

# Student Conservation Association New Hampshire Conservation Corps 2022 Field Season Report



**APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> – OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

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**Davis Brush**  
Program Manager

**Zach Colatch**  
Conservation Coordinator

**Roan Roberts**  
Program Assistant

**Kate Banyas**  
Education Coordinator

**Jake Westrich**  
Field Specialist

## About SCA

The mission of SCA is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

SCA was founded in 1957 by Elizabeth Titus Putnam, a college student with a big dream. “Visionary” accurately describes Liz. Launching an American conservation movement powered exclusively by young people would be ambitious today, but considering that she conceived of the idea in 1957—at age 20—makes her all the more remarkable. While still attending Vassar College, Liz modeled SCA after the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps and enlisted student volunteers to assist with the upkeep of U.S. national parks and public spaces. Sixty years and 100,000 participants later, SCA is not only a stalwart presence in national parks but also a potent partner of other federal, state and local resource management agencies around the country, helping to protect endangered species, conserve urban green spaces, and restore landscapes ravaged by wildfires and floods.

SCA programs serve the communities and land throughout the nation by accomplishing significant conservation service projects that enhance and protect natural areas. SCA programs also provide educational opportunities to promote the understanding, protection and stewardship of these natural areas. The four programmatic outcomes are taken directly from the mission: Service, Leadership, Conservation and Stewardship.

## Program Summary

The SCA New Hampshire Conservation Corps (NHCC) is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and AmeriCorps. Since 1994, NHCC has provided nearly one million hours of service to the lands and people of New Hampshire. Each year, volunteers contribute tens of thousands of service hours, providing environmental education programming to the state’s residents and visitors, and completing conservation service projects that improve and protect the state’s recreational, environmental, and cultural resources.

The mission of NHCC is to serve the communities and lands of New Hampshire while building the members’ leadership and technical skills in the conservation field. In the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps, NHCC members perform direct hands-on service while developing their ethic of service and citizenship. These highly motivated young adults, typically 21-29 years of age, enhance and protect natural areas through environmental education programs, interpretive ranger programs, and conservation stewardship activities that include trail and recreational management projects as well other land and historic preservation projects.

Each year the NHCC AmeriCorps program welcomes members to Bear Brook State Park to serve and learn in its residential program. For 2022, the program welcomed 9 Interpretive Rangers and 18 Field Crew Members. The Field Crew Members arrived to form 3 rotating field crews and overlapped with the Interpretive Rangers for several weeks of training. The program was excited to welcome the return of the Interpretive Ranger position after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Field Crews receive several weeks of skills trainings before heading out into the field to partner with N.H. State Parks, White Mountain National Forest, local conservation commissions, land trusts, and state-wide nonprofits to provide conservation stewardship throughout the state; from the great north woods to the White Mountains and the seacoast. The high priority conservation projects that the NHCC crews complete include trail construction and maintenance (rock work, native timber, dimensional lumber bridges, and other traditional trail building and maintenance techniques), carpentry projects constructing visitor use structures such as camp shelters, and some habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and historic preservation.

## Partnerships

This year NH Conservation Corps partnered with 5 agencies and organizations to carry out 27 projects. The largest partner was NH State Parks, with crews serving in 16 parks completing 15 hitches. NHCC partnered with the USFS on the White Mountain National Forest for 6 hitches and 3 non-profit land managers for 6 hitches. These land management partners are critical to NH Corps' success and are greatly appreciated.

### 2022 Partner Agencies & Organizations:

- NH State Parks – Serving in 16 parks
- White Mountain National Forest serving on all 3 districts
- Monadnock Conservancy
- Forest Society
- Squam Lake Association

These partners and projects allowed members to experience the beauty of public lands throughout NH. From the summit of Mt. Washington to Mt. Monadnock, and from Umbagog Lake to all the wilderness areas of the White Mountain National Forest, members served all over New Hampshire. This diversity of locations and project partners helps members learn about different conservation agencies, positions, and career opportunities.

## Training



Trails Skills Derby – an SCA classic! Last day of trails training when crews construct mini trail networks to put their new trail knowledge to the test.



Carpentry Training at Umbagog State Park. Members construct the frame for a camping shelter.

