

MARYLAND CONSERVATION JOBS CORPS 2022 Annual Report



The Student Conservation Association Executive Summary

The mission of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. SCA was founded in 1957 by Liz Putnam, a college student who believed that the passion, talent, and hard work of young people could be a force for tackling the challenges facing America's public lands. Today SCA provides opportunities for thousands of young people to develop conservation values and explore pathways to green careers, strengthen their leadership skills, and deepen their sense of responsibility to others and to the world. Young people emerge from SCA with fuel for their continuous growth and with a sense of empowerment to take action for the issues that they care about, in conservation and beyond. SCA nurtures thriving youth and thriving landscapes.



The Student Conservation Association Executive Summary

The Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) was established in 2008 on the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Following in the spirit CJC and actively engages local youth and young adults to provide hands-on conservation service opportunities in Maryland State Parks and public lands. The mission of the CJC is to provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for skills training, empowerment, and employment and to restore natural and recreational resources in Maryland State Parks, public lands in general, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The 2021 season marked the first year that the Student Conservation Association managed the Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) in partnership with the Maryland Park Service. Additionally, 2021 also marked the first CJC activities to occur since the global COVID-19 pandemic began. The 2022 season continued to operate in a smaller capacity while still accomplishing park projects and being successful!





Program Overview

The 2022 CJC program is a five-week employment opportunity through which youth receive marketable conservation work experience and the opportunity to network with professionals who are actively working in the field. Members were grouped into crews of 4-6 by age and park assignment. Crews worked in the parks Monday to Thursday, then participated in Enrichment Days on Fridays that combined environmental education and recreational activities. Members were transported to and from the parks by bus or 7-passenger vehicle, and to and from project sites by their Crew Leaders. Crew Leaders were responsible for supporting individual member development and project implementation. Crew Leaders were responsible for carrying out the missions and goals of the program and upholding performance standards. The summer culminated in a final graduation ceremony for Members.





Leader Training

In 2022, the SCA provided a campus-based training at New Horizons Camp in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This 10-day on-site training provided leaders with an immersive experience.

The leaders received multifaceted training, met other leaders and staff from throughout the country, and learn about the SCA culture.





Leader Training



Crew Leaders received the following trainings:

- Driver training
- Team Building
- Discrimination & Harassment Prevention
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)
- Mental Health Awareness, Knowledge, & Skills
- Land Acknowledgements
- Risk Management
- Communication & Professionalism
- Building Inclusive Community
- Reflective Leadership
- Conflict & Behavior Management
- Field-Based Teaching Techniques
- Program Administration

Conservation Work Skills included:

- Trail Building and Maintenance
- Rock Work
- Trail Design
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Body Mechanics
- Tool Safety
- Tool Maintenance

