

BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS PROGRAM



Hard Work





Low Pay



Miserable
Conditions

OUR MISSION

A group of people, likely members of the BCTP, are gathered in a field. They are wearing tan uniforms with patches on the sleeves. Some are wearing hats and scarves. They appear to be in a huddle, possibly discussing something or preparing for an activity. The background shows a grassy field with some trees and a clear sky.

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.

A black and white photograph of a rugged mountain landscape. In the foreground, a group of about a dozen people, some carrying backpacks, are walking across a wide, rocky riverbed. The middle ground shows a deep, narrow canyon with steep, rocky walls. In the background, there are more rugged mountain peaks, some with patches of snow or ice. The overall scene is one of a high-altitude, mountainous environment.

OUR ROOTS

BCTP began in
1979...

- Yosemite & Kings Canyon were the first crews.

TODAY...

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



SINCE 1979

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





1979 Kings Canyon Crew



2018 Inyo Crew

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.

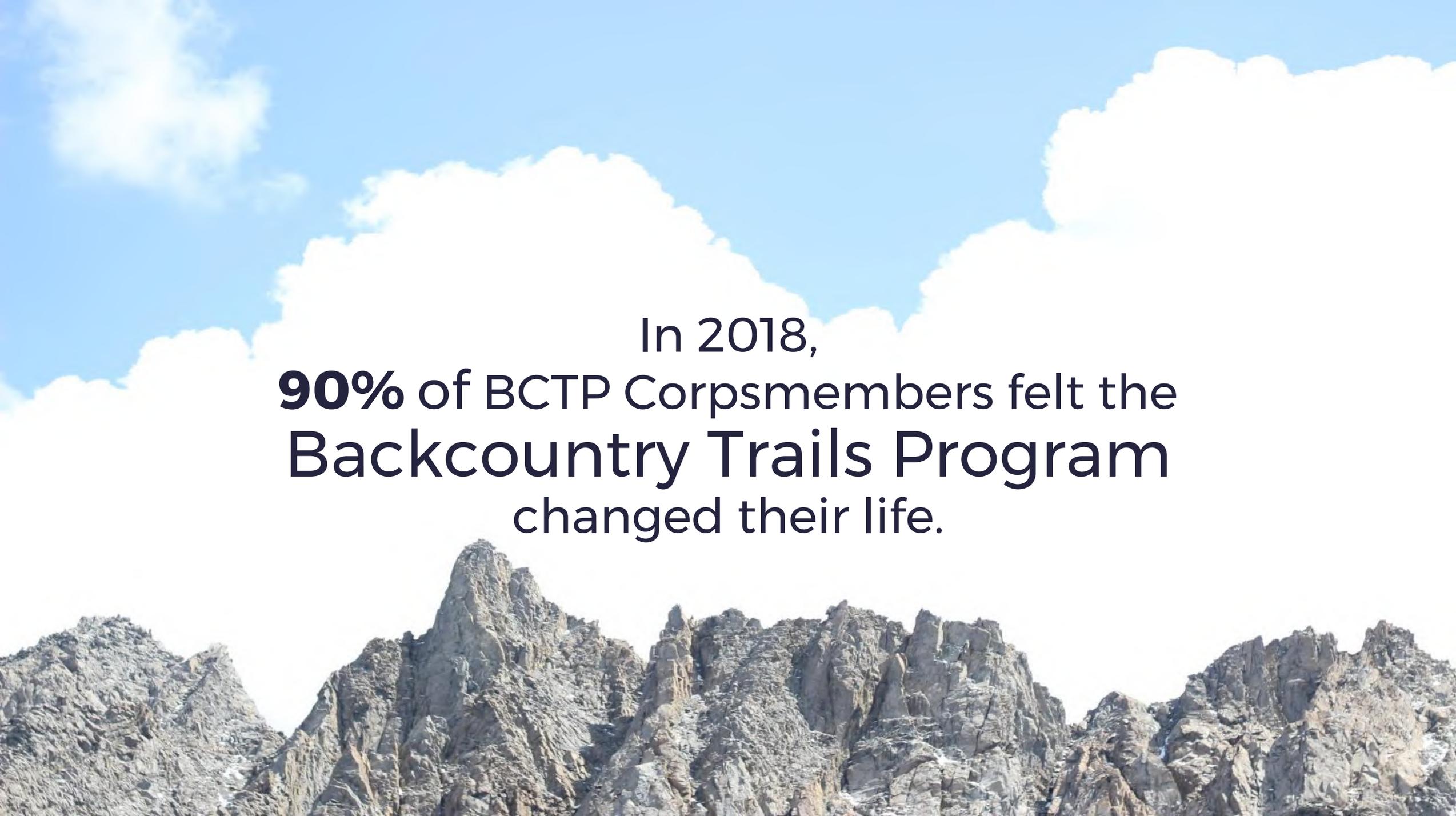


WHAT ELSE TO EXPECT

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



A group of scouts in khaki uniforms are performing physical training exercises in a grassy field. They are all in a similar pose, with their arms raised and hands clasped behind their heads, stretching their necks and shoulders. The background shows a forest of tall trees under a bright sky. The text "7:30-8:00 AM Physical Training (PT)" is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