The program dives right into training season to prepare members for the field. Through a combination of formal training and certification courses, hands-on field instruction on real-time projects, and supervised follow-up training, members go through nearly two months of skill development prior to the start of the regular hitches. Most of this happens as a training-through-service model, as the bulk of training is spent completing projects on public lands.

### Advanced Wilderness First Aid (AWFA): Spruce Pond Camp

- The course was put on by Aerie out of Missoula, Montana. Through this 4-day training, members learn important information to both treat, but also prevent, injuries and illness during the program. With this being the first training following SCA orientation, it serves as a great bonding opportunity for the member group.

## Camp Skills & Leave No Trace

- Following AWFA, members headed to Pillsbury State Park to learn a wide range of skills for both frontcountry camping in developed campgrounds as well as the skills needed for backcountry wilderness camping. Skill stations covered everything from using propane cook stoves and GPS communication devices to how to set up tents and filtering drinking water. Members also earned Leave No Trace Trainer certificates while going through training on reducing impact from recreational activities and being mindful while working, camping, and enjoying public lands.

## Game of Logging: Bear Brook State Park

- Two instructors from Northeast Woodland Training led eight members through Levels 1 & 2 chainsaw safety and operation. The training took place on Spruce Pond Road in Bear Brook and accomplished three goals: First the training, secondly trees were felled to allow more sunlight to reach the road – drying out the road base – helping to protect it, and third NHCC hauled the cut rounds back to Spruce Pond camp for firewood.



## Conservation Work Skills: Bear Brook State Park

- Four instructors led a week of trail training projects on 3 trails in Bear Brook where members rotated through all projects. Skill stations included trail design and construction, native timber, stonework, and trail tread and drainage. Of the 3 trails improved, the Cub Trail is of note as NHCC had reopened it during training in 2021 after two years of work. This trail had been closed years ago due to erosion and the 2019 and 2021 NHCC work skills crews worked to reroute a large section, install drainage structures, clear down trees, and add sustainable design features. The 2022 skills stations dug another new trail reroute and installed drainage features to continue improving the popular trail.

## Carpentry: Umbagog Lake State Park

- In continuing what has become a training standard for NHCC, program staff taught carpentry skill proficiency through the construction of two Adirondack-style camping shelters. This year we constructed the first two shelters at Umbagog Lake State Park. The training focused on reading plans, inventorying materials, developing a project strategy, assessing risks, learning tool safety and use, and then immediately putting those skills and knowledge to use. Because this is a training project, the goal is only to construct the frames of the shelters and members completed the shelters during two regular season hitches.



**Other trainings:** Rigging & Griphoist, SCA's Drive Safe Drive Smart course, trailer use, painting historic structures, leadership, conflict resolution, identify and inclusion, and project reporting.

## Spring Hitch with NH State Parks

Every year NHCC partners with State Parks midway through our training season to field three crews in three regions of the park system: Southern, Central, and Great North Woods. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to hit the field following weeks of training and content, so that they can put their new skills to use while getting out of Bear Brook and seeing the state. It is also perfect timing for NH State Parks to have extra hands to assist with campground and park preparation for the season. Crews rove parks within each region to complete priority projects including campsite and beach cleanup focusing on clearing down trees and debris from the winter, opening trail corridors around day use and campground areas; painting visitor use structures, repairing picnic tables, and other general tasks. Crews typically move campsites several times allowing for practice setting up and breaking camp, meeting project partners, seeing new ways of doing things, and challenging themselves to get everything to fit in the SCA van again. Following Spring Hitch, members return to structured trainings for nearly another month to continue preparing for the regular hitch season.

## Hitches & Peer Leadership

During the 2022 season, the New Hampshire Conservation Corps fielded crews for 27 hitches throughout the state. A “hitch” is an 11-day project trip during which a crew serves and camps at or near the project site. The crews return to the Spruce Pond Camp NHCC program site located in Bear Brook State Park for three days off between hitches, with each member participating in a total of nine hitches over the season. There are three crews of six per hitch, and members are scrambled around each hitch, allowing all members to work together throughout the season.

NHCC practices the peer-leadership model. Through this each member serves as a co-leader among their program peers as well as being led by their peers. All members led three hitches, with two folks serving as leader four times. The Conservation Coordinator takes each member’s project and career interests into account while assigning leaders, so that members can both challenge themselves and walk away from the program with relevant experience. Equally important to the leadership role is that of active participant. NHCC promotes the concept of active participation by all members to further develop skills through initiative, sharing of ideas, and being a team contributor.