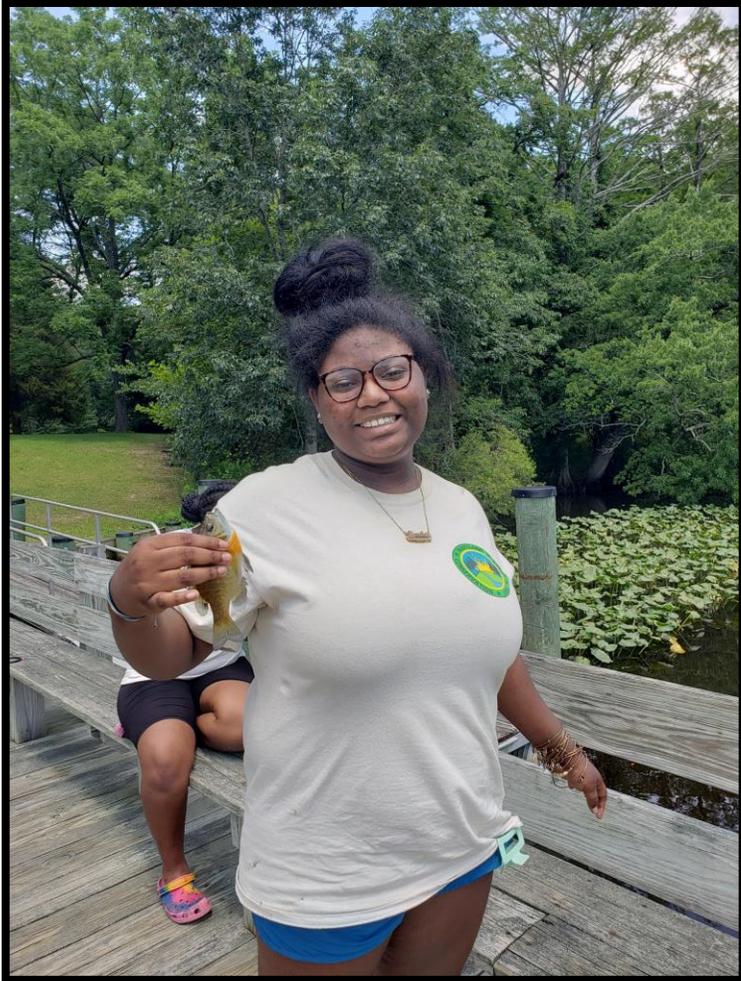


Enrichment Days



Crews were able to participate in enrichment days on the last day of their work week. Enrichment days cover a variety of experiences including recreational activities, history, museums, fishing and crafts. Kayaking, canoeing and fishing ended up being the most popular activities.





Enjoying the Outdoors





Building Personal Connections to Nature





End of Season Camping Trip



Back this year is the CJC end of season 3-day/2night camping trip. The camping trip was led by the SCA Program Manager and SCA Program Coordinator. The young adult crews went to Pocomoke River State Park on the Eastern Shore and the youth crews went to Rocky Gap State Park in Western Maryland. The camping trip allows many members to experience camping for the first time in a positive and safe environment. The camping trip also furthers the SCA and CJC's mission for members to develop personal connections with nature.





Where We Worked



The 2022 Conservation Jobs Corps consisted of 11 Leaders and 40 Members serving in several Maryland Parks and Complexes.

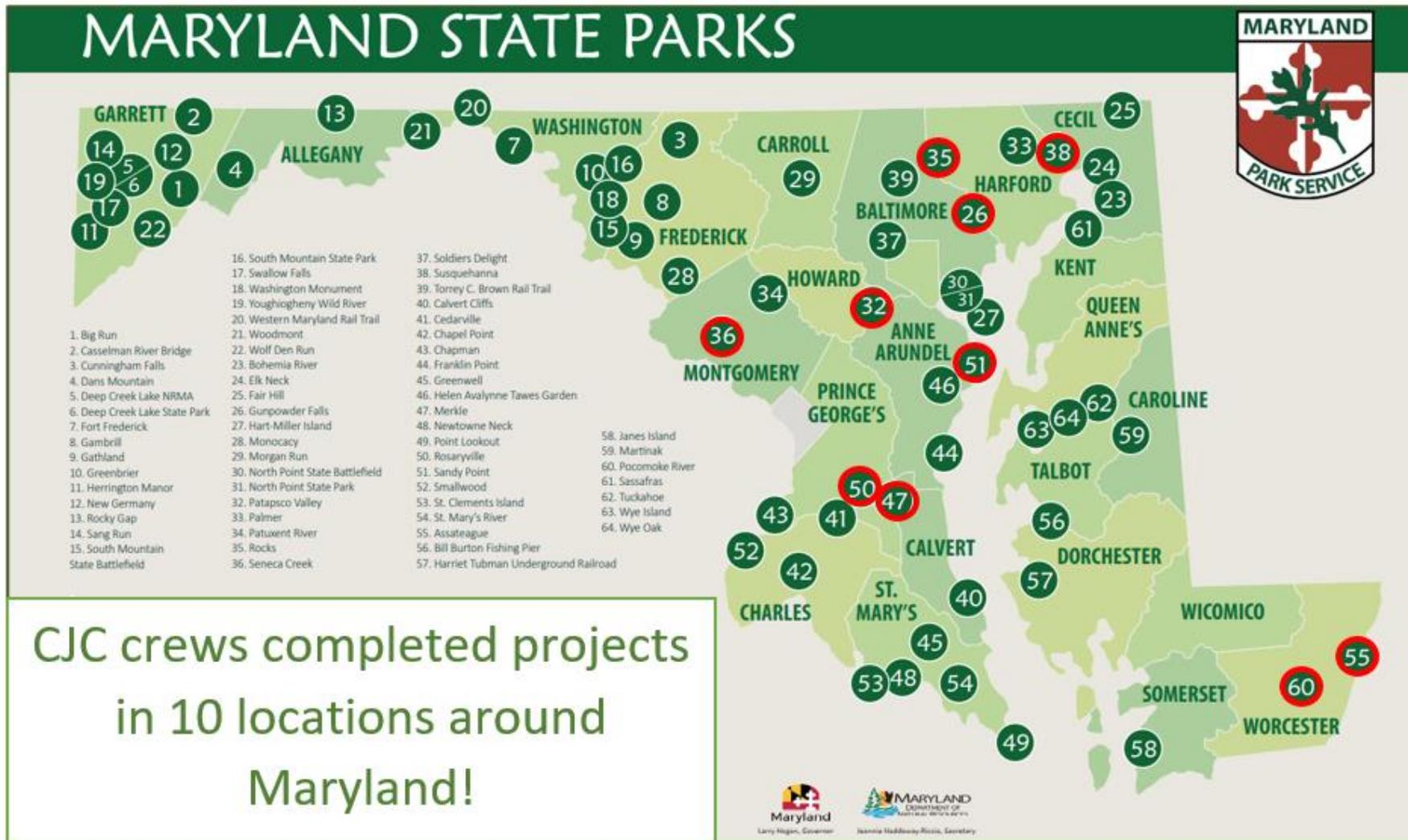
The 2022 CJC crews were able to complete work at 10 parks throughout Maryland.

