



# AmeriCorps St. Louis



## 2020 - 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Year 27 | September 2020 - August 2021

*See the Need, Meet the Need*


# IN THIS REPORT

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 **Partner Organizations**

 **Our Team**


**Emergency Response Team Focus Areas**


 **Disaster Response**

 **Environmental Stewardship**

 **Wildland Fire**

 **My Mother's House**

 **Cultivating New Leaders**

 **Alumni Engagement**

 **Project + Partner Spotlight**



The mission of AmeriCorps St. Louis is to enhance the professional skills and life-long service ethic of the people who serve; to respond to critical unmet needs in the areas of emergency response and environmental conservation; to leverage service of volunteers; and to build the capacity of our partnering agencies and communities we serve.

Founded in 1994, AmeriCorps St. Louis (ACSTL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, engaging AmeriCorps National Service Volunteers in community service initiatives addressing critical unmet needs in the areas of Disaster Response, Environmental Stewardship, & Wildland Firefighting. ACSTL focuses on the training and development of the next generation of leaders while building the capacity of partner agencies to achieve impactful community results. To our partners, friends, donors, volunteers, members, and alumni, we thank you for your continued support of AmeriCorps St. Louis.

*On the cover: Prescribed burn in the Ozarks with the Missouri Department of Conservation*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM

Dear Partners, Friends, and Alumni of AmeriCorps St. Louis,

The past year we faced new frontiers and expanding opportunities. After 27 years, we transitioned our executive leadership, and it has proven to be an opportunity to both look back and ahead - harvesting the ingredients of the past that made this program special, and leveraging new potential into the future. This transition occurred in the midst of COVID-19 and, like for many, has been a test in perseverance. We have witnessed that without struggle, there is no progress, and we look forward to brighter days ahead.

With the storms of COVID-19 on our horizon, we felt we were built to adapt and respond, riding against the turbulent waves of the pandemic, and applying our ability to serve communities in need. This past year we were fortunate to have assisted in this historic public health response by supporting COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, and the administration of over 175,000 COVID-19 vaccination doses to Missourians.

As renewed light is cast nationally on environmental conservation and climate resiliency measures, we have dutifully maintained our efforts across Missouri and Illinois public lands. Restoring and enhancing our natural areas is critical to our overall health, continuing the traditions of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and bridging the gap to the inevitable Civilian Climate Corps.

As a program, we're looking forward to strategic planning initiatives, program enhancements and evaluations, further development of our Members, continued investments in our staffing, and expansions on our service engagements. We continue to discover that along our journey, you grow through what you go through, and we look forward to growing together and improving in all aspects of our organization.

Considering the magnitude of the past year, it is a testament to the great team we have here and to the consistent support from our partners and stakeholders to be able to continue serving, stronger together.

Thank You to all of you that support our privilege to serve.

In Service,  
Kenan Ender  
Executive Director



SEE THE NEED

MEET THE NEED

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FY2021 October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

## Where Our Funds Come From

**42%**

Program Services	
Conservation Projects	\$454,258
Mission Assignments*	
Covid-19 Response	\$141,210
Hurricane Sally	\$55,331

**30%**

AmeriCorps Grant	\$475,262
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**28%**

Additional Income	
Grants	\$25,578
Donations	\$78,733
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$321,513
Other	\$18,218

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,570,156</b>
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## How We Use Our Funds

**80%**

Emergency Response Team	\$1,038,948
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**16%**

Management & General	\$206,244
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**4%**

Additional Expenses	
Client Services**	\$40,611
Fundraising	\$9,602

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,295,405</b>
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\*Mission Assignment income is generated from federally declared disaster deployments, through our agreements with AmeriCorps National and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

\*\*Client Services expenses refer to our "My Mother's House" programs: the Emergency Winter Warming Shelter and Weekly Shower Services.



# DONORS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GRANTS

We are grateful to these individuals and organizations who have contributed to AmeriCorps St. Louis. Our donors are critical to our operations, and we thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## Grants, Foundations, and Trusts

L-A-D Foundation, Inc.  
Nestle Purina PetCare Company  
St. Louis Community Foundation  
St. Louis Area Food Bank  
The Pettus Foundation Trust  
Triangle Community Foundation, Inc.