7:30-8:00 AM
Physical Training (PT)



8:00 AM
Circle Up

**8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Work**



Work



Work



Work





Work

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hike to Camp





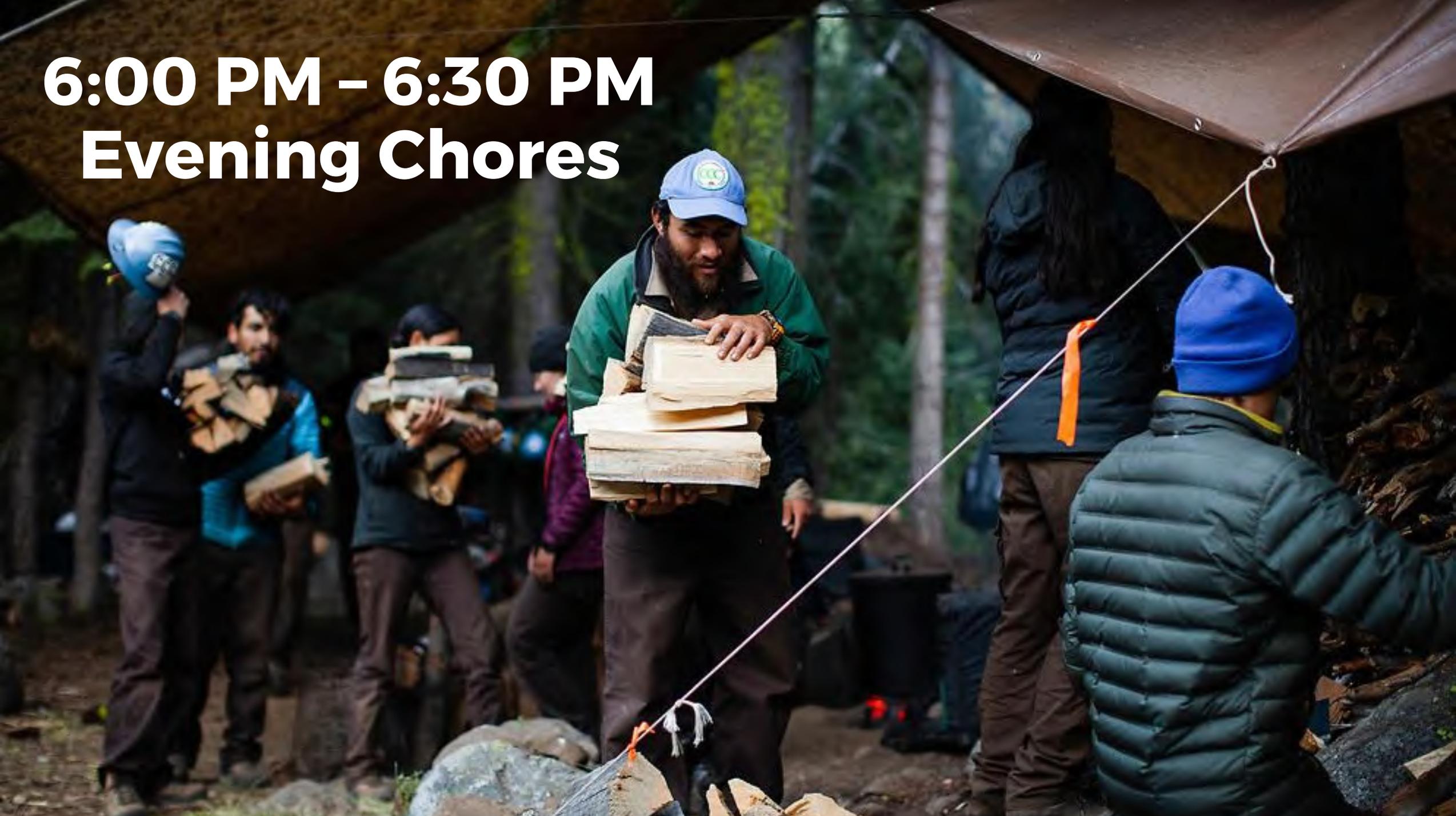
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

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.





