



2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Year 26 | September 2019 - August 2020

See the Need, Meet the Need

IN THIS REPORT



COVID-19 Response



Environmental Stewardship



Wildland Fire



My Mother's House



Community Impact



Member Development

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©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: Kaela Mitten
Buford Mountain Conservation Area

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM

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

The year 2020 brought forth monumental challenges; however, these unprecedented times offered unexpected opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the power and versatility of our Team. As the world shut down in response to COVID-19, we too took a pause for reflection and safety. As an Emergency Response Team, we take pride in preparation, training, and problem-solving; yet this was a novel challenge that none of us were totally prepared for.

After analyzing the safety implications of the virus, our teams began addressing the many social, health, and environmental challenges we, and the rest of our communities faced. From distributing meals to disenfranchised populations, managing Personal Protective Equipment donations, to supporting COVID-19 testing sites, our team adapted, pivoting to assist our communities with essential activities becoming the first program in the country to partner with FEMA directly to support COVID-19 response measures.

Though we have never responded to a pandemic, we engaged like we always have to any other challenge - seeing the need, and meeting the need - anyway we could see fit.

During times of crisis and especially during this pandemic, it is natural to feel anxious and alone. Despite many other unknowns, we knew for sure we were not facing this alone. With the great team we have here, and the consistent support from our partners and stakeholders, we were able to continue serving, stronger together.

We at AmeriCorps St. Louis are grateful for our community and our team for the dedication to service, and the support of those that make it possible to serve.

We hope you all stay healthy and safe.

Thank you
- AmeriCorps St. Louis

SEE THE NEED // MEET THE NEED

THANK YOU, BRUCE!

Thank you for 26 Years of National Service!

After 26 years of dedicated service and leadership, Bruce Bailey, Executive Director of AmeriCorps St. Louis, retired on June 30, 2020. In August of 2020, ACSTL Program Director Kenan Ender was announced as his successor.

Since 1994, Bruce has led AmeriCorps St. Louis through the inception of AmeriCorps National Service, steadfast in steering the vision and embodying the ethic of "See the Need, Meet the Need," and now leaves AmeriCorps St. Louis in a position of great strength, poised for future success.

As Bruce has iterated before of his time with AmeriCorps St. Louis – "I am one of the most blessed people to have had an opportunity to serve alongside thousands of you over the years who have contributed so, so much to make our Country stronger."

We wish Bruce all the best in his well-deserved retirement in Oregon with his wife, Kathleen.

Next time you see him on the trail, make sure to give him an O-si-yo!



STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS

Federal

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Mark Twain National Forest
Shawnee National Forest

State

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Local & Nonprofit

San Rafael Fire Department*
City of Brentwood, Missouri*
City of Farmington, Missouri*
Bellefontaine Cemetery & Arboretum*
Bellerive Acres, Missouri *
Forest Park Forever
Great Rivers Greenway
L-A-D Foundation
Ozark Trail Association
St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

*New Project Partner as of 2019 - 2020



ACSTL Members with Missouri Department of Natural Resources on a fireline installation project at Hawn State Park.



ACSTL Member Julia Pace cross cuts a log in the Shawnee National Forest with USFS employee Alyssa Macuiba.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FY2020 October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Where Our Funds Come From

49%

Program Services

Conservation Projects **\$494,640**

Mission Assignments* **\$88,047**

47%

AmeriCorps Grant

\$548,084

4%

Additional Income

Grants **\$3,500**

Foundations & Trusts **\$11,250**

Donations **\$29,070**

Other **\$7,455**

Total Income \$1,182,046

How We Use Our Funds

76%

Emergency Response Team

\$1,073,044

21%

Management & General

\$300,294

Accrued Insurance Benefits

\$98,716

Other Post-Employment Benefits

\$40,000

3%

Additional Expenses

Client Services**

\$24,719

Other

\$10,813

Total Expenses \$1,408,870

*Mission Assignment income is generated from federally declared disaster deployments, through our agreements with the Corporation for National & Community Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**Client Services expenses refers to our "My Mother's House" programs- the Winter Warming Shelter and Shower Services.



DONORS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GRANTS

We'd like to highlight these individuals and organizations who have made contributions 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

Civil Design, Inc.
First Unitarian Church of St. Louis
International Tap House
Jeff's Granola
L-A-D Foundation, Inc.
Mercy Hospital
Nestle Purina PetCare Company
Pheonix Revival dba Pheonix A Plus Coaching
Pledgeling Foundation
St. Louis Community Foundation
The Pettus Foundation Trust
Triangle Community Foundation, Inc.