**Below are brief summaries of the season’s hitch projects:**

### Frankenstein Cliff Trail Reroute

**Crawford Notch State Park – NH State Parks**

**Location:** Harts Location, NH

**Partner:** Erik Nelson



Following a small forest fire, NH State Parks hired a trail consultant to identify a new route and plan for the Frankenstein Cliff Trail. Having a new trail construction project at the start of the summer offered the crew the opportunity to put their recently learned skills to use. The crew worked hard to cut through the one foot+ deep ash and organic layer to establish a 150’ reroute that required a significant amount of mineral soil. The original trail ran along the steep ledge which offered great views but was unsustainable and treacherous. The new route flows easier and due to the loss of vegetation, there is a terrific view. The crew was initially slated to go to another park and was very excited to be reassigned to this project last minute. They pushed through a grueling daily hike to carry equipment to the worksite. A few members were particularly good at getting covered head to toe in ash and were proud that the smell of fire remained on their clothes most of the season.

### Umbagog Campground Adirondack Shelters (2 Hitches)

**Umbagog Lake State Park – NH State Parks**

**Location:** Errol, NH

**Partner:** Sandy Young



It has become a program custom in recent years to begin the construction of two Adirondack style camp shelters during carpentry training and then return during hitches to complete the structures during subsequent hitches. These were the first shelters at Umbagog Lake and used a new design to add a porch and overhang the campsite edge to allow more open space in the site. This is the perfect pairing of meeting a public desire for additional visitor use structures and member skill development through service. The shelters require group decision making and teamwork as they consult blueprints, make precise cuts, and use a wide variety of power tools. State Parks staff were very helpful as we navigated materials issues.

## Old Bridal Path Improvement (3 Hitches)

**Squam Lake Association & University of New Hampshire**

**Location:** Holderness, NH – West Rattlesnake Mountain

**Partners:** Katri Gurney (SLA) & Steve Eisenhaure (UNH)



This was an exciting and highly rewarding partnership with the Squam Lake Association (SLA) to work on an impacted section of the very popular Old Bridal Path Trail near the summit. The land is owned by the University of NH and managed by SLA, and NHCC worked with both to identify project priorities, sensitive areas to protect, and which materials were most appropriate to use for structures. SLA had a full summer of work planned for the trail and NHCC played a part of that work along with students and staff from UNH, the Squam Lakes Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps NCCC, and volunteers. Everyone came together during NH Corps' first hitch to carry dozens of 6x6x8' PT timbers up the trail nearly one mile! Crews then used these 6x6s to construct check steps, crib steps, and retaining walls. In addition, they constructed a native timber ladder/crib stair hybrid, reset a large rock water bar, and graded 600' of tread. The ladder was necessary due to uneven rock slab underneath, and it replaced a mostly deteriorated ladder that hikers were avoiding.

This was a fantastic project that was enjoyed by 16 NHCC members. The worksite was just below the summit of West Rattlesnake Mountain, which offers an incredible view of Squam Lake and mountains in the distance. The view from the summit made this an ideal lunch spot and the campsite, on Squam Lake, was equally beautiful.

## Pemigewasset Backcountry Site Assessments

**White Mountain National Forest, Pemigewasset District – USFS**

**Location:** Franconia, NH

**Partner:** Mike Mosley & Mike Benson



The members on this crew were thrilled to get out into the backcountry. The work consisted of monitoring and surveying user-created, and mostly unapproved, campsites in the Pemigewasset Ranger District. Each day the crew would hike to these campsites and rate them on a scale of zero to ten (ten being a campsite that desperately needed restoration, zero being a campsite that was completely restored). "Restored" in this case means closed in with brush, rocks that have been set to prevent tents from being set up, or otherwise disguising the site from future hikers looking for a campsite. With this information the Forest Service will be able to determine whether to close campsites. There were several illegal campsites that they worked to restore and revegetate using surrounding rocks, brush, and fallen logs to make the site undesirable so that the area can eventually revegetate. The crew raved about this experience and the beauty of the WMNF!

