



MONTANA
CONSERVATION
CORPS

Tools for Living. Experience for Life.



WE'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES!
The 2016 field season has begun!

\$15,328 WORTH OF AWESOME!

THANK YOU!

A supersized thank you to all those who, despite some serious technical difficulties, found a way to Give Big to MCC during Give Big Gallatin Valley. Because of you, MCC raised \$15,328 - that's **10 times** the amount we raised last year!

Your gift helps us in so many ways. Your generosity allows MCC to:

- Continue to offer our youth programs at no cost
- Launch new programs (have you heard about our new Middle School Expedition?!)
- Train tomorrow's conservation leaders
- Give more young people the chance to steward our public lands

Thank you for believing in the work that we do here at MCC. We now have \$15,328 worth of proof of how awesome our supporters are. You ROCK!

THE NEXT CHAPTER



Our chainsaws are oiled, our heads are hard-hatted, and our pulaskis are in full swing, which can only mean one thing - the 2016 Field Season is officially underway! Our 78 Field & Youth Crew Leaders hailing from 27 different states have successfully completed MCC's rigorous Leadership Development Program (LDP) and are ready to boldly lead their crews into the unknown. And by "unknown" we mean carefully selected project sites throughout Montana. As they finish one chapter and begin another in their MCC story, we asked a few of our leaders to reflect on the LDP and their expectations for the 2016 field season. Let's see what [Claire](#), [Justin](#), and [Travis](#) had to say.

Photo Credit: Melanie Hobgood

MCC (RANDOMLY) GOES VIRAL



“There should be a draft where **every young person has to do one year of something** — military, public works — something so that we all feel invested in the same game, because that’s the part that we’ve lost.”

- Jon Stewart

It was a typical Thursday at the office. I checked my voicemail, replied to a slew of emails, routed new applicants eager to serve with MCC, and made myself some tea as I prepared to dig into the day's projects. But then I logged into Facebook, and what had started as a typical day quickly became anything but.

[FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED](#)

MCC ALUM CONTINUES TO "GET THINGS DONE"



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The Packing It Out Crew. Paul Twedt (right) sports an old MCC shirt. Photo taken from the Packing It Out Instagram account, @packingitout.



In 2014, three-time MCC alum Paul Twedt, along with Seth Orme and Chris Moore, formed "Packing It Out," a 3-man team dedicated to cleaning up our nation's trail systems. These guys go above and beyond the old backpacker admonishment to "pack it in, pack it out". They hike out everything they bring in and then some, from food wrappers and plastic bottles to eyelash curlers and even a mattress!

Last summer, the "Packing It Out" crew removed 1,090 pounds of trash from the Appalachian Trail. They're back at it again this summer. This time, they have their sights set on the 2,500+ mile Pacific Crest Trail. Their mission is straightforward:

"Inspire a greater sense of environmental stewardship within our communities by raising awareness for litter conditions along America's trails."

Any and all outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy our trails can lend their support to Packing It Out's undertaking. It's simple. If you see a piece of trash, pick it up. You may not be able to transport a mattress, but you can easily throw a discarded water bottle or protein bar wrapper in your pack, and you definitely should! Because let's face it, America's trails lose more than a little bit of their magic when covered in trash.

[READ MORE](#)

STRETCH IT OUT



The importance of stretching before rigorous activity has been drilled into our heads since our early gym class days. At MCC, where our members are hiking several miles a day, carrying gear laden packs, and wielding heavy tools (are you ready to sign up yet?!), stretching is not just important; it's a necessity. For that reason, we have the renowned MCC stretch circle! These aren't just any old stretches compiled haphazardly. Professionals specializing in movement science developed the stretch circle specifically for MCC. The routine, which typically takes about 20-30 minutes, is designed to warm up areas of the body that are most at risk for injury during intense physical activity.

TEENS WANTED FOR EXPEDITION!

JULY 17 - AUGUST 13

We still have a handful of openings for the second session of our 4-week Expedition Programs in Bozeman, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula. Do you know a Montana teen aged 15-17 who'd like to spend four weeks of their summer exploring some of Montana's most beautiful places while developing marketable job skills? Send them our way!

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)



OPEN LAND MONTH

JULY 2016

Open land is a backbone of Montana. It draws people in and then keeps them here. Montana's open land represents our agricultural heritage, countless outdoor recreational opportunities, freedom to explore, and so much more.

for injury, helping to decrease the occurrence of work-related injuries. And boy does it work! After a single year of implementing the stretch circle, MCC reported a 40% reduction in overall work related injuries. Clearly stretching does the body (and the budget!) good.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



...REI!

Many of you likely know REI as the outdoor enthusiast's dream; a store ready to outfit adventurers from head to toe for any outdoor escapade. But did you also know that REI has partnered with MCC since 2010 to support our crews and volunteers in stewarding our local public lands?

Since becoming partners, REI has contributed over \$100,000 to engage our communities in caring for our most cherished spaces and places. Thank you, REI, for standing alongside MCC as proud stewards of our public lands!

Open land might very well mean something different to you than it means to us. Whatever its meaning, open land is undeniably critical to keeping Montana, well, Montana.

Please join us in celebrating Open Land Month this July!

[LEARN MORE](#)

ANNUAL REPORT

We know you can hardly wait for our Annual Report, but fear not! We're offering you an exclusive sneak peek! Click below for a preview.



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