Donor Spotlight



Alfredo Lagos, ACSTL Alumnus Year 6 & 7

Alfredo has been a monthly donor to ACSTL for several years! Since his time in ERT, he has built a career in Emergency Management, consulting for federal agencies in Washington, D.C. Thank you, Alfredo, for your continued generosity!

Individual Donors

Chad Angell	Calla Massman
Josh Aycock (Smith)	Nicholas Maya
Naader Banki	Heather McSherry
Hayley Bradley	Breanne Orcasitas
Jeremy Brok	Kim Ort
Ran Chase	Elise Oswald
Andrew Clubb	Lanetta Parks
Erik Crawford	Beth Pfeiffer
Taylor Dailing	Jeff Quinn
Molly Dyson	Judy Reynolds
Sara Ender	Erin Rohan
Audrey Farrington	M Scalon
Debra Farrington	Jen Snider
Matthew Farrington	Emily Steinberg
Quinn Gardner	Katrina Stierholz
Kevin Gowdy	Kristina Stierholz
Connie Gress	Jerry Stoecklein
Linda Hanson	Temple Emanuel
Malcolm Hardy	Bonnie Tesson
Malorie Hill	Alexander Thorndike
Clare Holdinghaus-Ireland	James Thorndike
Kay Hower	Eileen Wade
Jane Kersch	Brian Wagenaar
Liana Kopp	Brian Wohlberg
Alfredo Lagos	Leticia Wolken
Melissa Mase	

MEET THE TEAM

Program Staff



Bruce Bailey
Executive Director,
retired



Kenan Ender
Program Director



Amanda Henderson
Director of Operations



Kelley Hower
Member Services Director

My Mother's House Staff



John Pawloski
Shelter
Facilitator



Zipporah Lee
Shelter
Facilitator



Mary Hoelterhoff
Showers
Coordinator



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ryan Nicholls | President

Assistant Director of Emergency Management, Washington University School of Medicine



Angela R. Williams | Treasurer

Institutional Relationship Manager, MOST, Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan, ACSTL alumna Year 2



Rebecca Estes | Secretary

Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health & Human Services, Missouri Emergency Managers Association



Lindsay Armstrong

Retail Sales Manager, St. Louis Recreation Equipment Inc. (REI), ACSTL alumna 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



“

I serve to recognize and participate in something greater than myself. It's true that my time with AmeriCorps has given me the tremendous opportunities to travel to new places, meet new and incredible people, challenge and cultivate my skill set, and spend my days actively in gorgeous public lands--but beyond any one of these benefits I've found that the more I devote myself to service, the deeper my experience and appreciation is of each and every one of them.

- Audrey Regan, ACSTL Member

”

