



**For Immediate**

**Linking community,  
education and environment  
through service**

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**Release**

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## **Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Turns 30**

*“A Toast to Trails & Tales” 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sat., Sept. 30, at Steamboat Grand*

**Steamboat Springs, CO (July 25, 2023)** – Rocky Mountain Youth Corps celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2023, continuing its award-winning tradition of engaging youth in the outdoors while linking community, education and environment through service. RMYC, housed in a 4,300-square-foot headquarters on a 3.4-acre campus in Steamboat Springs, Colo., has served more than 13,000 youth (and 250,000 PBJs) in its three decades of service, including more than 5,000 through its Yampa Valley Science School program. The nonprofit’s “A Toast to Trails & Tales” 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sat., Sept. 30, at the Steamboat Grand Hotel will also honor founder Gretchen Van De Carr, who is retiring after 30 years in January 2024.

“It’s a huge milestone, and one we’re very proud of,” says CEO Van De Carr, crediting her staff and board for the nonprofit’s resounding success, which includes a \$7 million annual operating budget. “Our dedicated, passionate, and competent staff and board members have allowed us to successfully grow our program capacity and impact steadily for these past three decades. I am so proud to be working with so many incredible people over the years.”

RMYC crews and natural resource interns perform such services as community cleanups; planting and watering trees; building and maintaining hundreds of trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use; rerouting and maintaining trails on 10 Colorado 14ers and 250 miles of the Continental Divide Trail; GIS programming; hydrology and archaeology projects; felling and removing beetle kill hazard trees from 2,500 acres of public and private lands to reduce wildfire risk; and, this year, tripling its fire crew program, including an all ladies crew, to help mitigate fire fuels and fight fires on BLM and USFS land.

In addition, RMYC’s Historic Preservation Crews, in partnership with public lands and local historic preservation agencies, have worked to preserve such local iconic structures as the Yock Homestead of the More Barn, Hahn’s Peak Fire Lookout Tower and Diamond Window Cabin, as well as Granite Creek Cabin and White Grass Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. And its newest program—Natural Resource Internships, which started in 2016 with just eight interns—has grown to more than 110 this year.

RMYC also fosters civic engagement, with a recent survey showing participants are more likely to engage in civic and community service after their tenure. Members complete the program with greater assets for healthy and productive lifestyles, heightened self-esteem, resiliency and job skills, and a greater sense of responsibility for self, community and the environment. RMYC’s programs also save crucial federal and state

land management agency funding: a National Park Service study finds employing youth corps to complete projects generates a 71 percent cost savings. RMYC also stimulates the local economy with more than \$1 million in annual spending on supplies, materials and vehicles, while providing more than \$4 million in wages and benefits to its 15 senior level employees, seasonal staff, and paid corps members and interns. It has also provided AmeriCorps Education Awards to more than 2,200 members, totaling \$3.5 million.

Ringed in its 30th anniversary, RMYC is building its long-term financial sustainability for its next 30 years through two primary efforts: building its endowment fund held at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation to \$3.75 million by 2025; and a major capital project—in 2024 RMYC will begin construction on \$4.5 million in improvements, including a 6,860-square-foot office building and pavilion for its year-round staff and converting its existing offices and headquarters into dormitory-style employee housing for its long-term field coordinators and crew leaders.

"We've come a long, long way in 30 years," says board president Frank Mayer. "This anniversary is an amazing achievement that would not have been possible without the incredible support of our local community and stakeholders including our staff, partners, donors, board of directors and the vision and leadership from our founder and CEO, Gretchen Van De Carr."

To celebrate its milestone, RMYC is hosting a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration — "A Toast to Trails & Tales" — on Saturday, September 30, from 4:30 –9 p.m. at the Steamboat Grand Hotel, with a Tour Through Time Happy Hour, dinner, live auction and tales from alumni, followed by a bubbly toast to 30 years.

**About RMYC**

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps engages the strength and potential of youth and young adults to make a difference in themselves and their community through meaningful service opportunities, educational experiences, and group recreational activities. RMYC strives to meet the needs of the communities of northwest Colorado and southern Wyoming by offering a variety of programs and services for youth ages 11-35 years. For more information visit [www.RockyMountainYouthCorps.org](http://www.RockyMountainYouthCorps.org).

**RMYC Then and Now**

1993	2023
20 corps members in the Youth Corps program	855 participants, including: 320 Youth Corps; 172 Conservation Corps; 250 Yampa Valley Science School; 113 Natural Resource Interns
\$12,000 annual budget	\$7 million annual budget
No AmeriCorps Education Awards earned	\$631,901 in AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by 276 members
Earned income from Project Partners = \$3,000	Earned income from Project Partners = \$4.2M

\$3,000 from Public, Private, and Government Grants	\$2.1 million from Public, Private, and Government Grants
Completed 2 conservation projects for 2 land management agencies	Will complete 59 conservation projects for 38 land management agencies, nonprofits, and government entities
Individual donations: \$0	Individual donations: \$600,000
6 Crew-Weeks of work performed	243 Crew-Weeks of work performed
280 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches served	28,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches served
1 year-round Employee	15 year-round employees