## Jericho Falls and Mt. Washington Trail Improvements

### Jericho Mountain & Mt. Washington State Parks – NH State Parks

**Location:** Berlin, NH and Mt. Washington Summit, Sargent's Purchase, NH

**Partners –** Tammy Donovan, Jericho Mtn. Park Manager; Patrick Hummel, Mt. Washington Park Manager



Splitting their time between Jericho and Mt. Washington, this crew worked to accomplish a list of tasks while enjoying the beauty of two incredible work areas. At Jericho, the crew worked to further develop and improve the rough Jericho Falls Trail. This trail leads from a campground road to a beautiful and little-known waterfall. The existing trail was steep, wet in spots, unclear, and slippery. The crew built bog bridges to span the wet spots, rerouted several short runs of trail around slippery banks, hardened tread with ledge-pack, and widened the corridor. Near the falls, they worked to better position and set rocks for a viewing area and used rigging to pull a large water-log tree out of the viewing area.

The crew planned for three days of service on the summit of Mt. Washington based on the forecast and progress at Jericho. There was a sufficiently high level of exhilaration to head to the summit and construct 7,392' of rock scree wall to essentially build bumpers on the sides of the trail to keep hikers on trail. They also demolished visitor-built cairns, which were mostly placed incorrectly and would lead to other hikers wondering off trail.

## Marlboro Trail Improvements (2 Hitches)

### Forest Society

**Location:** Monadnock State Park; Jaffrey, NH

**Partner:** Andy Crowley



The Forest Society staff identified a 200' section of the Marlboro Trail that would benefit from preventative maintenance. This was a refreshing change for our crews – to take on a section of trail and improve it before it blows out and needs major structures or a reroute. Project partner Andy Crowley and SCA staff gave the crews creative freedom to apply the skills they had recently learned during training to address erosion issues. The primary goal was to use nearby rock to stabilize the trail, provide hikers with improved footing options, and as always, to get water off the trail. The crews built 2 drains, set 33 rock steps, and built 6 rock check steps. This project overlapped with the Forest Society's Trails Week at Monadnock which added a greater sense of community and importance to the work.

## Little Hellsgate Falls Timber Work

## Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest – NH State Parks

**Location:** Clarksville, Coos Country NH

**Partners:** Dwayne Covell & Sandy Young



It's not every year that NHCC heads to the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters region and it's not every project that timber is prepared and ready for the crew to build with. This crew had the pleasure of driving north to transform, repair, and reimagine the 1.3-mile Little Hellgate Falls Trail for a more sustainable and safe experience for hikers. At the midpoint of the loop is a cutoff bringing hikers down to the base of the largest waterfall in the area. The crew noticed multiple fallen trees and hazards, rotting or broken log ladders, saturated and slippery rock steps, and an encroaching corridor. They got to work and built 26 structures including 10 log ladders, check steps, one native timber bog bridge and one retaining wall.

## Androscoggin Backcountry Site Assessments

**White Mountain National Forest, Androscoggin District – USFS**

**Location:** Roving Androscoggin District south of Gorham, NH

**Partner:** Nate Peters & Kate Ellis



The crew loaded up their backpacks, left hand tools behind and hiked the entirety of 3 wilderness areas of the Andro to complete backcountry campsite assessments. Armed with a Forest Service Ipad, pre-loaded with maps and location pins, the crew reached 51 backcountry campsites in the Great Gulf, Caribou Speckled and Wild River Wilderness areas. The sites are user-developed campsites that are being assessed for use and impact so the Forest Service can update their information and plan for future projects to close sites. The crew set and broke camp several times and had the pleasure of hiking and experiencing some of the most beautiful areas in the White Mountains. The project was well suited for the crew as hiking in the backcountry was a goal for many when joining the SCA.

## Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail Improvements

**Monadnock Conservancy**

**Location:** Peterborough, NH

**Partner:** Rick Brackett

NHCC was excited to return to the Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail in Peterborough to continue improving and developing the trail. Partner Rick Brackett identified two areas in need of reroutes and the crew completed 1,095' of new trail construction. They also built a 15' spanning lumber bridge over a rocky seasonal steam bed. Rick was a fantastic partner as always and the crew greatly appreciated the trip to Kimball's Farm for ice cream.



