

# Summer of Service 2025

## Recommendation Form



For questions, please call 828-697-5777 or email [pam@conservingcarolina.org](mailto:pam@conservingcarolina.org)  
The completed form must be emailed to [pam@conservingcarolina.org](mailto:pam@conservingcarolina.org)

Youth Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date (Anticipated or Actual): \_\_\_\_\_

### *Reference Contact Information*

Your Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way and time of day to reach me is: \_\_\_\_\_

*How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?* \_\_\_\_\_

After reviewing the attached Summer of Service Fact Sheet, please describe:

1. Why you think the applicant should be considered for an AmeriCorps Summer of Service position?

2. How do you feel this position may benefit the applicant in his or her personal and professional development?

# Summer of Service

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CONSERVATION AND SERVICE LEARNING

## ABOUT CONSERVING CAROLINA'S SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM

A project of Conserving Carolina's AmeriCorps Project Conserve invites you to join the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Summer of Service program! Summer of Service is a young adult development initiative designed to engage 17–21-year-olds interested in trying something new and learning more about one-self and the environmental fields of study and workforce. Participants work as a team to develop leadership, life, and work skills through hands-on service projects throughout the summer. No outdoor experience is necessary, BIPOC encouraged to apply, and area residents are preferred.



SUMMER OF SERVICE AMERICORPS MEMBERS 2017: JASON BRANDYBURG, BAILEY ALLEN, FERNANDO BARUCH, ABDUL DERIOS & JORDAN KIRKLAND

## SERVICE PROGRAM DETAILS 2025

The program runs from June 16 - July 23, 2025. Participants will serve 18 hours per week - incorporating training and skill development activities in addition to direct outdoor service. Participants will commit to the completion of at least 100 hours of service and will receive a total of a \$1,500 stipend paid in three installments. Each participant who successfully completes their service term will also receive a \$416.17 education award that can be used to pursue higher education.

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## Summer of Service Outcomes

In its pilot year, 2017, the Summer of Service program successfully engaged and immersed five high school-aged youth in 3,000 hours of service over the course of ten weeks. Crew members learned important work and life skills while improving local communities and public resources. During their service term, the crew improved habitat on over 20 acres and maintained over three miles of trails. Service activities were carried out at Pisgah National Forest, Florence Nature Preserve, Hickory Nut Gorge Teaching and Research Reserve, and other public and conserved properties.

In 2024, the Summer of Service program shifted to 100 service hours over a six-week period at roughly 18 hours per week. Eight high school and college-aged youth provided service throughout Henderson, Haywood, Polk, and Transylvania counties. During their term, the crew planted numerous native plants creating important native pollinator habitat, removed litter from the land and our rivers and streams, restored native habitat by removing non-native and invasive plants creating and helped to build and improve local public hiking trails.

In addition to service, crews also gain important life skills and participate in a variety of team building exercises that strengthen relationships, trust, and create meaningful friendships.

Summer 2017 service crew members beside a stack of invasive vegetation removed at Pisgah National Forest



*"We worked hard all summer. We learned a lot of new stuff about the environment and about what we are capable of doing in our own community. I knew I liked nature and now I know I can do this for a living."*

- Jordan, 2017 Summer of Service member



*Conserving Carolina, formed by the 2017 merger of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and Pacolet Area Conservancy, has worked for over 30 years to protect and steward land and water resources vital to our natural heritage and quality of life and to foster appreciation and understanding of the natural world.*

*As the organization embarks on its next quarter century, it is committed to building on this foundation and to making its work relevant to an even broader cross-section of the communities where it works. The Summer of Service program is a key steppingstone on its path toward cultivating the next generation of conservationists in western North Carolina.*