## Individual Donors

Alfredo Lagos	Jeremy Brok
Alper Ender	John Sinclair
Amanda Boyer (Stephens)	Joshua Hutchinson
Amelia Shekar	Katrina Stierholz
Andrew Sindell	Kelsey Johnston
Angela Page	Kendra Eads
Anika Walke	Kevin McDonagh
Bonnie Tesson	Lauren Bradley
Brigid Mulroe	Lisa Brown
Brittany Merriman	Meaghan Lakey
Chad Caza	Melissa Johnson
Charity Lake	Michael Heins
Charles Purnell	Nancy DelPresto
Charlotte Heile	Pheonix A Plus Coaching
Clare Holdinghaus-Ireland	Sammie Snyder
Dante Gliniecki	Samuel Owens
David Culhane	Sandy Hower
Deb Morse	Sara Ender
Emily O'Brien	Shirley Wolverson
Frank Lemp	Susan Eldred
Heather McSherry	Susan Farrington
Hilary Hitchcock	Theodore Smith
Jacqueline Norgaisse	Tim Elwell
James Thorndike	Vicki LaRose
Jane Kersch	William Siedhoff
Jeffrey P Bloese	Wren (Hannah) Wells
Jennifer Bish	

## Donor Spotlight



### Melissa Johnson

from St. Louis, MO



#### How did you get connected with us?

Through St. Louis Homeless Winter Outreach.

#### Why did you decide to become a donor?

I've supported the work of St. Louis Homeless Winter Outreach for some time but a couple of years ago found myself lacking the time to volunteer. I decided to give to some of the many organizations sharing their mission.

#### What do you want your gifts to accomplish?

AmeriCorps St. Louis does so much to address the needs of the unhoused community; my goal is to offer a tiny bit of assistance in that effort.

# 2020 - 2021 PARTNERS



## Federal

AmeriCorps  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Mark Twain National Forest  
Shawnee National Forest

## State

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri Community Service Commission  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

## Local & Nonprofit

Bellefontaine Cemetery & Arboretum  
City of Brentwood, Missouri  
City of Maryland Heights, Missouri\*  
Forest Park Forever  
Great Rivers Greenway  
Ozark Trail Association  
San Rafael Fire Department  
Shaw Nature Reserve\*  
St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry  
\*New Project Partner for 2020-2021



AmeriCorps St. Louis Members with Tracey Prenger (middle), Wildlife Biologist with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.



AmeriCorps Members with Susan Farrington (far left), Natural History Biologist for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community service and engagement is a key component of what we do here at AmeriCorps St. Louis. In addition to our environmental stewardship and disaster response partners, we partner with many community organization to strengthen our presence in the community, while also giving our Members more opportunities to learn about different organizations and neighborhoods in St. Louis.



Corps Members at EarthDance Organic Farm School for a service day project. EarthDance provides beyond-the-basics education and hands-on training to meet the needs of budding gardeners, beginning farmers, youth, and “agri-curious” community members.

## Other Partnerships & Memberships

- 21st Century Conservation Corps
- Missouri Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster
- Nestle Purina Near Southside Coalition
- St. Louis Community Organizations Active in Disaster
- St. Louis COVID-19 Regional Response Team
- St. Louis Winter Outreach
- The Corps Network
- United Way of Greater St. Louis

## Year 27 Community Service Sites

- COVID-19 Regional Response Team
- EarthDance Organic Farm School
- Gateway Pet Guardians
- Confluence Trash Bash - Greenwood Cemetery



The COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) is a collaborative effort creating a centralized system of response to meet the social needs of community members most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greater STL Region. Here, Members assisted with a PPE distribution event (masks, cleaning supplies, etc).

# MEET THE TEAM

## AmeriCorps Program Staff



**Kenan Ender**  
Executive Director



**Amanda Henderson**  
Director of  
Operations



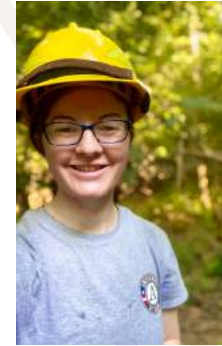
**Kelley Hower**  
Member Services  
Director