- Assateague State Park
- Gunpowder Falls State Park
- Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary
- Patapsco Valley State Park
- Pocomoke River State Park
- Rocks State Park
- Rosaryville State Park
- Sandy Point State Park
- Seneca Creek State Park
- Susquehanna State Park





Where We Worked





Conservation Impact



Through SCA, young people have the opportunity to complete meaningful work that makes a positive impact on the world around them. SCA projects make tangible and positive impacts to the land, protecting and restoring parks and public lands, educating visitors about conservation, and increasing access to urban green spaces. Ultimately for these young participants they got to make an impact in the parks in their own communities.





Assateague & Pocomoke River State Park



Summary of Accomplishments:



- Aviary improvements of the Red Tail Hawk enclosure at Pocomoke. Put up a new wall, rerouted electrical wire, constructed and installed new perches, and reinforced barriers
- Aviary improvements of the Barred Owl Enclosure. Built and installed new perches and bird boxes, cut open a connecting wall, and put up a new door
- Built 4 pet washing stations for Assateague State Park
- Outfitted 24 picnic tables with horse-proof storage design
- Learned how to use drills, hammers, and carpentry jigs



Gunpowder Falls State Park



Summary of Accomplishments:

- 3 acres of invasive species removal
- 1 pier deconstruction and 3 bridge deconstructions
- Native tree planting at Sweet Air
- Native plant gardens along visitor use buildings
- Installed a 15ft bridge along trail



Southern Maryland Recreational Complex

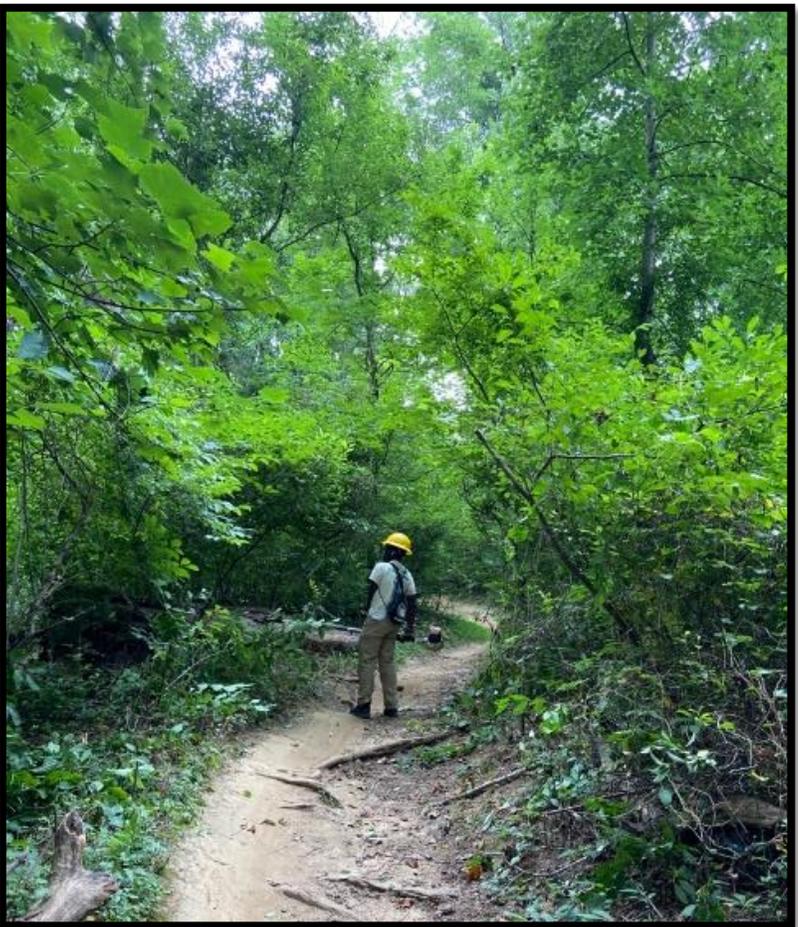


Summary of Accomplishments:

- Cleaned up a quarter acre of shoreline at Sandy Point State Park after the busy 4th of July weekend
- Cut lumber for a 10 x 8 ft bridge along Tilly Trail at Rosaryville State Park
- Hauled lumber to the worksite and assembled 10 X 8 ft bridge
- Installed 20 large stone pavers into trail section that was eroded heavily
- Removed social trails and rehabbed disturbed areas



Patapsco Valley State Park

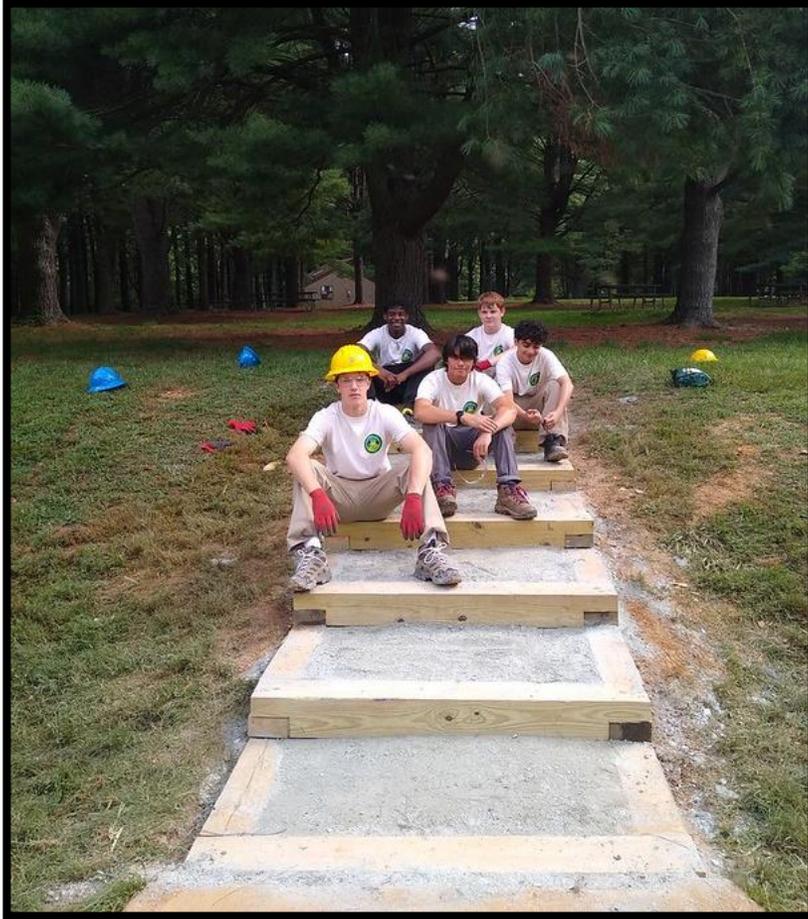


Summary of Accomplishments:

- Built door frames for future greenhouse projects
- Maintained heavily used disc golf tee pads throughout the park
- Built 3 rock retaining walls along multiuse trails
- Cleared 5 miles of trail corridor
- Invasive vegetation species removal



Seneca Creek State Park



Summary of Accomplishments:

- Cleared corridor for future reroute of trail
- Litter removal around park, collected 2.5 truckloads of garbage
- Installed steps to the Pines Picnic Area and Old Pond Trail
- Mulched around Pines Picnic Area and playground
- Removed invasive Japanese Knotweed



Susquehanna State Park



Summary of Accomplishments:

- Created several native plant gardens
- Cleared 3,000 ft of trail of overgrown brush and invasive plants
- Rerouted 1,500 feet of trail near the campground
- Constructed and painted a box turtle enclosure for Rocks State Park
- Installed new split rail fence around trail head parking lot at Rocks State Park



