Hard Work
Low Pay
The BCTP is dedicated to:

- preserving the remaining wilderness areas, making them safer and more accessible to the public through hard work and national service.
- building strong functional communities based on respect, sobriety, cooperation, and the tireless effort of each member.
BCTP began in 1979...

- Yosemite & Kings Canyon were the first crews.

TODAY...

- There are 6 crews based out of several locations throughout California.
BCTP crews have...

- built, repaired, and maintained over 12,500 miles of trail.
- performed over 2.5 million hours of trail work.
- have hiked approximately 2 million miles. (That’s enough to hike to the moon 8 times!)
Over 2,500 people have participated in the Backcountry Trails Program
THE BCTP BREAKDOWN

How it goes.

- 5 month long season
- Living in isolated Wilderness on a crew of 12-17 CCC and Internet hires
- BCTP is governed by regimented structure = minimal free time
- BCTP Emphasis:
  - Safety
  - Education and training
  - Sobriety
  - Community and personal development
  - Trail work
- Strong work ethic towards all of the above
WHAT TO EXPECT

It will test you.

- Exposure to dangerous living and work conditions.
- Long days, minimal personal time.
- Hiking long distances, with 40-60 lbs of gear/tools, at a pace of 3 mph.
- Strict Buddy System is enforced. No solo hiking.
- Work continues in extreme weather conditions.
WHAT ELSE TO EXPECT

It will push you.

- Extreme physical, mental, and emotional demands.
- No cohabitation or fraternizing.
- Isolation from friends, family, and modern conveniences.
- Difficult social situations.
In 2018, **90%** of BCTP Corpsmembers felt the Backcountry Trails Program changed their life.
A Day in the Life.
5:00 AM
Arrive in Camp
6:00-6:30 AM
Breakfast
6:30-7:30 AM
Morning Chores
7:30-8:00 AM
Physical Training (PT)
8:00 AM
Circle Up
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Work
Work
Work
Work
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Hike to Camp
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bathe & Prepare for Dinner
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM
Dinner
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Evening Chores
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Curriculum
8:30 PM
Free Time
Let’s talk about the work.
What does a BCTP corpsmember do?

- Trail maintenance and construction.
- Use minimal tools, resources, and manual labor.
- Work safely.
- Wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). This is non-negotiable.
THE WORK

Corpsmembers are trained in historic skills, such as:

- Log Construction
- Dry Stone Masonry
- Trail Building, Design, and Maintenance
What is Trail Maintenance?
Corpsmembers learn how to:

- Clear brush, logs, boulders, and debris off the trail.
- Maintain drains and trail tread.
- Perform environmental rehabilitation.
What is Trail Construction?
Corpsmembers learn how to:

- Build new trail.
- Repair damaged trail.
- Mitigate soil erosion and stabilize trail tread.
- Move heavy materials, dig, crush stone.
THE WORK

Can you imagine...

● Doing repetitive, exhausting work?

● Swinging a 10-12 double jack for 8 hours?

● Moving a 100 pound rock 100 yards uphill?
CAMP LIFE

Life in a Backcountry Camp is made up of:

- Camp chores
- Personal chores
- Meal Prep
- Physical training
- More chores...
- Nightly curriculum
CAMP LIFE

A Backcountry Camp is made up of:

- Kitchen Tent
- Water Filtration System
- Fire Pit
- Community Spaces
- Sump System
- Latrine
This is where you sleep.
CAMP RESPONSIBILITIES

BCTP Corpsmembers are required to:

- Maintain hygiene and sanitation.
- Bathe daily.
- Do laundry.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Rotate kitchen patrol duties.
- Assist with daily meal prep.
- Assist with weekly resupply.
- Practice “Leave No Trace” ethics.
CAMP RESPONSIBILITIES

BCTP Corpsmembers are required to:

● Manage and maintain camp gear, tools, equipment.
● Keep camp organized.
● Maintain environmental awareness.
● Participate in daily curriculum.
Camp chores include:

- Eat delicious and nutritious food.
- Dishes.
- Collect firewood.
- Microtrash.
- Clean and organize kitchen area.
- Refill handwashing station/jungle can.
How’s the food?
Delicious.
And plenty of it.
How does food and mail get to camp?
FOOD AND MAIL

In the backcountry...

- Crews are resupplied each week with:
  - food
  - mail (including paychecks)
  - camp supplies
  - tools

- Resupplies are delivered by horse and mule or by helicopter.
Class is a large part of the BCTP.

- Evening classes, several nights a week all season.
- Weekly Community Meeting.
- Subjects range from:
  - natural history
  - advanced first aid
  - personal development
  - community building
- Classes are designed and taught by BC Supervisor.
- However, each corpsmember is expected to teach a class.
- There may be some outside instructors.
The fun stuff.
Backcountry Holidays
Events
Community
EXPECTATIONS
BCTP Corpsmembers must have:

● Enthusiasm for hard work.
● Integrity.
● Desire.
● Commitment.
● Ability to get along with others.
● Accountability.
EXPECTATIONS

BCTP Corpsmembers must:

- Follow all rules and policies.
- Be willing to buy into the program.
- Have self-motivation.
- Be in good physical condition.
- It is not a prerequisite that you know how to do trail work.
You have to earn your patches.
BCTP CREDENTIALS

What sets the BCTP apart?

- Accredited as being one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences by BCTP alumni.
- Intense adventure in a spectacular environment.
- Highly regarded in the trail community.
- You will leave in optimal fitness, with an augmented work ethic, and be better able to live and work cooperatively with others.
- This is not a paid vacation.
Things to consider:

- Pay is approximately $1900/month before taxes.
- $400 monthly deduction for food and transportation.
- $2960 Americorps Education Award.
- Eligible for loan forbearance.
- Free health insurance.
- Hours count toward CCC time. (If 3rd year end date is before 10/31.)
APPLICATION PROCESS

Keep in mind:

- Corpsmembers must be 18-26.
- Cannot be on probation or parole.
- **Competitive process:** hundreds of applicants per season for less than 100 positions
- To apply, you must submit both the Backcountry Application Packet and two reference forms
  - If current CCC CM, one reference must be from your direct supervisor.
  - Interview, application, and references are all taken into account.
IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: **Mid-February**

Selection Date: **Mid-March**

Season Begins: **End of April**

Season Ends: **End of September**
CONTACT INFORMATION

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BCTP Website: ccc.ca.gov/go/backcountry