**Eli Schmit**  
Field Coordinator



**Meredith Brown**  
Field Specialist



**Jane Kersch**  
Outreach  
Coordinator



**Saroja Schwager**  
Disaster  
Coordinator



**Mikala Waldrup**  
Stewardship  
Coordinator

## My Mother's House Staff



**John Pawloski**  
Shelter Facilitator



**Zipporah Lee**  
Shelter Facilitator



**Mary Hoelterhoff**  
Shower & Outreach  
Coordinator



**Emil  
Banaszak**



**Alder  
Forrester**



**Caleb  
Goodie**



**Holly  
Morris**



**Ben  
LaRose**

## Team Leaders

### **Tim Elwell** Development Manager

Tim Elwell joined our team in September 2021. Originally from Nixa, MO, he came to St. Louis in 2002 to study Communications at Maryville University. Tim is now focused on finishing his Certificate of Fund Raising Management from Indiana University.

Tim comes from a successful 14-year career in radio working as a Promotions Coordinator and Sustainability Manager. Most recently, he planned events and promotions at Hubbard Radio. He also focuses on conservation by serving on the Executive Committee for the Sierra Club of Eastern Missouri.

**NEW STAFF**  
in 2021!





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ryan Nicholls | President**  
Assistant Director of Emergency Management  
Washington University School of Medicine



**Erin Rohan**  
Development Consultant  
ACSTL alumnus, Year 12



**Rebecca Estes | Secretary**  
Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health  
& Human Services, Missouri Emergency  
Managers Association



**Lindsay Armstrong**  
Retail Sales Manager, REI  
ACSTL alumnus, Year 15



**Dante Gliniecki**  
Emergency Preparedness Manager  
City of Independence, Missouri



**Mike Pickerel**  
Mass Care Specialist, Federal Emergency  
Management Agency Region 7



**William Siedhoff**  
Director of the City of St. Louis Human  
Services Division, retired



**Jim Schleiffarth**  
Attorney, Schleiffarth Law Firm LLC  
St. Louis, MO



**Keyñe Quiroga-Anania**  
Human Resources Director  
Booksource  
ACSTL alumnus, Year 12

“

AmeriCorps St Louis was essential to supporting the Independence and Greater Kansas City response to COVID-19. All stakeholders involved in the response that had direct contact with AmeriCorps stated that they were invaluable to supporting the mission of that particular stakeholder agency or partner. The Community Disaster Resiliency Network also reported substantial progress in its COVID-19 mission which might not have been possible without ERT. Individual jurisdictions such as Independence, MO would not have been successful initially in its COVID-19 operations were it not for ERT support.

- Board Member, Dante Gliniecki

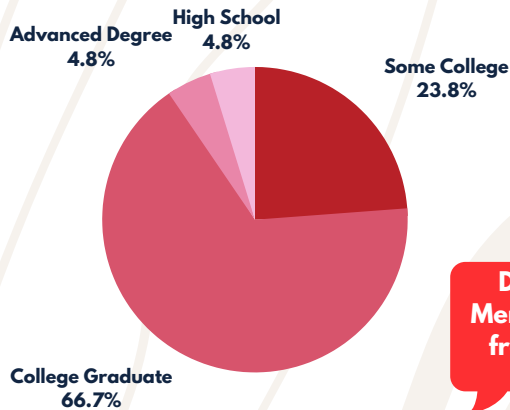
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# MEET THE TEAM



## Year 27 ... at a glance

### Education

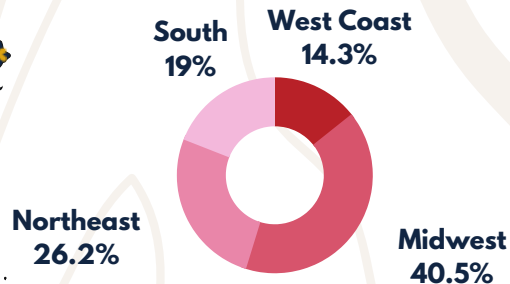
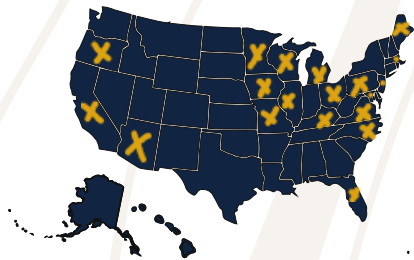


#### Common Areas of Study:

- ★ Biology
- ★ Psychology
- ★ Anthropology
- ★ Recreation Administration

Due to COVID-19, many of our Members chose to take a gap year from school, rather than attend online classes.