MEET THE TEAM



3 Fellows
1 AmeriCorps VISTA
4 Team Leaders
35 1st Year Members

71,717

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



September 2019



August 2020

Fellows & VISTA



Ellen Alston
Outreach
VISTA



Jane Kersch
Development
Coordinator



Eli Schmit
Field
Coordinator



Wren Wells
Stewardship
Coordinator

Team Leaders



Meredith
Brown



Jason Ort



Saroja
Schwager



Mikala
Waldrup

MEET THE TEAM

Emergency Response Team 1st Year Members



LAUREN



AMBER



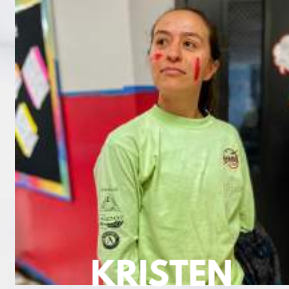
EMIL



MICHAEL



NAOMI



KRISTEN



DEAN



BLAKE



HOLLY



ESTELLA



CAIN



ALDER



CALEB



ELLIOT



ANA



AMADEO



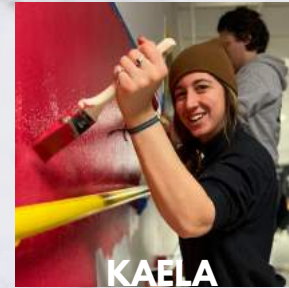
BEN



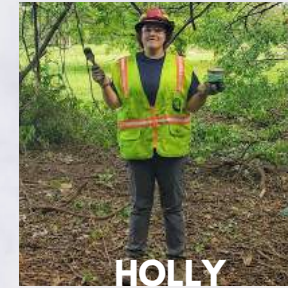
BEN



AVERY



KAELA



HOLLY



SHION



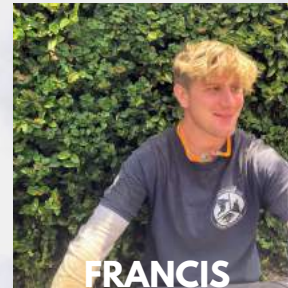
ELISE



JULIA



AUDREY



FRANCIS



JACK



KIRSTEN



SAM



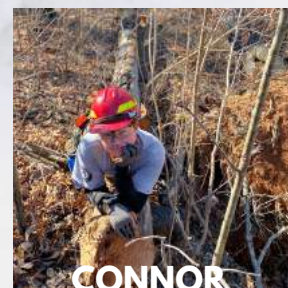
ALANA



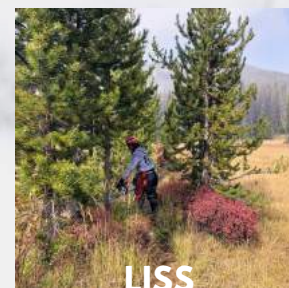
CEARA



MATTHEW



CONNOR



LISS



BRIAN

DISASTER RESPONSE

COVID-19

AmeriCorps St. Louis engaged in various support initiatives in response to COVID-19. Members volunteered their time before the FEMA Emergency Disaster Declaration and additionally through the FEMA-CNCS Mission Assignment. We greatly appreciate all Members that responded across the state, in St. Louis, and in support of efforts for the betterment of Missouri and the citizens impacted.

Kansas City: In the KCMO region, ACSTL Members assisted with a variety of tasks, including: developing a regional donations management plan, boosting the volunteer capacity for the Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City, assisting in the situational update and wellness support of Long-Term Care Facilities, and supporting the Mid-America Regional Council - Community Disaster Resiliency Network.

St. Louis: ACSTL assisted in the feeding of congregate COVID shelters managed by the Salvation Army at multiple locations in North St. Louis. Additionally, ACSTL provided direct mobile feeding to the unhoused to support these populations hindered by social service facilities being closed due to COVID. Members also staffed the virtual United Way 2-1-1 Call Center in St. Louis to field PPE donation offers.

PPE Donation Requests Fulfilled	Volunteers Contacted	Long-Term Care Facilities Contacted	Meals Delivered to the Unhoused
235	190	159	4,000

Program Staff: Kenan Ender

Team Leads: Saroja Schwager, Jane Kersch

Team Members: Amber Andrews, Kristen Briseno, Estella Dieci, Caleb Goodie, Elliot Gosrich, Amadeo Huq, Ben LaRose, Ben LaTurno, Jack Rosenwinkel, Kirsten Ryan, Sam Shames, Alana Smith, Connor Trenor, Brian Wagenaar

Partners:

Emergency Preparedness Division, City of Independence
Mid-America Regional Council
The Salvation Army Midland Division
Homeless Services Division, City of St. Louis

“

We can't express fully our appreciation for the KC Metro Team. The work the team did was so appreciated and impressive. The technical expertise and positive attitude that you brought to this unprecedented incident was greatly valued. We will use this to illuminate the power of well trained, qualified and organized volunteer agencies like AmeriCorps.

**Erin Lynch - Emergency Services Director,
Mid America Regional Council**

”

DISASTER RESPONSE

COVID-19

"The month of April has brought traditional ERT service to a screeching halt, but provided opportunities to serve with organizations and to assist in ways I would not have been able to, or previously even imagine, before coronavirus. The opportunity to serve at the STL Area Food Bank has been a huge bonus, working the assembly line with a dedicated crew to package thousands of meals in such a short time for those in need. Assisting with the related mobile food drive-throughs has taken me to communities and places I otherwise would not have seen, and seeing people be so grateful for the food is a fantastic and rewarding experience. Additionally, our homeless outreach program at ERT allows us to bring even just a small amount of relief for people who have so many struggles socioeconomically and even politically during this turbulent time. Overall, I am just grateful that I have had opportunities to be involved and to feel impactful and empowered to do something as so much of daily life has been disturbed and destroyed for so many." - Brian Wagenaar, ACSTL Member



Alana Smith assists with the Salvation Army's food distribution at the Ferguson Empowerment Center.