## Androscoggin Roving Trails Improvements



## White Mountain National Forest, Androscoggin District – USFS

**Location:** Roving around Berlin, NH region

**Partners:** Nate Peters



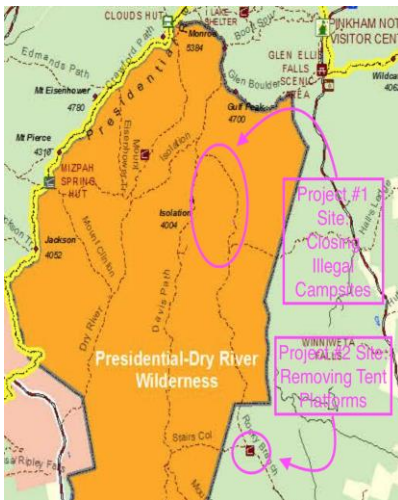
For this hitch, the crew powered through some rainy days to complete much needed work in the Wild River and Kilkenny Wilderness areas, as well as connecting non-wilderness trails. The goals were to address the encroaching trail corridor, remove blowdowns, and improve visibility of the trails. They spent three days in Kilkenny on the Mill Brook and Kilback Pond Trails before heading to the Black Angel Trail in the Wild River Wilderness for three days. The final stretch of hitch was spent on the Moriah Brook Trail. Jumping between wilderness and non-wilderness areas altered the tools that could be used and allowed the crew to use gas brushsaws in the non-wilderness areas. All said and done, the crew cleared 5.2 miles of steep and overgrown corridor on four trails.

## Saco Backcountry Campsite Assessments & Rehabilitation

**White Mountain National Forest, Saco District – USFS**

**Location:** Presidential-Dry River Wilderness

**Partners:** Becky Huncilman, Katie McCann, Steven Ogden



The team had two major projects over the hitch: closing illegal campsites along the Rocky Branch Trail and dismantling and removing dilapidated tent platforms. Beginning with a four-mile hike into the Wilderness, they closed 11 illegal, user-made campsites that were in violation of the Forest Protection Act (too close to trail or waterways). The crew used a variety of techniques to shut down and brush-in unapproved sites including “iceberging” (burying large rocks in the ground to dissuade tent setup) and gathering dead trees and brush and arranging them in illegal sites to hide the clearings. For the second week of hitch, the crew shifted to the demolition and removal of wood and hardware from three double wide tent platforms at a campsite near the southern side of the trail. After spending a day dismantling the platforms, the next several were spent hiking the wood a mile away and dropping it off at a spot for pickup. The crew was fortunate to be working in such a beautiful area because more than a few trips were required.

## Roving Saco Trails Improvement

**White Mountain National Forest, Saco District – USFS**

**Location:** Kancamagus Highway

**Partner:** Cristin Bailey

During peak foliage, this crew partnered with the Saco District to complete trail maintenance around the Kancamagus Highway trails and the Sandwich Wilderness. “Level one maintenance” was the focus to address overgrowth and provide much needed TLC to trail structures. This included brushing, clearing blow downs, clearing debris, and reestablishing drains. A secondary project was closing and brushing in the North Sugarloaf mineral collecting site and associated user-created trails. The crew enjoyed camping at Annis Field along the Kancamagus and had the highlight of a bull moose strolling through camp one evening.

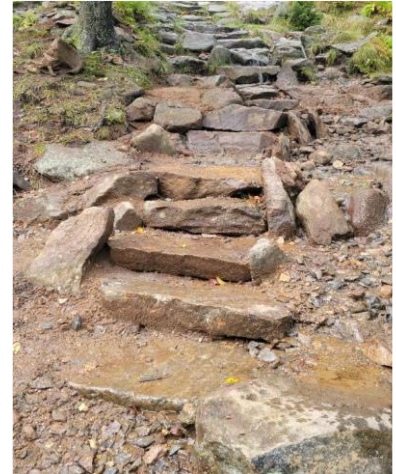


## Monadnock State Park Trail Improvements (4 Hitches)

## Monadnock State Park – NH State Parks

**Location:** Jaffrey, NH

**Partners:** Will Kirkpatrick, Park Manager



NHCC had the pleasure of spending four hitches working on the trails of Monadnock State Park, in addition to the two Forest Society hitches also in Monadnock State Park. This was the third consecutive year of a block of hitches at the park, with the first year of this stretch having been awarded the national 2020 Coalition for Recreation Trails Award (*Youth & Young Adult Service category*) for the 5 hitches completed at Monadnock during the 2019 season. Having set a high standard for the program, this crew continued the legacy and accomplished a wide array of project work.

