

2023 PARTNER REPORT TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



SCA intern collecting grassland bird survey data.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is pleased to submit this report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on program activity for Fiscal Year 2023. For this reporting year, USACE provided opportunities for 56 young and passionate stewards serving at USACE sites, where they advanced some of the Corps' most important imperatives. SCA members engage in hands-on conservation service, deliver significant outcomes that advanced the objectives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and earn the career skills necessary to embark on a lifetime of stewardship.

- Our GIS Corps collected data at recreation areas throughout the country, updating geospatial records and allowing for informed budgetary allocations, in an ongoing SCA-USACE initiative that began in 2016. In FY23, 16 SCA members served through the GIS Corps.
- SCA Conservation Interns served at the Libby Dam in Montana. SCA Interns assisted with GIS data analysis, general maintenance, and aquatic invasive species monitoring in partnership with Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks.
- An SCA Conservation Corps crew maintained Corps facilities including campgrounds, day-use areas and wildlife management areas at the Albeni Falls Dam in Idaho.
- SCA Interns serving at the Clarkston Natural Resource Office assisted in development of mitigation and fire management plans, habitat restoration activities, and field inspections.
- In support of the Willamette Valley Project, SCA interns protected Northwestern pond turtle nests at three lakes and conducted wildlife surveys.

MEMBERS BY PROGRAM TYPE

Internships	40
Teams	16
Grand Total	56

SERVICE HOURS BY PROGRAM TYPE

Internships	22,816
Teams	11,844
Grand Total	34,660

MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

MEMBERS

Geographic Info Systems (GIS, includes GPS)	20
Natural Resources Management	17
Visitor Services and Site Operations	11
Wildlife Management	5
Education and Interpretation	3
Grand Total	56

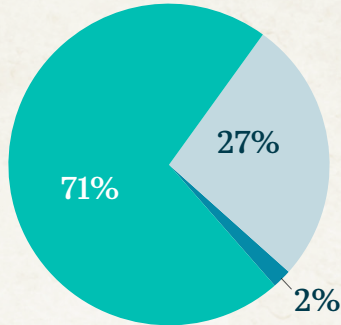
SCA-USACE SITES

MEMBERS

USACE GIS Inventory Team	16
Libby Dam	6
Albeni Falls Dam	6
Willamette Valley Project	5
Clarkston Natural Resource Office	4
USACE Illinois Waterway	3
USACE Rivers Project Office	2
USACE Lake Washington Ship Canal	2
Alum Creek Lake	2
Raystown Lake	2
Mud Mountain Dam	2
USACE Tulsa District Office	1
Wills Creek Dam	1
Bailey Lake	1
Burnsville Lake	1
Mohawk Dam	1
Atwood Lake	1
Grand Total	56

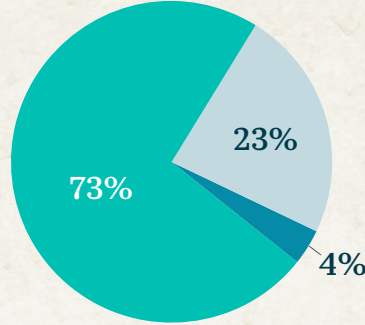
2023 MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER



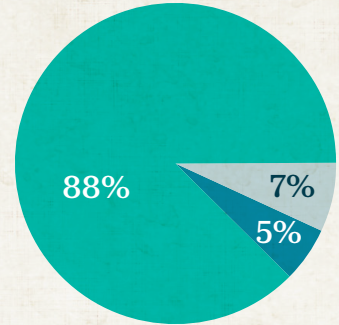
- Identify as Female
- Identify as Male
- Chose not to Identify

AGE



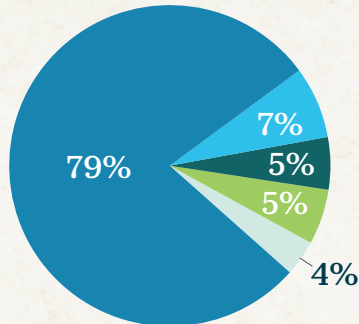
- 21 and Above
- 18-20
- 15-17

ETHNICITY



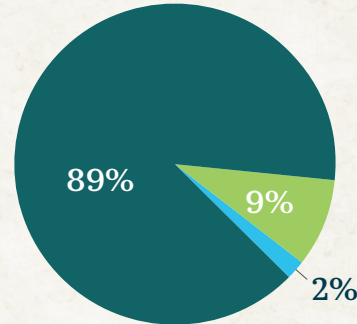
- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Chose not to Answer

RACE



- White (Not Hispanic or Latino)
- Asian (Not Hispanic or Latino)
- Hispanic or Latino
- Chose not to Answer
- Two or More Races

MILITARY STATUS



- Not a Veteran
- Pre 9/11 Veteran
- Chose not to Answer

“The work conducted by our SCA wildlife interns was extraordinary. They were both essential to the daily operation of the summer wildlife program. We would not be able to accomplish most of our work without the help of the 2 interns.”