Amber Andrews helps assemble food boxes for the St. Louis Area Food Bank.



Caleb Goodie transports donations to first responders in Independence, MO.

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 exotic invasive species removal, natural habitat restoration, and timber stand improvement. Special projects in wildlife surveying, native planting, and bridge building.



ERT Members spray herbicide for invasive species control at Prairie Fork Conservation Area.



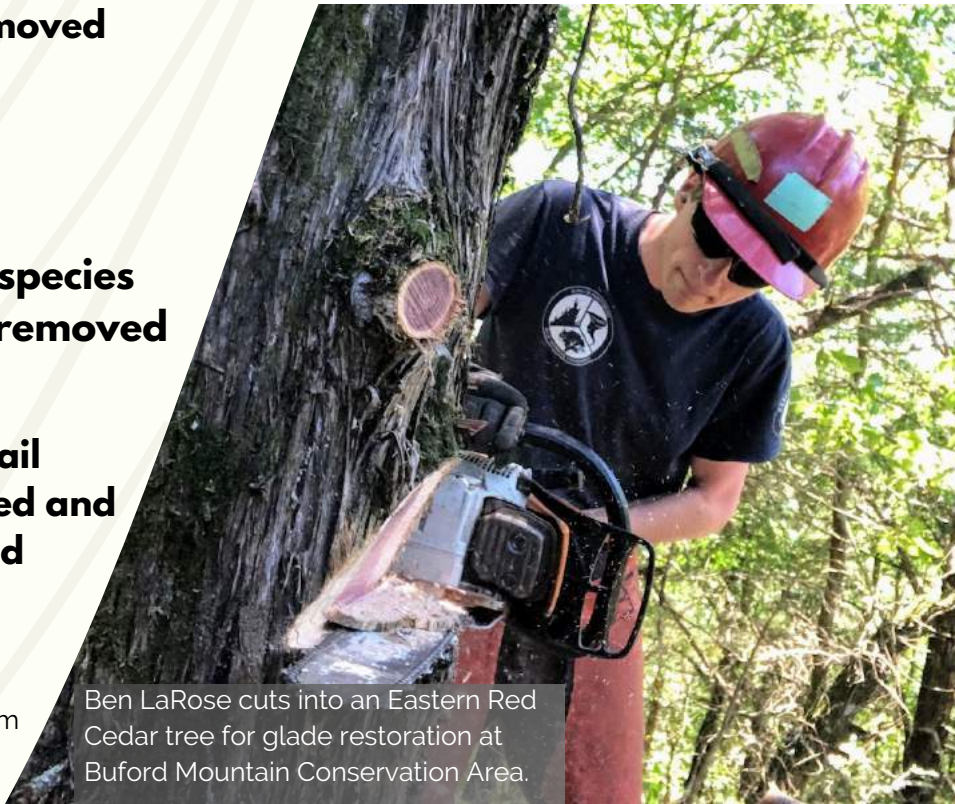
4,009
hazard trees
felled/removed
from trail



382
acres of
invasive species
treated/removed



215
miles of trail
constructed and
maintained



Ben LaRose cuts into an Eastern Red Cedar tree for glade restoration at Buford Mountain Conservation Area.



Michael Berrigan removes a hazard tree from a trail with the L-A-D Foundation.

** Due to COVID-19, environmental stewardship projects were suspended from March 23 - May 4, 2020 **

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.



Caleb Goodie helps light up a prairie at Pyramid State Recreation Area in Illinois.



94
**Miles of Fireline
Prepped**



7,956
**Acres of
Prescribed Burning**



124
**Acres of
Wildfires Fought**

Jack Rosenwinkel, Mikala Waldrup, Kaela Mitten, Estella Dieci, and Shion Nagasaka prepared for a prescribed burn at Little Indian Creek Conservation Area.



Francis Rosa assists the Illinois DNR with a prescribed burn.

MY MOTHER'S HOUSE



For the **12th** year in a row, AmeriCorps St. Louis partnered with **St. Louis Winter Outreach** to operate our Emergency Winter Warming Shelter and other outreach services. Open on select nights between November and March when temperatures drop below 20 degrees, our shelter staff and volunteers provide two hot meals and a warm bed for roughly 60 unhoused guests.