Leaders worked with Park Manager Will Kirkpatrick to plan and chip away at trail structure replacement. This season had a large focus on native timber work as crews replaced deteriorated check steps, water bars, bog bridges, and spanning decked native timber bridges. What would be a residency at Monadnock without rock work? One crew was lucky enough to break out rigging equipment and take on the task of resetting and replacing a section of rock staircase. NHCC crews are always treated to the best at Monadnock, and the campsites and accommodations were terrific. The two NHCC Interpretive Rangers based at the park were able to hang with the crews and reconnect. A highlight for a few members was being able to assist in a nighttime rescue of a minorly injured hiker, which allowed them to put their WAFA skills to use alongside professionals.

## Hale Brook Trail Check Steps

**White Mountain National Forest, Pemigewasset District – USFS**

**Location:** Twin Mountain, NH

**Partners:** Mike Mosley & Jasmin Faunce



As the leaves changed and the temps began to drop, this eager hitch 8 crew went to the Hale Brook Trail to install timber check steps and water bars to slow erosion and improve the tread. The USFS crew had kindly felled and peeled trees ahead of the project for the crew to source from, allowing them to cut to length and set a far greater number of structures than they otherwise would have. The crew installed 33 check steps and 7 water bars! In addition, they maintained many other existing structures and regraded sections of trail. The crew had a blast and appreciated the USFS staff taking some time to talk about the federal hiring system and providing insight into entry level positions with the Forest Service.

## Ripley Falls Railroad Crossing Stairs & Reroute (2 Hitches)

## Crawford Notch State Park – NH State Parks

**Location:** Harts Location, NH

**Partners:** Eric Nelson, NH State Parks Central Region Manager; Chuck Corliss, NH Dept. of Transportation



A long-planned project to address a treacherous crossing of the Conway Scenic Railway on the Appalachian Trail in Crawford Notch State Park came to fruition this year. This trail receives significant traffic through both its A.T. status and because it leads to the majestic Ripley Falls. The spot where the trail approaches the RR tracks from the parking lot had substantially eroded leaving an uneven 3' step for hikers to climb. Large RR ballast gravel had been spread over this section of trail which, with the steep grade, led to hikers slipping and falling. The aim of the project was to construct a crib-box staircase out of 6x6 lumber, leading to the railroad tracks with a wide platform where hikers could stop and look both ways before crossing. The other part of this project was to relocate the trail on the other side of the tracks to align with the stairs. Up to this point, hikers would scramble up the eroded section and then walk 20' down the tracks to jump onto the trail again. By building the stairs, platform, and realigning the trail through a reroute, the project created a much safer hiking experience where people can safely cross. This was a brute labor project all around; the crews carried all materials up the short, but steep, 150' trail from the parking area. This included ten yards of ledge-pack and two yards of RR ballast stone. Two highlights for the crew members were seeing a bear cub and a bull moose at the worksite!

## Arethusa Falls Trail Timber Structures

**Crawford Notch State Park – NH State Parks**

**Location:** Harts Location, NH

**Partner:** Erik Nelson, Central Region Manager



The crew started the hitch by splitting into two groups, one working on timber check steps on the Arethusa Falls Trail and the other working with the Conservation Coordinator to hike and remove blowdowns from a strong storm along the Arethusa Falls and Frankenstein Cliff Loop Trail. For this they brought rigging equipment to help them safely pull broken trees out of the trail corridor. In total, 22 hazard trees were cleared. On the Arethusa Falls Trail, the crew felled hemlock trees and used the timber to install three native timber check steps to retain a 15' section of trail that was severely blown out. They also replaced a four-tier native timber crib staircase, 0.9 miles up Arethusa Falls Trail right before the first spanning bridge, that was mostly deteriorated. It was foliage season, and the high flow of hikers brought many thanks and recognition from the public.