– MEGAN INNES, CLARKSTON NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICE

SCA USACE 2023 INTERN HIGHLIGHT



JOHN COPRIVIZA

SCA GIS Intern, Albeni Falls Dam

John Copriviza knows he has one of the best positions at Albeni Falls Dam in Idaho with USACE. Beginning his full-time SCA GIS internship in May 2023, John transitioned from summer outdoor projects like boundary searches and mapping hazard trees to more intricate indoor tasks such as data scrubbing, working to make the data he collected accessible to the public. Each project in his internship has provided a canvas for creativity and problem-solving, and he feels proud that the work he's doing has explicit purpose. John has found mentors in his colleagues; the Natural Resources staff at his internship site have been supportive in his learning about other areas of the federal government and work within USACE. As of November 2023, John has his sights set on an open ranger position at this site, and credits SCA with connecting him to work that he enjoys so much.

SCA USACE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



33

HISTORIC OR VISITOR USE
BUILDINGS PRESERVED



282

ACRES OF LAND OR
WETLAND IMPROVED



5,155

PEOPLE RECEIVED
EDUCATION & OUTREACH



6,477

FEET OF SHORE/WATERWAY
IMPROVED

“Having these students perform the work they do is
an incredible asset to our program.”

– ALICIA PALMER, RANGER, RAYSTOWN LAKE

SCA USACE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



AVERY KING

Wildlife Intern, Clarkston Natural Resource Office

Having known about the SCA since high school, Avery King's journey began after college when she learned about an internship opportunity in Washington state. During an 18-month SCA term as a wildlife biology intern, Avery worked closely with a wildlife biologist, engaging in fieldwork, habitat projects, and a special project—developing a pollinator garden outside of the office she worked in. The idea had been discussed for several years among office staff of the Clarkston Natural Resource Office, but no one had been able to take the time out of their usual schedule to make it happen. Avery was given free rein to transform the open space outside of the office into an interpretive garden with signs. Avery now gets to see this garden every day as she goes to her permanent job as a GIS Specialist and is proud of this tangible legacy. The SCA experience played a pivotal role in her career trajectory; proximity of the SCA term to her current office created an opportune connection, and when a vacancy emerged, her supervisor encouraged her to apply. The SCA internship provided her with a valuable understanding of federal service, breaking through the challenges of entering the federal government employment sphere.

INSIYAA AHMED

USACE Rivers Project Office

Insiyaa Ahmed started her conservation and field biology trajectory in a post-college internship in bird research and monitoring as a Wildlife Manager intern at the USACE River Projects Office in West Alton, MO. As an SCA intern from July 2018 to February 2019, she found fulfillment in the variety of work and the supportive team, undergoing training in chainsaw operation and other skills. Transitioning from intern to a biology and forestry-focused role, Insiyaa cherished seeing the data she collected translated into management activities. Based just 30 minutes north of St. Louis, she now manages around 50,000 acres of land along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, working closely with the forestry team on forest management plans. Insiyaa's current project involves constructing a greenhouse for growing native plants, not only supporting forestry services but also engaging the public through education and volunteers, as part of the Great Rivers Pollinator Habitat Partnership—a collaboration she helped create. Reflecting on her SCA experience, Insiyaa credits the internship for helping to secure her current position and expressed a desire to continue growing in the field, focusing on management plans and gaining a higher-level understanding of natural resource management. Insiyaa recently offered an internship to another student for a greenhouse project, emphasizing the importance of interns exploring their own projects based on their interests. Her journey from insect monitoring and interpretation during her internship to a full-time employee demonstrates the positive impact of her SCA experience, especially in collaborative regional partnerships centered around the greenhouse initiative.





NICOLE BALDWIN

Naugatuck River Basin Office

Nicole Baldwin's journey with SCA began as a wildland bio tech intern with the FWS in Kansas during the winter of 2010. Working on projects like tree surveys and leaf litter measurements, this experience laid the foundation for a broad understanding of bio data tracking. In the summer of the same year, as a water safety outreach educator with the USACE in Dallas, Nicole experienced the world of park rangers for the first time. Projects ranged from water modeling systems for education to shadowing a ranger, a transformative experience that clarified her aspiration to become a park ranger. SCA played a pivotal role in steering Nicole towards this career, breaking into the field during a hiring freeze in Texas and subsequently landing her first paid summer park ranger position. Reflecting on her pivotal moments during the internships, conducting a prescribed burn in Kansas stands out as a profound experience, showcasing the purposeful work to encourage ecosystem growth. In Texas, Nicole's first school program in outreach solidified her interest in interpretation. Her SCA internships became a crucial step in discovering her passions and ultimately shaped a fulfilling career. Currently, Nicole is a Natural Resources Specialist Park Ranger for USACE in the Naugatuck River Basin Office, transitioning to the role in August 2023 after starting in the basin in February of 2020. With enthusiasm for dams and interpretation, she now oversees SCA interns, drawing from her own experience to mentor and enhance their experiences. much we accomplished in six months!"

“My most meaningful moment was when I worked with an ODNR wildlife officer because I realized that I would love to follow in his footsteps one day and serve as an officer.”

– KAYLA GILMORE, PARK RANGER INTERN

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