In addition to our Emergency Shelter Operations, AmeriCorps St. Louis also provides year-round daytime services for the unhoused once a week. These services include showers, lunch, hair/beard trimming, and access to social service providers. Due to COVID-19, the need for these services in the city was even greater.

"I chose to volunteer to learn more about winter warming shelter operations. Overall, the program was excellent- the welcoming of volunteers; clarity of guest rules and shelter coordinators' management of acceptable behaviors; clear volunteer assignments; focus on and services offered to guests were great (cots, chair, linens & blankets, showers, bathrooms, two hot meals in a designated dining area, opportunity to watch DVDs/TV, storage of their excess baggage). Respect for the guests was evident. Continue with this outstanding outreach!" - "My Mother's House" volunteer

Thank you to our Sponsors & Partners!

Our Lady of SORROWS
CATHOLIC CHURCH



BACK@YOU
Because Awareness, Compassion & Kindness
Yield Open Understanding for the Homeless



2019 - 2020 Impact



6

Nights Open for
Emergency Shelter



1,458

Total Guests Served
(overnight shelter and
day time services)



764+

Meals Served



589

Showers Provided



210

Volunteer Hours
Leveraged

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Community service and engagement is a key component of what we do here at AmeriCorps St. Louis. Our St. Louis Service Day initiative aims to strengthen our presence in the community while also giving our Members more opportunities to learn about different organizations and neighborhoods of St. Louis. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to engage with as many organizations as we traditionally would have.



Ceara Sweeney and Shion Nagasaka help remove invasive wintercreeper and other vegetative debris to unearth covered gravestones at Greenwood Cemetery

National, State, and Local Partners

Corporation for National and Community Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Missouri Community Service Commission
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
Missouri Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Nestle Purina Near Southside Coalition
St. Louis Community Organizations Active in Disaster
St. Louis COVID-19 Regional Response Team
St. Louis Winter Outreach
United Way of Greater St. Louis

Community Service Sites

Historic Greenwood Cemetery
Jewish Community Center
Ronald McDonald House
St. Louis Area Foodbank
Twillman Elementary School



Amber Andrews paints a wall at Twillman Elementary School for Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service project with The Mission Continues.

ALUMNI & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2020 Life After AmeriCorps Speakers

- Nick Henderson, Ameren Missouri (Year 14)
- Mike Rood, City of St. Louis Forestry (Year 21)
- Jimmy Tyler, FEMA Region 2 (Year 24,25)
- Sarah Prill, Oberlin Community Services (Year 24)
- Quinn Gardner, San Rafael Emergency Manager (Year 15-18)

**Calling all Education and ERT Alumni:
Stay in touch by joining our networking group!
facebook.com/groups/acstlalums**



Jason O'Malley (24-25) serves with Year 26 Members at the Great Rivers Greenway Fee Fee Greenway.



Missouri Community Service Commission Chairman John Albright with ACSTL Staff Kelley Hower, and VISTA Ellen Alston on MLK Day.



Phoenix A+ Coaching fundraiser: Ethan Mapel (23), Dee Van Huss (18-21), Zoe Jennings (20-21), Kelley Hower (Staff), Kat Humlicek (23), Sara Ender (18-21), and Year 26 Members Holly Bushey, Caleb Goodie, and Alana Smith.



Kege for A Cause Fundraiser (International Tap House): Sara Ender (18-21), Danielle Snowden (21), and Kelly Anderson (23)



ACSTL Executive Director Kenan Ender with Missouri Senator Roy Blunt and former Missouri Community Service Commission Executive Director Don Stamper at the Voices for National Service Awards in Washington, D.C.



CULTIVATING NEW LEADERS

Year 26 Award Recipients

Corps of Discovery Leadership Award Liss Vigil

Golden Pulaski Exemplary Leadership Award Julia Pace & Jack Rosenwinkel

Ethic of Service Award Naomi Bratsch-Prince

Spirit of Service Award Ceara Sweeney

Bedrock Award Lauren Aiello

Team Award Kaela Mitten

Legacy Award Estella Dieci

Julia Pace

Hometown: Ambler, PA

Education: Arizona State University - Parks and Recreation Management

Where are they now? After ERT, Julia continued her service as a Crew Leader for the American Conservation Experience.

Julia truly embodies what it means to be a leader in the Conservation Corps world. Julia has been described by her fellow teammates as honest, motivating, energetic, and attentive. Her commitment to safety is unmatched! Julia has a strong work & service ethic, always takes initiative, and truly looks out and cares for her teammates.