## Service Data



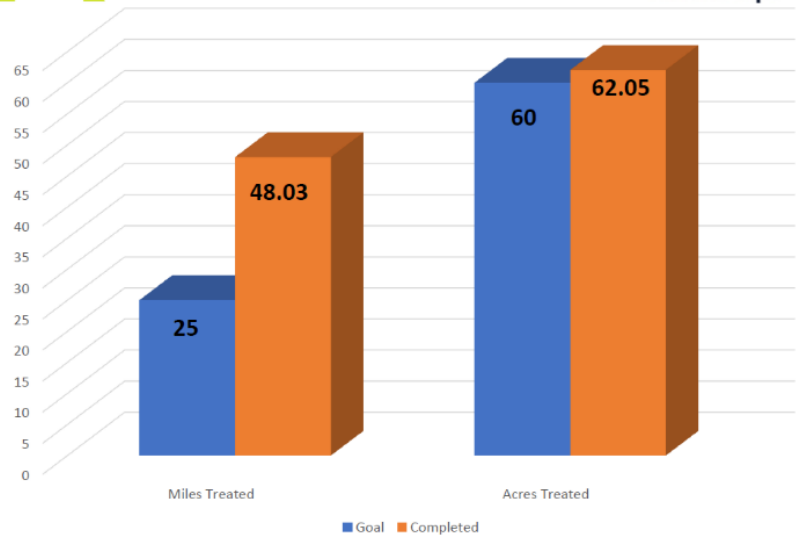
Approximate project locations



AmeriCorps Targets



AmeriCorps



### Spruce Pond Camp Improvements:

- 8 Buildings Painted
- 1 Winter Cabin Stairs Rebuilt
- 1 Winter Cabin Front Wall Replaced
- 7 Acres of Brush Cleared & Chipped
- 800' of Spruce Pond Road Corridor Widened During Chainsaw Training
- 1 Mile of Brush Cut Back from Spruce Pond Road
- 19,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of Building Roof Maintenance/Sweeping



### Open Space Maintenance & Improvement

- 54.9 Acres of Natural Debris Removal from camp sites, view sheds, parks
- 6.08 Acres Shoreline Improvements
- 83 Backcountry Sites Assessed
- 31 Campsites Closed & Revegetated

### Carpentry

- 2 Camping Shelters Built
- 8-step Lumber Staircase Constructed
- 7 Lumber Bridges Built
- 203' Lumber Retaining Wall Constructed

### Trail Maintenance

- 1,994' of New Trail
- 21 miles of Trail Cleared!
- 67 Rock Stairs Set
- 59 Rock Gargoyles Installed
- 17 Water Bars Built
- 7,392' of Stone Scree Wall
- 79 Water Bars Maintained
- 19 Crib Steps Built
- 82 Check Steps Installed
- 10 Native Timber Bog Bridges Built
- 3 Native Timber Spanning Bridges Built
- 13 Timber Ladders Built!

...and many more accomplishments totaling in

**13,226 Total Hitch Service Hours!**

## Member Experience Highlights

"A highlight from this hitch was the many interactions we had with hikers passing by who stopped to thank us for our work and ask us questions about the service we do. Although it is often very difficult and physically demanding work, we love serving to benefit the community and we really appreciate any time that we get to see or hear that our work is having a positive impact on people's lives."

*-Squam Lakes leader Hayden Grover*

"Our team consisted of avid hikers and over the course of 100+ miles we successfully surveyed all the illegal campsites on the list for 2022. Being able to hike and work at the same time was a blessing to us and is an experience we will never forget. While hitting some of the farther campsites we were able to pass through Thirteen Falls, Thoreau Falls, and Mount Garfield and each offered an amazing and unique experience."

*-Pemigewasset Backcountry leaders Nico & Peter*

This experience has been... "Amazing! One of the best experiences I have had in my life. And it is something that will affect me the rest of my life."

*- Ian Ruggiero*

"At the start of our service days, we always do a stretch circle and one morning we saw a black bear cub use the steps we are creating to access the next piece of land for it to explore. Another thing the crew enjoyed were the multiple conversations we had with Appalachian Trail thru-hikers and the families going to visit Ripley Falls. It was incredible to see and be reminded of how the service we do not only impacts the trail but supports people and wildlife as well."

*-Ripley Falls leader Ashley Chastain*

"I've learned that I get a huge amount of joy from working on trails that provide public access. I will certainly consider a career in trail work."

*- Jared Holland*

"We had a highlight the first day while hiking to our worksite when we arrived at the amazing Frankenstein viewpoint. The spectacular view gave us satisfaction in the fact our team would be fixing such a remarkable trail. Having our hitch change from another park to Crawford Notch due to the high priority need to reroute the trail, added a sense of importance and value to our work that was very motivating. Along with this, the entire crew plus our Conservation Coordinator enjoyed a lunch break at the overlook with a spirited game of hacky sack."

