

Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps

Measure U Special Project
FY 2018/2019

Arts in the Wilderness
Program FY 18/19 Ask: \$12,500

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Measure R & U Allocation Application

Type of Request	Special Project
Name of the Organization, Lead Agency, or Individual	Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps with the California Conservation Corps Foundation
Name of the Program or Project:	Arts in the Wilderness

Purpose of the proposed Program or Project and include a detailed schedule with a timeline, dates, programs and venue:

Everyone is entitled to enjoy the natural wonders available. The issue going forward, beyond simple enjoyment, is developing a sense of stewardship. Women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ communities can't be expected to have an investment in public lands if they haven't experienced it first hand.

Arts in the Wilderness would be an immersive backpacking trip with the goal of developing the skills and knowledge needed to increase participants comfort level with exploring and stewarding public lands in and around the Mammoth Lakes area. The trips would take place over 8 days, covering a total of 40 miles each. Prior to beginning the trip, participants will be trained in a variety of backpacking skills such as navigation and packing, as well as an introduction to the skills needed for trail maintenance.

Alongside the backpacking experience, participants will complete volunteer trail work in the Inyo National Forest. The trail work may include brushing, cutting trees, introductory rock work, and/or construction. Trip leaders would be experts in the field of hiking and backpacking plus have the necessary trail work experience to safely guide and volunteer alongside our participants. Participants will develop the skills involved in trail maintenance, an appreciation for the role of trail maintenance in the conservation of public lands, and have exposure to trail work as a potential career path. The opportunity for hands-on volunteer work will empower participants to see themselves as having a place in public lands, the stewardship necessary to preserve them, and gain fresh perspectives on the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

In exposing youth from underserved populations to backpacking, trail maintenance, and environmental stewardship, they will have gain the skills and knowledge to not only come

back as visitors to our local public lands, but to pursue stewardship as a career pathway. Art in the Wilderness is modeled off of the partnership program of ESCC and CCCF's Women in the Wilderness (WIW) program. Alumni of the WIW program have expressed an interest not only in pursuing volunteer job and opportunities in recreational and environmental stewardship, but also an intention to bring back members of their community to the places they visited. Alumni of Arts in the Wilderness would bring a new flow of tourists and local community members with the passion and confidence to explore our unique recreational opportunities.

Each day and/or evening time will be allotted to incorporate arts and culture programming which would serve to help participants memorialize their experience and personal growth. This would include but not be limited to daily literature readings, writing workshops, photography, drawing, and watercolors. Trip leaders would have prior experience to teach these impact areas or local artists and teachers would be brought in to facilitate these learning experiences.

The intention is to deliver, as much as is possible in 8 days, a transformational outdoor experience and a physical and mental challenge, leading to a spiritual engagement with the wilderness.

Two cohorts would take place in 2019, one in August and one in September with recruitment starting in June of 2019. We would work with the Inyo National Forest to determine best locations for backpacking with an available volunteer trail project.

A sample itinerary would be:

Day 1: Participants arrive in Mammoth Lakes, training begins with a land acknowledgment, backpacking 101, distributing gear, and safety information. Last minute gear and supplies

would be purchased at local retailers.

Day 2: Continued orientation and training, begin hiking to a backcountry location.

Journaling with intention setting and sharing readings.

Day 3: Begin volunteer trail work, lunch break includes an introduction to wilderness photography. Continue hiking further into the backcountry.

Day 4: Continue volunteer trail work and arts programming and moving camp locations or staying at a backcountry location.

Day 5: Continue volunteer trail work and arts programming and moving camp locations or staying at a backcountry location.

Day 6: Finish volunteer trail work and arts programming and start hiking back towards the trailhead.

Day 7: Hike out of the backcountry, celebratory dinner and art reception.

Day 8: Participants travel home.

Mono County is comprised of over 90% public lands. Introducing new stewards to Mammoth Lakes and the surrounding areas including the Inyo National Forest would serve to strengthen our community. This rich and varied landscape in the Forest provides an excellent opportunity for new backpackers to be exposed to a number of explorative settings and develop an appreciation for the unique nature of public lands in the Eastern Sierras.

Arts in the Wilderness is an easily replicated model for any National Park or Forest. It helps to solve the problem in creating future stewards of the environment from underrepresented groups. Other towns and cities along the 395 corridors and beyond could create similar programming.

What are your stated goals of the project, as aligned with the Allocation Broad Objective?

