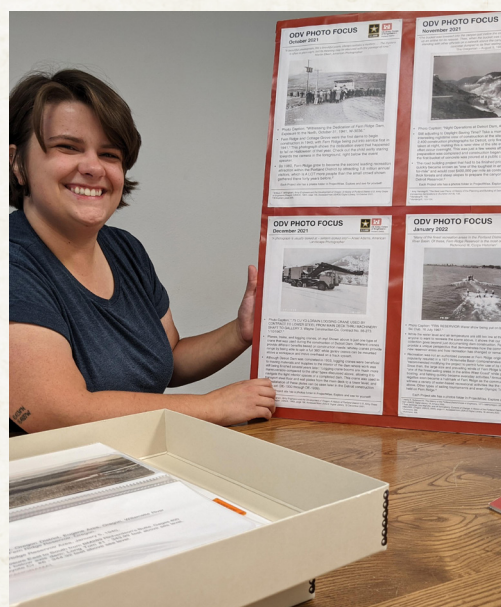
The interns' conservation efforts were a factor in Raystown Lake earning the National Fish Habitat Partnership's 2022 designation as one of 10 U.S. Waters to Watch. "Having these students perform the work they do is an incredible asset to our program," stated Ranger Alicia Palmer.

Eugene, OR

For all the contributions SCA participants make to our USACE partners, the experience, mentoring, and confidence they gain in return are just as valuable. At the Corps' Willamette Valley Project (WVP), wildlife intern Alejandra Larranaga assisted in monitoring and trapping sensitive species including the Northwestern pond turtle and the Western purple martin, while also collecting GPS and morphometric data. "I am more prepared for my professional career because of the skills I learned here," Alejandra declared. "I could not have asked for anything more!"

Williamette Valley Biologist Kathleen Smith flatly states, "Having an SCA intern at our site is critical for field work assistance during our busy summer field season. If I did not have the intern's help with nest searches and visual encounter surveys, it would have been impossible to complete our projects."

Also at WVP, intern Brittany Spoto organized, scanned, and cataloged hundreds of archival dam construction photos, archaeological reports, and historical recreation documents. "Completing the Fern Ridge Photograph project was a major accomplishment," she says. "I was very proud to have gotten it done and be able to see the final product of over 1,500 digitized photographs."



AmeriCorps archival intern Brittany Spoto shows off her monthly "Photo Focus" projects that highlight significant events unearthed during her document archival internship.



Across the U.S.

Since 2016, SCA has partnered with USACE to generate high-quality geospatial datasets of recreation and transportation assets to inform federal funding allocations and local management strategies. Over the years, SCA has carefully refined its tools and processes, resulting in a powerful and customized resource that utilizes the latest software, hardware, and methodologies to enable efficient, scalable data collection and verification.

SCA's proprietary data platform utilizes a cloud-based GIS solution, powered by ESRI and ArcGIS Online (AGOL). The system enables field collectors to sync data directly to the cloud, and allows USACE project staff to view the data as they come in from the field—resulting in significant value-added for the Corps.

Including work accomplished in 2022, SCA surveyors to date have logged nearly 25,000 hours while mapping more than 29,000 camp sites, 7,600 picnic sites, 4,200 miles of roadway, 4,000 acres of parking lots, and 2,500 boat ramps. Surveys have been completed in the Fort Worth, Little Rock, Louisville, Mobile, Nashville, Portland, St. Louis, Tulsa, Vicksburg, and Wilmington Districts.

Tracy Lyons of Ohio, who served on the 2021-22 inventory team, signed on to return for the 2022-23 season after “seeing our collected data at the end of the program and realizing how much we accomplished in six months!”

“During the recreation season our park has an extremely high level of visitation, which makes it very hard to keep up with everything. The SCA positions are vital to the success of each recreation season.”

– COTE WOMACK, RANGER, SUMMERSVILLE LAKE

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