*-Frankenstein Cliff crew*



*Scenes from Bear Corps! At the end of the season, once both Field Crews and Interpretive Rangers had returned to Spruce Camp, everyone came together for a spirited, albeit rainy, day of friendly competitions and games. This was to thank and celebrate the accomplishments of the members over the course of the programmatic season.*



## Acknowledgments

### Special Thanks to our External Trainers

**David Birdsall & John Alder** – Game of Logging Chainsaw Training (*Northeast Woodland Training*)  
**David Graham**– Trail Skills (*SCA Massachusetts alum, SCA crew leader & 2x NHCC Project Leader*)  
**Sean Ogle** – Trail Skills (*NHCC alum, SCA Project Leader, Upper Valley Trails Alliance Trails Director*)  
**Mike DeGraff** – Trail Skills (*NHCC alum, Wyoming Conservation Corps leader, USFS*)  
**Stacy, Mike, and Daniel** – Advanced Wilderness First Aid (*Aerie*)  
**Matt Coughlan** – Rigging Skills (*Recon Trail Design LLC owner & former SCA NHCC staff*)  
**Marcella Olds** – Camp Skills (*SCA Mass Corps alum, AMC leader, NHCC PL & Program Assistant*)

### Special Thanks to the NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources & State Parks

**Sarah Stewart** – DPCR Commissioner  
**Philip Bryce** – Former Director, NH State Parks  
**Michael Houseman** – Operations Supervisor, NH State Parks  
**Johanna Lyons** – Planning and Development Specialist, NH State Parks  
**Tara Blaney** – South Regional Supervisor, NH State Parks  
**Sandy Young** – Great North Woods Regional Supervisor, NH State Parks  
**Erik Nelson** – Central Region Supervisor, NH State Parks  
**Christina Pacuk**—Bear Brook State Park Manager  
**Will Kirkpatrick** – Monadnock State Park Manager

*NH Corps will greatly miss and fondly remember Sandy Young. He was a strong ally of our program, and he was beloved by crews who he often treated with baked goods and humor. He set ambitious goals for projects that challenged crews, aided in their skill development, and were highly rewarding.*

### Student Conservation Association

**Bryan Young** – SCA Director of AmeriCorps  
**Jeremy Burns** – National Program Manager, State AmeriCorps  
**Rebecca Donovan & Theresa Ramirez**—Agreements Team  
**Jason LaValley** – Senior Billing Coordinator  
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**2022 SCA New Hampshire  
AmeriCorps Conservation Crew Members**

<b>Jack Kelly</b>	<b>Ogdensburg, NY</b>
<b>Schuyler McKibben</b>	<b>Earlham, Iowa</b>
<b>Riley Holzhter</b>	<b>Rollinsford, NH</b>
<b>Joey Norwood</b>	<b>East Lansing, MI</b>
<b>Tyler Lee</b>	<b>Brewster, NY</b>
<b>Nicholas Flores Llanos</b>	<b>Puerto Rico</b>
<b>Jared Holland</b>	<b>Hollis, NH</b>
<b>Katlynn Brock</b>	<b>Manhattan, KS</b>
<b>Peter Ferretter</b>	<b>Waco, TX</b>
<b>Ian Ruggiero</b>	<b>Manchester, NH</b>
<b>Aaron Miller</b>	<b>Sherman Oaks, CA</b>
<b>Rebecca Bryan</b>	<b>Tulsa, OK</b>
<b>Hayden Grover</b>	<b>Hinsdale, NH</b>
<b>Maira de Sa Kaye</b>	<b>Bethlehem, PA</b>
<b>Caroline Stowe</b>	<b>East Lansing, MI</b>
<b>Edgardo Montoya</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>
<b>Kat Mooradian</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b>
<b>Ashley Chastain</b>	<b>Mobile, AL</b>

Field Specialist: **Jake Westrich** Portland, OR  
Coordinator: **Zach Colatch** Northfield, VT

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# Photos











*Report prepared by Zach Colatch. For any questions, please contact [zcolatch@thesca.org](mailto:zcolatch@thesca.org).*