



AmeriCorps

# NOWCorps Annual Report 2023-2024



**SERVE OHIO**  
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



# Welcome to NOWCorps!



**2023-24 Members** L-R (front row): Nina White, Kristina Hass, Rosana Villafan, Emily McKenzie, Caitlin Weber, Maggie Billings, (2nd row): Kara Grady, Nic Hildebrand, Taliesin Haugh, Shanna Koehler, Katie Bateman, Callie Sommers, Miranda Luse, Anthony Casey, Nichole Lally, (back row): Katrina Wrabel, James Rubish, Zachary Randolph, Dennis Curtindale, Ellery Schneider, Haydn Palmer, Ben Olson.

Our **5th program year** garnered **28 members** placed at **17 host sites**.

NOWCorps members focus on **Stewardship, Conservation, Education, and Capacity Building** as a means **to improve water quality and promote healthy habitats** within Northern Ohio.

We are immensely proud of our members and are excited to share all that they accomplished: from helping restore Cleveland's urban tree canopy to teaching thousands of youth and adults across Northern Ohio—our members **get things done!**

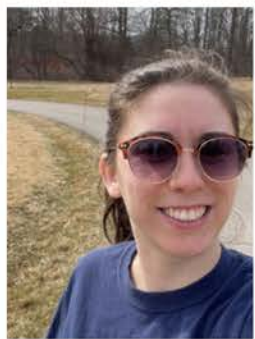
*NOWCorps is a State and National AmeriCorps program funded by ServeOhio, and sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners.*

# 2023-2024 NOWCorps Members



**Katherine**

Arboretum Core & Outer Trails Assistant with Holden Forests and Gardens



**Maggie**

Native Plant & Pollinator Specialist with Holden Forest and Gardens



**Anthony**

Natural Resources Technician with Cleveland Metroparks



**Dennis**

Horticulture Woodland Garden Assistant with Holden Forests and Gardens



**Callie**

Educator/Coordinator with Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District



**Joshua**

Watershed Program Assistant with Cuyahoga County Board of Health



**Emma**

Conservation Program Assistant with Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District



**Kristina**

Education Specialist with Holden Forests and Gardens



**Taliesin**

Education and Outreach Specialist with Cuyahoga County Board of Health



**Ellery**

Natural Resources Technician with Cleveland Metroparks



**Nic**

Education & Outreach Specialist with Chagrin River Watershed Partners



**Shanna**

Education & Outreach Assistant with Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve



**Nichole**

Field Station Assistant at The University of Akron Field Station



**Miranda**

Conservation Specialist with the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes



**Jordan**

Summer Watershed Steward with Lake Soil and Water Conservation District

# 2023-2024 NOWCorps Members



**Catherine**  
Outreach Specialist  
with Doan Brook  
Watershed  
Partnership



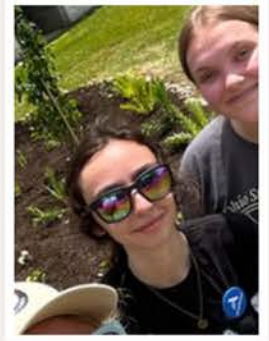
**Maci**  
Education &  
Outreach Specialist  
with Cleveland Seed  
Bank



**Ben**  
Core Natural Areas  
Assistant with  
Holden Forests and  
Gardens



**Haydn**  
Conservation  
Specialist with  
Holden Forests and  
Gardens



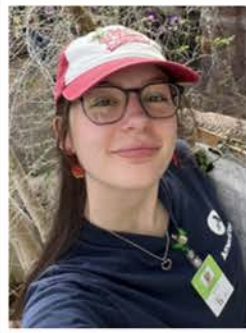
**Brooke**  
Outreach Specialist  
with Tinker's Creek  
Watershed Partners



**Katrina**  
Community  
Forestry Specialist  
with Western  
Reserve Land  
Conservancy.



**Rosana**  
Working Woods  
Specialist with  
Holden  
Forests and Gardens



**Caitlin**  
Horticulture Biomes  
Assistant with  
Holden  
Forests and  
Gardens



**Nina**  
Watershed Steward  
and Educator with  
Tinker's Creek  
Watershed Partners



**Kara**  
Conservation  
Horticulture  
Assistant with  
Holden Forests  
and Gardens



**Rebecca**  
Watershed  
Steward with  
Lake Soil and  
Water  
Conservation  
District



**Max**  
Summer  
Watershed  
Steward with  
Lake Soil and  
Water  
Conservation  
District



**Zach**  
Watershed  
Outreach  
Specialist with  
Summit Soil &  
Water  
Conservation  
District



**Emily**  
Ecological  
Restoration  
Crew Member  
with The Nature  
Conservancy



**Jake**  
Watershed &  
Stormwater  
Steward, City of  
Aurora



**Chris**  
Watershed  
Steward with  
Chagrin River  
Watershed  
Partners



# ORIENTATION+SWEARING IN

NOWCorps is a **life-changing experience**. It's an opportunity to form connections with a community and the environment. Each year, NOWCorps welcomes a new cohort of AmeriCorps members who aspire to **improve lives, strengthen communities**, and **foster civic engagement** through their service.

