ANNUAL REPORT
2020

Corps THAT

BRIDGING THE DEAF AND OUTDOOR COMMUNITIES SINCE 2016
AND SERVING THEM AS A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT SINCE 2018
DEAR FRIENDS OF CORPSTHAT,

Along with everyone else, we were not expecting the twist and turns that this year was going to give us. Navigating the pandemic safely, continuing to work from our homes, making hard decisions on whether or not to run programs, we felt the pandemic and all its effects.

Since we founded CorpsTHAT our goal had been to set up our own conservation corps crew, the first ever Deaf-run, Deaf conservation corps crew. In 2020 we were going to achieve that dream but COVID-19 had other plans. We made the hard but safest decision run that crew at a later date, back when we all hoped the pandemic would be short lived and we could run the program this fall, once again we had to make the hard but safest decision to run this crew and decided it would be better to run the crew summer 2021 when hopefully we will have better protections against COVID-19.

However our nature of working in the outdoors gives us a lot of resiliency and we were able to develop a strong online educational program and reach more people throughout the country and even in other countries than we would have in our in person programming.

Our Sol Fest 2020 also changed shaped and moved into a virtual Hike-a-Thon and we were overwhelmed by the support and donations we received.

While this year was nothing what we could have imagined, we are looking forward to using the lessons we have learned in the future and being able to continue to adapt and change as needed.

THANK YOU,

CORPSTHAT TEAM
SKO, EMMA AND SAM
HOW WERE WE IMPACTED?

COVID-19

ADAPTING AS A COMMUNITY

2020 threw all of us for a loop and was more challenging than we ever could have predicted. The beginning of the year brought so much potential for running our first ever conservation corps crew but instead all that was put on hold. But we adapted and navigated these challenges as a team and a community.

- Created a Wilderness Wednesday Instagram Live series
- Connected with other organizations supporting inclusion in the outdoors
- Created virtual educational materials
- Connected with new project partners for conservation corps crews
- Provided interpreters for different virtual panels focused social justice in the outdoors
- Hosted online outdoor education classes expanding our reach outside of our local community
PARTNERSHIPS

“There are over 130 Corps across the country. While not all Corps have the resources to offer disability inclusion programs, several have made concerted efforts to expand their inclusivity. There are currently five Corps across the nation that provide employment, service, and volunteering opportunities for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing youth and young adults.” (Traverse, 2017).

This year we partnered with the Southeast Conservation Corps and Texas School for the Deaf Statewide Outreach Center to provide conservation corps programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth in those regions. Due to the pandemic and the safety of the participants we had to make the difficult decision to not run the crews and postpone them till next year in the hopes that there will be less public health safety risk.

We were able to connect with Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps and worked with them for a week in the fall sharing knowledge and planning for a youth crew for Deaf high school students in the Pittsburgh area next summer, 2021.
Even before everything became virtual due to the pandemic we were already teaching American Sign Language for Outdoor Professionals online. Now in our second year of teaching ASL, we have hired two additional ASL teachers and added a second level class.

These courses are one of a kind, teaching ASL tailored to people who work, recreate and live in the outdoors. With cultural information, vocabulary and practicing using sentences that you would in outdoor settings, allows our students to learn ASL and apply it right away to their jobs or when they are recreating, making the outdoors more inclusive.

**ASL CLASSES OF 2020**

- ASL 1- Level
- ASL 2- Level
- 80 students
- 11 classes
- 2 Instructors
ONLINE OUTDOOR EDUCATION
LEARNING OUTDOOR SKILLS IN ASL

- Camping 101
- Backpacking 101
- Leave No Trace Workshop
- Summer Stewardship Program
- Backpacking Meal Prep
- Summer Stewardship Program
- 14 total classes
- 2 Backpacking 4 class series
- 114 total students

Age Demographics

- 18-29
- 30-40
- 41-59
- 60+

Identity of Attendees

- Deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Hearing
- Other

Experience of Attendees

- Beginner
- Not Very
- Somewhat
- Very
EVENTS IN 2020

- Make your own (recycled) vision board
- MLK Day of Service
- Upcycle your old T-Shirt
- Volunteer With PATC
- Earth Day Film Festival -with Baltimore City Association of the Deaf
- Plant Sale
- Wilderness Wednesdays
  - Camping Coffee and Perfection
  - Pee, Poop, and Period in the Outdoors
  - Coronavirus and the Outdoors
  - Outdoor Interpreting
  - Lost and Injured in Alaska
  - Working and Hiking in the Outdoors
- Provided interpreters for #BirdingWhileBlack Panel
- Recreate Responsibly in ASL video
- Trail Talk Meet Ups for Deaf outdoor professionals
- Hiking Meet Ups
- Clothing Drive
- USFS Job Application Process
- Sol Fest Hike-a-Thon
a look back at
SOL FEST 2020
DEC 21ST TO JAN 18TH

36
TOTAL NUMBER OF HIKE-A-THONERS

22
PEOPLE WHO RAISED AT LEAST $1

$12,176
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED
WE KEPT UPPING OUR GOAL THANKS TO ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS!

263
PEOPLE MADE DONATIONS TO SOL FEST HIKE-A-THON FUNDRAISERS!

$725
MOST AMOUNT RAISED BY A SINGLE HIKE-A-THONER!

$25 $100 $500
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RAISED:

SOL FEST SHIRT
SOL FEST MUG
CORPSTHAT RAIN JACKET

TOTAL MILES HIked
780 MILES

THAT IS EQUAL TO HIKING UP AND DOWN DENALI

101X

MOST MILES HIked BY A SINGLE HIKE-A-THONER!

128 MILES
THAT IS AS LONG AS THE MONONGAHELA RIVER IN WEST VIRGINIA

WHERE DID HIKE-A-THONERS HIKE?

106 TOTAL NUMBER OF FRIENDS WHO SAFELY JOINED US ON TRAIL

BEST SPIRIT
Someone who was at great risk or not feeling well yet still pushed themselves to complete the hike.

BEST FRIEND
Someone who ensured the most number of people to join our 2020 HIKE-a-Thon.

MOST MILES HIked
Someone who walked the most miles.

BEST 4 LEGGED HIKER
As all four or two feet and always, it’s always nice to see four paws.

HE COULDN’T PICK JUST ONE:
BEST HIKE-A-THON PHOTO

WE COULDN’T PICK JUST ONE:
BEST HIKE-A-THON PHOTO

DONATIONS ALLOW US TO:

HIRE 1 DEAF CORPS COORDINATOR

SUPPORT TWO PARTNER CREWS IN HIRING 17 DEAF YOUTH

THANK YOU
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU OUT ON THE TRAILS NEXT YEAR!
Thank you for your support in 2020

Check out CorpsTHAT Sol Fest in the News!