Jack Rosenwinkel

Hometown: Villa Park, IL

Education: Luther College - Environmental Science

Where are they now? After ERT, Jack decided to stay in St. Louis, and continue his passion for landscaping with Pretty City Gardens & Landscaping.

Jack is known for his positive attitude and great sense of humor! Jack is a motivator, who uses his positive energy, empathy, and patience, to help his teammates. He is open-minded, honest, and willing to voice his opinions- and has gained the trust and respect of his teammates and team leaders.



AmeriCorps Reflections

By Naomi Bratsch-Prince

As my two years of service come to an end, I can't help but feel both sentimental and excited. AmeriCorps was certainly a transformative experience that has left me a more confident person. I have learned to be okay with adapting to ever-changing plans and housing, how to serve in a diverse array of environments with a wide variety of people, and how truly impactful service is. I am sad to be leaving service and the awesome opportunities it gives me, but I am also excited to be able to establish my own schedule and potential career. AmeriCorps has shown me that there is still so much to be done here in America and the ways in which I can contribute to make it a better place for all. Just because my service years have come to an end, I find comfort in knowing I have a whole community to network with and lean on as support. I think it is true to say that once an AmeriCorps Member, always an AmeriCorps Member.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

San Rafael, California



Meredith Brown and Emil Banaszak remove and chip vegetative debris for fuel reduction.



Dean Bryant fells a hazard tree at Gerstle Park Open Area.



Elise Oswald removes vegetation along a fireroad.

In partnership with the San Rafael Fire Department (SRFD), AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team assisted with wildfire hazard mitigation through fuel reduction, creation of fire breaks, and maintenance of fire control access points. Projects were based around public use areas, wildfire emergency escape routes, as well as individual homeowner's requesting assistance with fire reduction efforts on their personal property. AmeriCorps St. Louis was commissioned to assist with the fire reduction efforts in Marin County due to our specialization in saw training and ability, as well as our background in fire efforts in coordination with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Special thanks to the City of San Rafael and San Rafael Emergency Manager Quinn Gardner (ACSTL Year 15-18 alum) for spearheading this new initiative.

"My time in California was amazing. I'm so grateful that I had the chance to go there with such an amazing group of people. There were trials and tribulations, but we collectively got through them. The group was hardworking and it was cool to learn how everyone went about getting things done. Despite the challenges, it was an overall positive experience that I wouldn't trade for anything and will remember for a long time."

- ACSTL Member Dean Bryant

PARTNER PROFILE



Kathie Brennan
President - Ozark Trail Association

The Ozark Trail is nearly 400 miles of trail that winds through the Missouri Ozarks, the result of an idea conceived in 1977 to run a trail from St. Louis to the Arkansas border and eventually connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail in Arkansas to create a 700-mile thru-trail.

Incorporated in 2002, the Ozark Trail Association is a grass-roots non-profit dedicated to the construction, maintenance and promotion of the Ozark Trail. Kathie Brennan joined the OTA in 2007, and currently serves as president of the organization.

AmeriCorps St. Louis began our partnership with OTA way back in 2005, when ACSTL founder Bruce Bailey was introduced to OTA founder John Roth. With the OTA, we focus on trail clearing, construction, and maintenance. Kathie has provided ACSTL with a wealth of knowledge and training on trail maintenance and leadership development, and we are incredibly grateful for her partnership! With the support of the Recreational Trail Program Grant, ACSTL has been able to assist the OTA with completing many new sections of the OT, including the Middle Fork and Upper Current River sections.

On the partnership between AmeriCorps and the OTA, Kathie said, **"AmeriCorps is like our knight in shining armor. We (and the trail users) are so appreciative of the efforts of AmeriCorps; much of this work to complete and maintain the trail would not be possible with them."**



Naomi Bratsch-Prince, Kristen Briseno, Kaela Mitten, Holly Bushey, and Kathie on the Current River section of the OT.



Kathie with Year 25 Members near the Round Spring section of the Ozark Trail.



AmeriCorps



San Rafael, California

Thanks to the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grants #16VSWMO002 and 15ESHMO0010001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps St. Louis is a member of the Missouri Community Service Commission.

1315 Ann Ave St. Louis, MO 63104
314-772-9002
admin@americorps-stl.org
americorps-stl.org

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