Formed intentionally in the Eastern Sierras with Mammoth Lakes as its base, ESCC has been tied to its local community since its founding. With local impact being a key component of ESCC, the organization has formed strong partnerships with local organizations that work in the realm of conservation as well as local businesses that support the work. One of our current programs, the Sequoia Kings Canyon Crew, is a partnership with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, The Sequoia Parks Conservancy, NPS, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. Other ESCC programs, including the Wildlands Technical Crew, the Ancestral Youth Backpacking trip, and Women in the Wilderness have partnerships with a variety of local organizations and public lands including with the USFS, the Sierra Native Alliance, the Shingle Springs Rancheria, and the California Conservation Corps Foundation. Each of these partners regularly praises the quality of work completed by ESCC crews. In the summer of 2018, work completed with the aid of a Women in the Wilderness crew received so much praise from hikers and packers that visitors took the time to express their gratitude at the local ranger stations. ESCC's work is widely known in the region and allows the organization to reach a wide audience of local community members when discussing and broadcasting the importance of the work.

ESCC has established a reputation with local federal agencies including Devil's Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest for high-quality trail construction and maintenance, bringing a diverse population to work and live in these areas, and a dependable partner.

Arts in the Wilderness will recruit high-need women, ages 18-26, persons of color, and LGBTQ youth, within our local community as much as possible. ESCC believes that diversity and inclusion benefits everyone and

seeks out members of the community who face additional barriers to accessing the outdoors including, but not limited to, financial status, race and ethnic background, and immigration status.

In providing access to the outdoors, training, and a welcoming community through which to experience that access, Arts in the Wilderness will have a significant impact on its participants. While the impact of the work itself extends far beyond the immediate participants, members of these “priority populations” are the primary beneficiary of the project.

Total amount of funding requested for one or multiple years:	For Year 1, we are requesting \$12,500
Is this a one-time funding request or on-going?	One-time Funding
If this is a multi-year request, please provide a timeline for the funding you are requesting.	2019: \$12,500
Has your program/project been awarded R and/or U funding in the past?	I have not received Measures R and U funding in the past.
Future Attendance Forecast	ESCC_Demographic_Survey.pdf (1245k)
Is there a cost of admission and/or participation?	There will be no cost of admission or participation by the cohort members.
Is the program(s) ADA compliant to all potential participants? If not, please explain:	Yes, we welcome participants of all abilities and will adjust programming as necessary.

Describe the public benefit:

The short term impact of the work completed through Arts in the Wilderness will benefit any member of the public seeking to use well-maintained trails within the Inyo National Forest. Longer term impacts will serve the communities from which members come by increasing opportunities for additional community members to access public lands. As alumni of the project, participants will bring back the knowledge and skill set that they acquired throughout the program. Alumni will pass on that knowledge to their friends, family, and surrounding community members thus increasing the number of people who feel comfortable and welcome in our local public lands.

Responsible Party & Title:

ESCC and CCCF

Point of Contact/PR personnel and contact information:

Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps Agnes Vianzon, Executive Director 760-935-3877 agnes@easternsierracc.org and California Conservation Corps Foundation Adam Somers, Executive Director 310-560-4840 adam@cccfoundation.net

Organization’s Mission Statement:

Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps (ESCC) is a development and nature-based leadership program committed to building a more equitable and inclusive community. Our mission is to provide opportunities for youth and young adults from priority populations to experience and better understand the wilderness and the outdoors by providing transformational and immersive backcountry experiences through 8-day through 18 week experiences. Our 3 main objectives are access, engagement, and extension. We break barriers to provide access to our participants and members to these transformative opportunities by providing gear, transportation, and leadership. We engage with them in more than just trail work or backpacking - they become a part of a community while learning. And our extension piece requires a commitment from them that they will continue to support our mission.

The CCC Foundation supplements funding of CCC programs with priorities including; Workforce Development, Education, Leadership Training, Scholarships, Conservation, Veterans and Emergency Response.

Website:	http://www.easternsierracc.org , https://www.cccfoundation.net/
Social Media Page(s):	https://www.facebook.com/easternsierracc , https://www.instagram.com/easternsierracc/ , https://www.facebook.com/CCCsupporter/
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Choose a tax status:	Non-Profit 501(c)3
Federal EIN number or ID number:	81-2456264
990 Form	2017_990ez.pdf (487k)
Previous Year's Profit and Loss (P&L) Statement	img052.pdf (792k)
Previous Year's Balance Sheet	img053.pdf (410k)
Year-to-Date Profit and Loss Statement	P-L_CCCF_YTD.pdf (50k)
Year-to-Date Balance Sheet	Bal_Sheet_CCCF_YTD.pdf (46k)
Current Year Budget	img055.pdf (685k)
Proposed Program Budget	CCCF_2019_Projection.xlsx (59k)
Project Specific Budget (Appendix A):	FY1920_AlloProjectBudget_AppxA_190115-ESCC-CCCF_FINAL.xlsx (52k)