### 19 States Represented



# 68,322

hours served in the areas of disaster response, environmental stewardship, and wildland firefighting

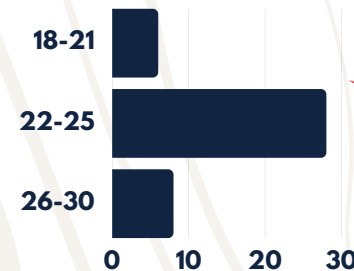
**4** Fellows  
**5** Team Leaders  
**33** 1<sup>st</sup> Year Members  
**One common goal, Get Things Done!**

### Previous Service Experience



...17 Members have previously served with another service organization!

### Age Range



**Average Age 23**

"My mother instilled within me the powerful notion that I belong to my communities and ought to do everything in my power to make them more just, equitable, and beautiful. My time on a conservation crew (AZCC) led me to discover AmeriCorps St. Louis"

- Isabella Hall, ACSTL Member



# MEET THE TEAM

## Emergency Response Team 1st Year Members



MARISSA



CASSIDY



TREY



JORDYN



HUGO



TRACY



TALEN



NICK



ELIZABETH



U.A.



MARY



ELI



FEN



ISABELLA



SPENCER



KELLY



LUKE



CAITLYN



DYLAN



EADEN



COLLEEN



JORDAN



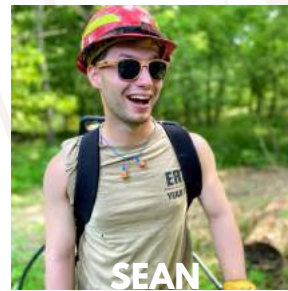
CHRIS



IZZY



RYAN



SEAN



RYAN



LESLIE



KAGAN



KATIE



MATT



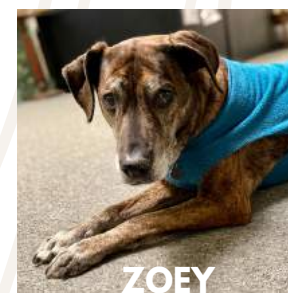
MATT



DEREK



JAX



ZOEY

# DISASTER RESPONSE

## Hurricane Sally (DR-4564-FL)

In partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE), AmeriCorps St. Louis Members were deployed to impacted areas in the western Florida panhandle to assist in the recovery of underserved community residents.

Members established an AmeriCorps Incident Command Post and staffed the AmeriCorps Incident Command Team (ACT). In addition to overseeing day-to-day operations, planning, and logistics for the overall mission, they coordinated the utilization of the *CrisisCleanup.org* database to verify current unmet needs of homeowners. Members also served as a strike team in the field, completing work orders for hazard tree removal and debris removal.



Dylan Mark removing hazard tree at a private property in Pensacola, FL.



Ryan Rodriguez briefing the team in the Incident Command Post.

### Making An Impact by Nick Ciaramitaro

I had taken many phone calls and had conversations with hundreds of homeowners during my time responding to Hurricane Sally. One woman I spoke with had been searching for help for weeks. Due to the conditions of the home she was unable to live there, and with her husband gone for military service, there was no one to help her recover. I had spoken with her on the phone to see what kind of support she may need and then had the opportunity to do a site assessment on her home. Her roof was falling apart throughout more than half of the house, there was debris throughout the yard from a negligent construction company, and multiple trees which had fallen on her property. It seemed to be an insurmountable task for one person, but our AmeriCorps teams would make it look easy.

I called her the next day to schedule a time for us to start service. In her voice, I could hear the smile and excitement that she could finally get some support. It took less than three days for the tarping, sawing, and debris removal to be completed. It sounded as if she would be able to move back into her home after the team completed the tarping.

Although I rarely got to see the homes when they were finished, it felt rewarding to know that my role behind-the-scenes was having such a large impact.

# DISASTER RESPONSE

## COVID-19: Kansas City & St. Louis

In addition to providing administrative support at both COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in the Kansas City and St. Louis metro areas, Members also conducted contact tracing; check-in calls to local long-term care facilities; wellness calls to senior citizens in the Independence area; volunteer management both for the Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City (MRCKC) and the United Way of Greater St. Louis; capacity building for partner agencies; outreach to under-served communities; and food box and PPE distribution. Members also filled General Staff positions in the AmeriCorps Command Team, assisting with the planning and logistics of multiple AmeriCorps teams that participated in the response effort throughout the state.