2023 Orientation topics included:

- Relationship between AmeriCorps, ServeOhio, and NOWCorps
- Reflection on what service means to them
- Reflection on members' gifts, talents, and passions and how to utilize these during their year of service.
- Meet and Greet with Host Site Supervisors

The 2023 swearing-in event was held at John Carroll University, where NOWCorps members joined AmeriCorps members from programs across Northeastern Ohio. Together, they pledged their commitment to a year of service, participated in small service projects led by each AmeriCorps program, learned about the variety of AmeriCorps programs throughout the region, and expanded their network.

Kicking off the service year with orientation and the regional swearing-in event promoted a sense of unity and togetherness before heading into a year of service.

# How does NOWCorps service prepare members for the future?



“I got to meet so many intelligent and inspiring people through NOWCorps and my host site...I feel that **I have truly made a difference** at my host site; that all my hard work paid off...”

*Caitlin Weber, Hosted at Holden Forests and Gardens - Cleveland Botanical Gardens Campus*



“I wish every American got the opportunities I have had, **to be of service, to be exposed to many different cultures and backgrounds** and sets of needs so that each of us can have the chance **to develop compassion and vision for the larger world we exist in**, I hope somehow for each of us to have that.”

*Taliesin Haugh, Hosted at Cuyahoga County Board of Health*



“The greatest story I can add here is just my **newfound confidence in the environmental field...** I am excited to put this learning into action **to help others understand the amazing resources we have here in Northeast Ohio and why we need to protect them.**”

*Callie Sommers, Hosted at Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District*

“There are so many different ways to serve, when I think of the culmination of all the effort and dedication of past, present, and future AmeriCorps members, I get excited about the future we’re creating. **It makes me proud too, because now that I have served, I get to be a part of this massive network of people who make a difference.**”

*Nina White, Hosted at Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners*

**“I get to be a part of this massive network of people who make a difference.”**



# DAYS OF SERVICE

## **Make a Difference Day**

Tree planting at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

## **MLK Jr. Day**

Seed Swap w/ Cleveland Seed Bank

## **AmeriCorps Week**

Spring Scout Event at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

## **Global Youth Service Day**

PopUp Park in AsiaTown

## **ServeOhio Day**

Buckthorn Removal at Cooperrider Kent Bog







# TRAINING DAYS

Each month, NOWCorps host site supervisors lend their knowledge and time to introduce our members to new skills and to lead them in a group service activity. In 2023-24 our members participated in the following monthly training and service activities.

## November

Cleveland Botanical Gardens  
*Intro to tool use and care and FROST Prep*



## December

Cleveland Metroparks  
*Winter Twig ID, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey, Invasive Removal*

## February

NOWCorps  
*Mental Health First Aid certification*

## March

University of Akron Field Station  
*Field Hike (Bath Nature Preserve history and ecology), Plastics discussion and Recycling Project*



## April

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners @ Cleveland Roots  
*Rustbelt Fibershed Presentation: Relationship Between Textiles and Watersheds, Tansy Recycling: Plastic Recycling demo*

## May

Ohio Stormwater Conference

## June

Old Woman Creek  
*Kayak Skills and Basic Rescue training, Resume Writing and Interviewing, Life After AmeriCorps Presentation*



## July

Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
*Phragmites removal, Food Safety Demonstration, Climate Fresk: Understanding Climate Change Workshop*

## August

Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
*Tree Maintenance, Reforest Our City: Learning About Cleveland Tree Canopy*

# 2023-24 NOWCorps Impact

**4,364 Individuals**

Participated in Environmental Education Programs

**538 People**

Increased their knowledge on Environmental Topics

**5,081 Trees**

Properly Planted

**380 acres**

of Land Treated

**739 Volunteers** engaged  
for a total **1,730 Volunteer Hours**

**175 Certifications**

Earned by NOWCorps Members



***I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.***



***I will bring Americans together to strengthen our community.***



***Faced with apathy, I will take action.***



***Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.***



***Faced with adversity, I will persevere.***



***I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.***



***I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done!***



# Thank you!

Thank you to **ServeOhio**, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, **AmeriCorps**, and **Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners** for funding and sponsoring our program as well as the **Gund Foundation** for providing additional funding support to ensure our program is accessible to nonprofit organizations across Northern Ohio.

We also extend our gratitude to all the members, host site supervisors, and collaborators who made this year full of learning, mentorship, and growth achievable. This program would not be possible without the tremendous support of all of our community partners!



# 2023-24 NOWCorps Host Sites

