Bridging the Deaf and Outdoor Communities since 2016
And serving them as a 501(c)3 nonprofit since 2018
Dear Friends of CorpsTHAT,

Not a long time ago, when we were sitting outside our tent under the stars, we took our little black notebooks out and started to scribble our ideas. We envisioned a place of welcome and acceptance, a place where new friendships formed, and a place where young people could learn a little more about our nature, and about themselves.

Now, two years later, 2018 has been the most memorable one for CorpsTHAT by any measure. Admittedly, it’s not easy to describe in just a few paragraphs and express how proud we are of the impacts CorpsTHAT has made this year.

This year, we received a determination letter of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and we enhanced our programs to address the needs and gaps in the evolving outdoor industry in the Deaf community. These additions have worked to expand environmental education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth, create more internship positions and job training opportunities, and to increase Outdoor Ambassador events nationally for the Deaf community.

As we went through an exciting transition, CorpsTHAT also grew bigger because of your support. From farmers to educators, to environmentalists, scientists, conservation corp members, and volunteers - all of the folks have put their energy into increasing Deaf representatives in the outdoors and solving environmental problems together.

We hope that you enjoy reading about CorpsTHAT’s adventures in 2018. We know that there are more great things to come through continued partnerships. And if you take a look of this report, we think CorpsTHAT can be your happy place too.

Thank you for all the supports and activities you share to conserve, protect, and restore so that other people can enjoy our beautiful nature.

Best,

Emma Bixler and Sachiko Flores
ALYSSA WEISENSTEIN
VYCC and CCM Alumni

LAUREN SPRAGUE
VYCC and NYC Alumni

Sophia Hu
Works for the EPA

SAM BRAGG
CCM Alumni
Portland, ME
Framingham, MA
Carterville, IL
Washington, DC

MEET THE AMBASSADORS

OUTDOOR RECREATION
- Outdoor Ambassador program established
- 4 Outdoor Ambassadors
- Events hosted in 3 regions of the US
- 24 events hosted by Ambassadors
- Reached 500+ community members
ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION

- Created videos of the 7 LNT principles in ASL
- Trained 1 Corps THAT representative in Project Wild
- Collaborated with two Deaf scientists to give presentation at NAD

- Worked with 6 Deaf Schools and Deaf programs to provide environmental education programs
- Partnered with local Deaf outdoor experts to share their knowledge

WHERE WE WORKED

- National Association of the Deaf Youth Leadership Camp
- Rocky Mountain Deaf School Explore the Great Outdoors Camp
- Texas School For the Deaf Big Bend NP Trip
- The Learning Center for the Deaf High School Workshop
- Delaware School for the Deaf Deaf-Hearing Communication Center Summer Camp
- Maryland School for the Deaf-Fredrick After-School Programs
- Kendal Demonstration Elementary School Middle School Workshop
- Gallaudet University Summer Youth Programs

- Reached 200+ Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth
JOB TRAINING

- Hired a NYC Alumni for a CorpsTHAT summer internship
- Worked with 4 conservation corps to hire 39 Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth and young adults
- Provided 8 ASL inclusion crews with:
  - Recruitment
  - Training
  - Operational support
  - Program Evaluation

MEET OUR INTERN

Mimi Jillella, a Northwest Youth Corps ASL Inclusion Crew Alumni was CorpsTHAT’s 2018 Summer Intern. She is currently studying Communications at Gallaudet University. She hopes to connect her experience she gained in the conservation corps with a future career.
In 2018, CorpsTHAT Partnered with Northwest Youth Corps and the National Parks Service to expand job training and educational outdoor programing for the Deaf community. Along with assisting Northwest Youth Corps in recruiting and hiring for their ASL Inclusion Crews, CorpsTHAT also worked to expand training for conservation corps, internship opportunities within the outdoor field, environmental educational materials in ASL and collaborated with other conservation corps to support their ASL Inclusion crew programs.

PARTNERSHIPS IN THE OUTDOORS

LEAVE NO TRACE

This year we partnered with Leave No Trace to better share the Leave No Trace mission with the Deaf community. CorpsTHAT created media in ASL that explained the 7 principles of LNT as well as presented about all 7 LNT principles at Deaf outdoor events, training and workshops. CorpsTHAT always follows the LNT principles in our own work, and we were happy to be able to share this mission with others.
Sol Fest

This year, CorpsTHAT hosted our first annual Sol Fest to raise funds for our Deaf centered outdoor programing. Hosted a local Deaf Owned brewery, Streetcar82, Sol Fest was a bright success in raising funds to support CorpsTHAT’s work in 2019!

#TRAILMORE

CorpsTHAT worked with Southeast Conservation Corps to host a t-shirt fundraiser that will help cover the costs of providing interpreters and recreational opportunities for the 2019 ASL Inclusion Crew. Check out our campaign on social media using the #trailmore.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

With the donations made for our #givingtuesdaysday fundraising campaign, CorpsTHAT will be able to:
- Set up five new Outdoor Ambassadors located across the country
- Expand environmental education resources in ASL
- Set up a new ASL Inclusion Crew to create more job training opportunities

CorpsTHAT
REVENUE $29,776

EXPENSES $10,896

*Some revenue and expenses are for 2019 programming

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018

Corps THAT is run by volunteers and this work could not be accomplished without all the support from community members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters!

2018 SPONSORS

VOLUNTEERS

OF THE YEAR

Sophia Hu
Micheal Dunham

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$100 and over:
Michael Dunham
Joanel Lopez
John Bixler
Genie Ott Mendiola
Collin Ellzey
Patrick Jenkins

$50 and over:
Laura Schrenk
Adrienne Malroux
Shana Gibbs
Silvia Kato
John Ying
Lilly Davis
Hailey Fox
Megan Walker

$20 and over:
Brenna and Patrick Kelly
Alicia Wooten
Arianna Neromiliotis
Alex Ralston
Ben Meltzer
Jennifer Goldbetter
Jonathan Chanin
Hans Gomez
Brittany Comegna Segura

IN KIND DONATIONS

Sam Bragg
Elisa Chang
Summer Crider Loeffler
Gina Davis
Keith Doane
Ana Garza
Patrick Jenkins
Ryan Maliszewski
Amelia Milling
Emily Sweeney
WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT CORPSTHAT

Through CorpsTHAT, Nichelle Steffen connected with WisCorps and was hired as a crew leader/interpreter, here is what she said about her experience-

"WisCorps gave me the opportunity to live fully; to step outside of the chaos of everyday life, to breathe, to connect to the earth and to other living beings, to watch the sun rise and the sun set and all the moments in between. I am incredibly grateful for that experience."

"The unique aspect of CorpsTHAT is their ability to rapidly adjust sails to changes and still match the current needs of both the Deaf and conservation community. CorpsTHAT is constantly preparing for the future and creating new endeavors and opportunities for the Deaf community but also simultaneously educating the public which is a rare feat."

-Alicia Wooten, Ph.D. Candidate and co-founder of Atomic Hands

"Being an Outdoor Ambassador for CorpsTHAT has been an incredibly enriching experience, both inside and outside of the woods. Because of CorpsTHAT, I worked with people who are also passionate about the environment, learned how to protect our environment better, and gained a greater appreciation for the outdoors."

-Sophia Hu, Outdoor Ambassador- DC region

"After Sachiko and Emma gave a presentation on the 7 principles of LNT our students were walking to another building at the camp and they started to cut across the grass one of our students ran out in front and reminded everyone to stay on the path so not to destroy the grass! It was wonderful to see our students already make the connections and apply what they learned!"

-Mary Hicks, Bilingual Literacy Specialist, Delaware School for the Deaf