# of COVID-19 Tests Administered	# of COVID-19 Vaccines Administered	Wellness/Safety Checks	Pounds of Food Collected, Sorted, Distributed
<b>2,756</b>	<b>37,460</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>3,800</b>

“ The success of our clinics would not have been possible without the continuous support we received from AmeriCorps personnel. They provided a reliable, dependable source of quality work and represented the organization well.  
- Nick Kohlberg, St. Charles County Department of Public Health ”



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



AmeriCorps St. Louis serves with partnering agencies to improve and maintain the health of various ecosystems and improve recreational access in Missouri, Illinois, and Montana. These projects include invasive species removal, natural habitat restoration, and timber stand improvement. Special projects include wildlife surveying, native planting, bridge building, and other recreation projects.

**2,950**



**hazard trees  
felled/removed  
from trail**



**275 Acres  
of invasive species  
treated/removed**

**278 Miles  
of trail  
constructed  
and maintained**



Mary Freeman takes down an Eastern Red Cedar tree during a glade restoration and timber stand improvement project with the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Katie Sherman removes invasive bush honeysuckle along a public greenway while serving with Great Rives Greenway.

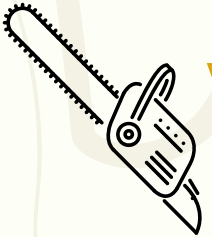


Elizabeth Delgado and Marissa Atkins remove a rock while improving a trail at Current River State Park.



# WILDLAND FIRE

AmeriCorps St. Louis is a registered volunteer fire department with the state of Missouri. All Members complete the core wildland firefighting training through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Upon completion of training, Members assist national, state, and local conservation and fire agencies in all types of wildland firefighting and prescribed burning techniques.



**55 Miles**  
of fireline prepped

Elizabeth Delgado assists the Mark Twain National Forest with a prescribed burn.



**17,945 Acres**  
Prescribed Burning



 **141 Acres**  
Wildfires Fought

Middle of the night wildfire response near the Ozark National Scenic Riverways with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Cassidy Barshinger assists with ignition on a prescribe burn with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at Onondaga Cave State Park.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## California Fuels Mitigation



Fall 2020: Meredith Brown and Spencer Howell thinning vegetation property in San Rafael, CA



Summer 2021: Alder Forrester surrounded by fuels removed to create defensible space around a home

In partnership with the San Rafael Fire Department, the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team returned to Marin County, California, to assist with wildfire hazard mitigation through fuel reduction in high-risk wildland-urban interfaces. In both Fall 2020 and Summer 2021, Members assisted individual homeowners with creating defensible space around private properties as a risk reduction measure against future wildfires.

## Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

After a year long pause due to the pandemic, ACSTL returned to Montana's Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in the summer of 2021 to continue preservation and conservation efforts. Members completed a variety of projects across the forest, including trail clearing on the Continental Divide Trail, bridge construction, noxious weed treatment, Bear Aware sign installation, campground maintenance, recreation site surveys, firewood generation, and hazard tree removal.



Trail maintenance near Curly Lake



Noxious weed treatment in the Butte Ranger District





# MY MOTHER'S HOUSE



## 2020 - 2021 Impact



At our location in Soulard, we operate an Emergency Winter Warming Shelter (known as "My Mother's House") and offer weekly services for the unhoused community in St. Louis such as showers, meals, laundry, mail service, and more.

In order to provide these services, ACSTL partners with St. Louis Winter Outreach, a network of emergency shelters and volunteers that ensures those in need have a warm place to sleep and food to eat during nights when the temperature drops below 20 degrees. Due to COVID-19, we reduced our shelter capacity by half, but doubled the amount of days per week we were scheduled to open, including 14 continuous days in February 2021 to accommodate for extreme sub zero temperatures.