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?



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?





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.





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 RESPONSIBILITIES

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?



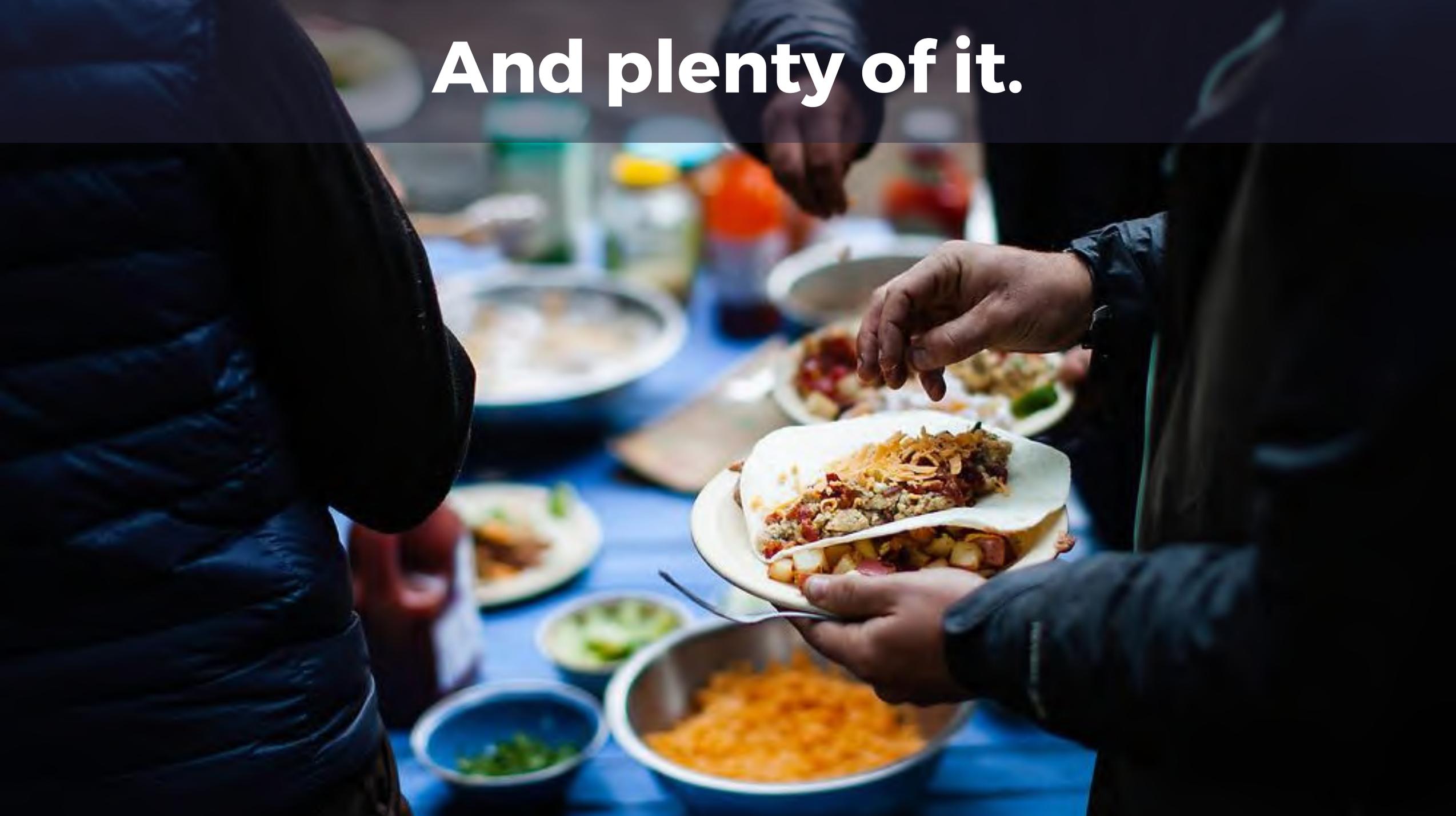
Delicious.



Nutritious.



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.



CCC
Mail

Curriculum





CURRICULUM

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



Weekends





Community

BCTP Expectations



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.**

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Things to consider:

- Pay is approximately **\$1900/month** before taxes.
- \$400 montly 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

BCTP Office: **707-725-5106 ext. 237**

BCTP Email: **backcountrytrails@ccc.ca.gov**

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