



BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS PROGRAM STAFF

Karlson Lewis Hubbard - Program Director

Karlson Hubbard got his first introduction to the CCC in 1998 as an AmeriCorps V.I.S.T.A. with the San Diego CCC Center. In 2000, he was a member on the Klamath/Trinity Backcountry Crew. It was during this backcountry season he began to sharpen his love for trails and for community like a double-bit axe before a 20 mile log out run. Soon after, Karlson continued to work trails and work with the CCC/AmeriCorps Backcountry Trails Program as a sponsor for three years, representing the Weaverville Ranger District of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. In 2003, Karlson left the mainland, figuratively and literally, and went to islands of Samoa to build trails. Finally, in 2005, Karlson tried what would later turn out to be the first of ultimately five tries to have the perfect backcountry trails season. Karlson spent the 2005, 2006, and 2008 BC seasons in the Trinity Alps, and the 2007 in the Klamath National Forest, and lastly the 2009 season in Yosemite NP. In 2010 and 2011, Karlson served as the Relief Supervisor/Program Recruiter before becoming the new Program Director in 2012.

Chelsea Saeland – Program Coordinator

Chelsea grew up in a small farming community of 500 in California's Central Valley. Her love of nature started when she would visit her uncles up in Oregon and they taught Chelsea and her siblings how to read a map and compass. In 2010, Chelsea joined the California Conservation Corps and had the opportunity to be part of the 2011 Kings Canyon Backcountry Crew. After her backcountry season, she was offered an internship to work with the 2012 backcountry crews in the San Jacinto Mountains in Southern California. For 7 months she helped with the food purchasing, packing and daily crew life of 4 different crews. From there it was time to leave the CCC. Chelsea went on to teach at a 6th grade outdoor school and do some traveling. By 2014, she came back as a supervisor for the Fortuna Center. During that time, the Backcountry Program was always in her mind, so she became a Backcountry Supervisor in 2017 in Yosemite, and again in 2018 in Kings Canyon. Now, in 2019, Chelsea has taken on a new role as the Backcountry Trails Program Coordinator.

Megan Siems-- AmeriCorps Coordinator

Megan's interest in conservation and wilderness adventuring began in earnest in college when she started leading backpacking, climbing, and caving trips for her school's outdoor adventure club. Shortly after graduating college, she served as an Americorps member with the Arizona Conservation Corps from 2006-2007. She then moved to San Francisco and worked as a program assistant with the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program for a couple of years before attending graduate school at UC Berkeley. After graduate school, Megan worked for the City and County of San Francisco as an analyst with both the Department of Human Resources and the Audits Division of the Controller's Office. In 2019, after 11 years in San Francisco, Megan moved to Eureka and became the AmeriCorps Coordinator for the Backcountry Trails Program in 2020. She is excited to be working in the conservation and wilderness stewardship realm again.

Cecilia Whitworth -- Program Assistant

Cecilia started down the path of conservation after graduating college in the middle of the recession with a degree in linguistics and no clue what she wanted to do with her life. She decided to try something completely different and joined the California Conservation Corps. It turned out to be the best decision she ever made. Cecilia spent two years at the Los Padres center as a corpsmember and then Crew Leader doing hard work for low pay in miserable conditions and much, much more, including the 2013 Australia Exchange, the Watershed Stewards Program, the San Jacinto trail project, and finally, the Backcountry Trails Program on the 2014 Yosemite I crew. After graduating the CCC, Cecilia went on to explore different kinds of conservation work for other organizations. She spent three summers with the NPS as a Crew Leader for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps, two years as a Naturalist teaching school kids and the public about nature, a season collecting stream data on BLM land in Nevada, and even returned to school for a couple of degrees in science and conservation. While she has loved all of these experiences, she found her work with the CCC and YCC to be the most rewarding and was ultimately drawn back to the Corps world. As part of her desire to keep learning and get more involved in the programs that shaped her, she is finally stepping out of the woods and into the role of the Backcountry Trails Program Assistant.