"One of my greatest achievements in life so far is working from having nothing back to living indoors, though this was certainly not done alone. Homelessness is a huge problem in our country- something I know first hand- and it is with the upmost pride that I am allowed to serve in our Shelter. There were so many people who extended a helping hand to me in my time of need, and to be able to return the favor, is an incredible opportunity that I cherish. I hope to continue my service with at risk populations while still with AmeriCorps, and whatever lies ahead." - Matt Temple, AmeriCorps Member



**18**  
Nights Open for  
Emergency Shelter



**506\***  
Shelter Beds  
\*61 Individual guests  
served



**1,444**  
Meals Served



**~807**  
Showers Provided  
9/2020 -9/2021



**1,620**  
Volunteer Hours  
Leveraged

## Thank you to our Donors & Partners!





# CULTIVATING NEW LEADERS

## Year 27 Award Recipients

Corps of Discovery Leadership Award *Ryan Rodriguez*  
Golden Pulaski Exemplary Leadership Award *Hugo Budd*  
Ethic of Service Award *Derek Yang*  
Spirit of Service Award *Nick Ciaramitaro*  
Bedrock Award *Katie Sherman & Jordan Oppolo*  
Legacy Award *Tracy Burton Bravo*  
One More Tree Award *Kelly Jackson*

### Spotlight: Hugo Budd

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Education: Stanford University -Renewable Energy Engineering

**Where are they now?** After AmeriCorps, Hugo returned to Stanford University to continue pursuing his bachelor's degree, and is slated join a wildland fire crew in New Mexico with the Forest Service.

*"I am grateful for the experience I gained with AmeriCorps St. Louis to lead a team, and I feel that I gained valuable context, perspectives, and experiences from it."*



### Spotlight: Katie Sherman

Hometown: Nanticoke, PA

Education: Antioch College - Environment of the Anthropocene

**Where are they now?** After AmeriCorps, Katie joined the Ozark Trail Association as a trail crew member and is now focusing on building sustainable community in St. Louis

*"One thing I am sure of is that being here for the past year has helped me both grow more into the person I would like to be, and return to some aspects of myself that I felt I was losing."*

## Final Report By Izzy Rabalais

"To be truthful, I have little idea of what my future career looks like. I have dozens of skills I want to learn, jobs I'd love to work, and places I hope to experience. My work history has always been eclectic, and with ERT it has only become even more so. To be a jack of all trades seems like the direction I need to allow myself to head, rather than trying to squeeze myself into a certain career path. Serving with ACSTL, I kept track of the aspects of service I loved so dearly. One reoccurring theme was the strong sense of **community** in the service we did. Whether it was direct- like distributing PPE or thousands of vaccinations. Or indirect, like spending weeks on end cutting back harmful invasive plants. I felt like my time and labor was needed by the community I'm a part of.

**I aim to cultivate this same sense of community aid past AmeriCorps, and throughout my life."**

# ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

## 2021 Life After AmeriCorps Speakers

- Nick Henderson, Ameren Missouri (Year 14)
- Matthew Norman, Missouri Botanical Garden (Year 24)
- Jason Ort, National Park Service (Year 25-26)
- Kim Shonborn, US Forest Service (Year 24-25)
- David Sheih, Missouri Department of Conservation

Calling all Education and ERT Alumni:  
Stay in touch by joining our networking group!

[facebook.com/groups/acstlalums](https://www.facebook.com/groups/acstlalums)



Great Rivers Greenway seasonal staff member Jason O'Malley (Year 24-25), with Year 27 Members on the Fee Fee Greenway



Although he originally served with our Education Corps in Year 17, Adam Graham (2nd from left), is now with the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department, a new project partner for us in 2021.



LAD Foundation Fire Crew Member Joseph Dobbins (far left), Year 25, joins an ACSTL crew for a prescribed burn.



While serving on the California Fuels Mitigation project, the team caught up with Kim Shonborn, Year 24-25, who currently works as a wildland firefighter for the Mendocino National Forest.



During a trail construction project at Bellefontaine Cemetery & Arboretum, Members served with Dee Van Huss (2nd from left), Year 18-21, Bellefontaine's Horticulturalist.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Ozark Mountain State Park



Eaden Marti, Katie Sherman, Colleen Murray, Caitlyn Kelley, and Nick Ciaramitaro with the scenic Ozarks in the background.

In partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), AmeriCorps St. Louis has been restoring vital glade land at the unopened Ozark Mountain State Park. Glade restoration involves the removal of Eastern Red cedar trees, which threaten the plant and animal species unique to this ecosystem. AmeriCorps Members have been able to utilize their sawyer skills, build burn piles, and spread native seeds in an effort to bring these glades back to life. The park's pygmy rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas, and road runners have been a highlight for the teams to experience. The Missouri DNR continues to support the growth of our Members by integrating our organization into the opening of this new state park.



Caitlyn and Katie build a burn pile as part of the glade restoration efforts.



Eaden falls a cedar tree for glade restoration.

“

*Our glade restoration projects, which AmeriCorps St. Louis has provided much needed assistance, are helping return this unique White River Hills landscape into the open, glade-filled country it once was. Each team has been enthusiastic, hardworking, and dedicated to completing the desired task of each work period. It is always a pleasure working alongside AmeriCorps team members and together being able to see the benefits of their labors.*

– Chris Crabtree, Natural Resource Ecologist, Missouri DNR

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# PARTNER PROFILE



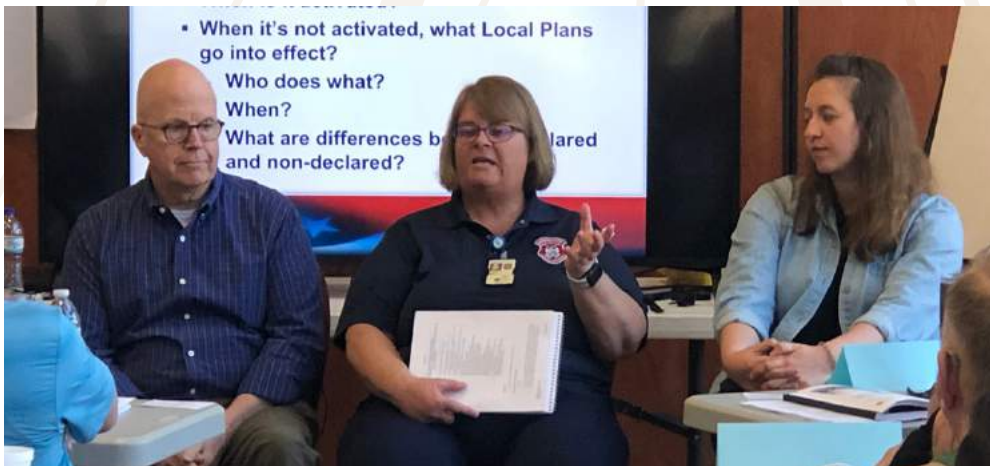
**Melissa Friel**  
State Voluntary Agency Liaison -  
Missouri State Emergency Management  
Agency (SEMA)

Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, AmeriCorps St. Louis has maintained a high level of participation. Our partnership with SEMA, and Melissa Friel in particular, has been instrumental in enabling us to provide services under a FEMA Mission Assignment.

Not only is AmeriCorps St. Louis written into the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan as the lead non-profit agency for Volunteer & Donations Management through Emergency Support Function 6 - Mass Care, but the organization and its AmeriCorps Members serve alongside SEMA personnel in trainings, preparedness activities, and response efforts across Missouri.



Melissa Friel



Melissa Friel (center) participating in a panel discussion with FEMA Region VII Mass Care Specialist Mike Pickerel (left) and ACSTL Disaster Training & Exercise Coordinator Saroja Schwager (right) at a Local Volunteer & Donations Management SEMA training.

**“** Having been in the disaster response field for over twenty years, I have had the honor of working with AmeriCorps throughout my career. Responding to the catastrophic disasters of Hurricane Katrina and others, I have worked side by side with AmeriCorps members from across the country. And now as the Missouri State Voluntary Agency Liaison, when the state needs a team to assist with special high intensity and manpower-demanding projects, from assisting with state sponsored Mass Vaccination Clinics to operating Multi Agency Resource Centers (MARC)s, AmeriCorps St. Louis is our special projects team. AmeriCorps St. Louis is a significant asset for the state of Missouri and the country! We are simply blessed that they are based here in Missouri!  
**”**

- Melissa Friel



Prairie Ridge State  
Natural Area in Illinois

Funding and support provided by AmeriCorps and the Missouri Community Service Commission.

Special thanks to our Members who took great photos of their service year! This report was designed by ACSTL Fellow Jane Kersch.



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