Participant Impact

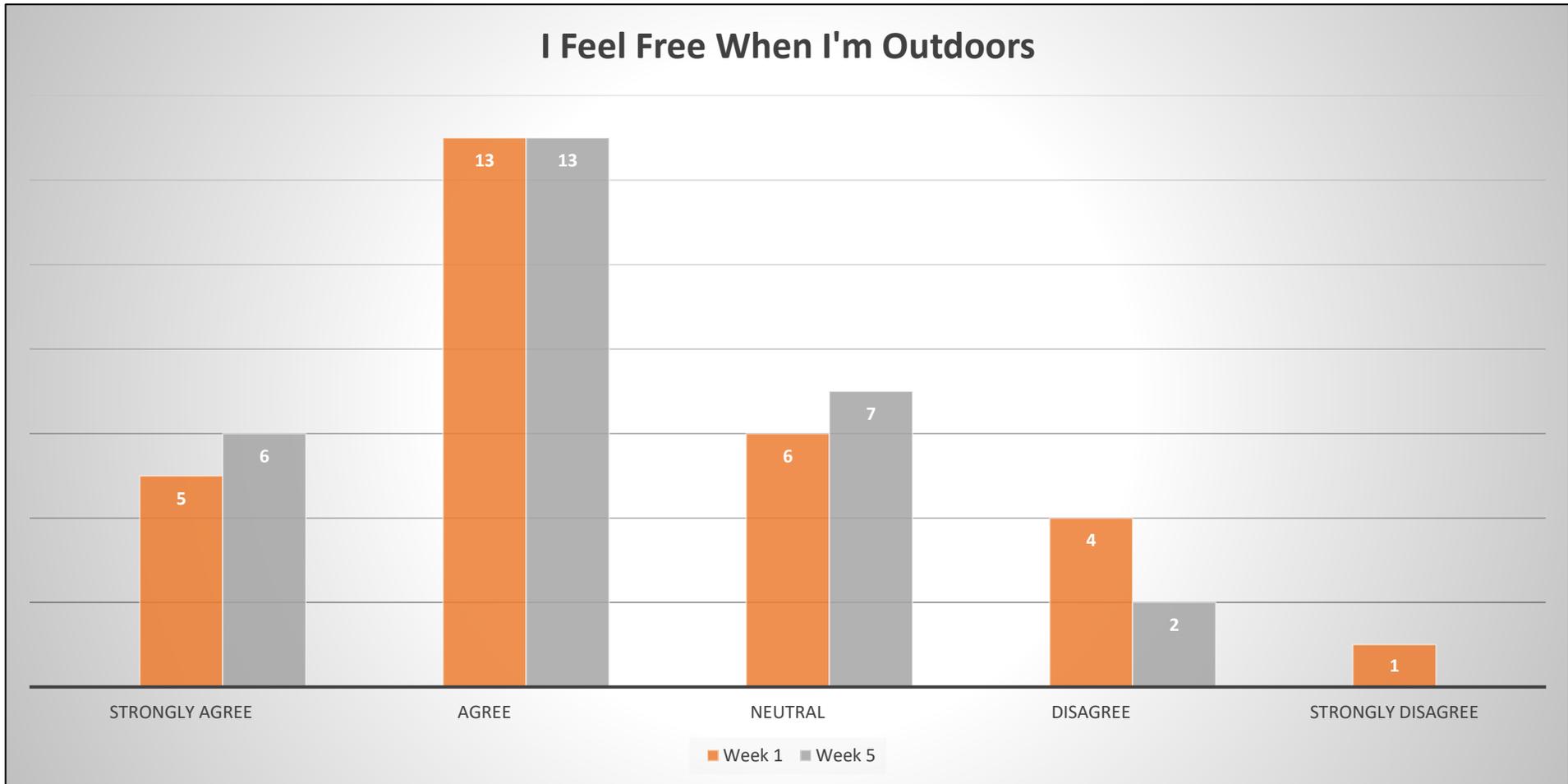
In every SCA experience, participants complete projects that solve real conservation challenges and see the tangible results of their labor. Through this work they learn how to conserve resources, learn why their conservation work projects are critical to that effort, and discuss with teammates and leaders what they could do to address environmental issues after SCA. Many showed interest in exploring careers in conservation and discussing their academic and career goals.

At the end of the season, CJC members are given a survey to help gauge growth between the start of the season and the end of the season. The survey measured their personal and professional improvements throughout the season. Our goal is to make their time in CJC a positive impact that stays with members for their lifetime.



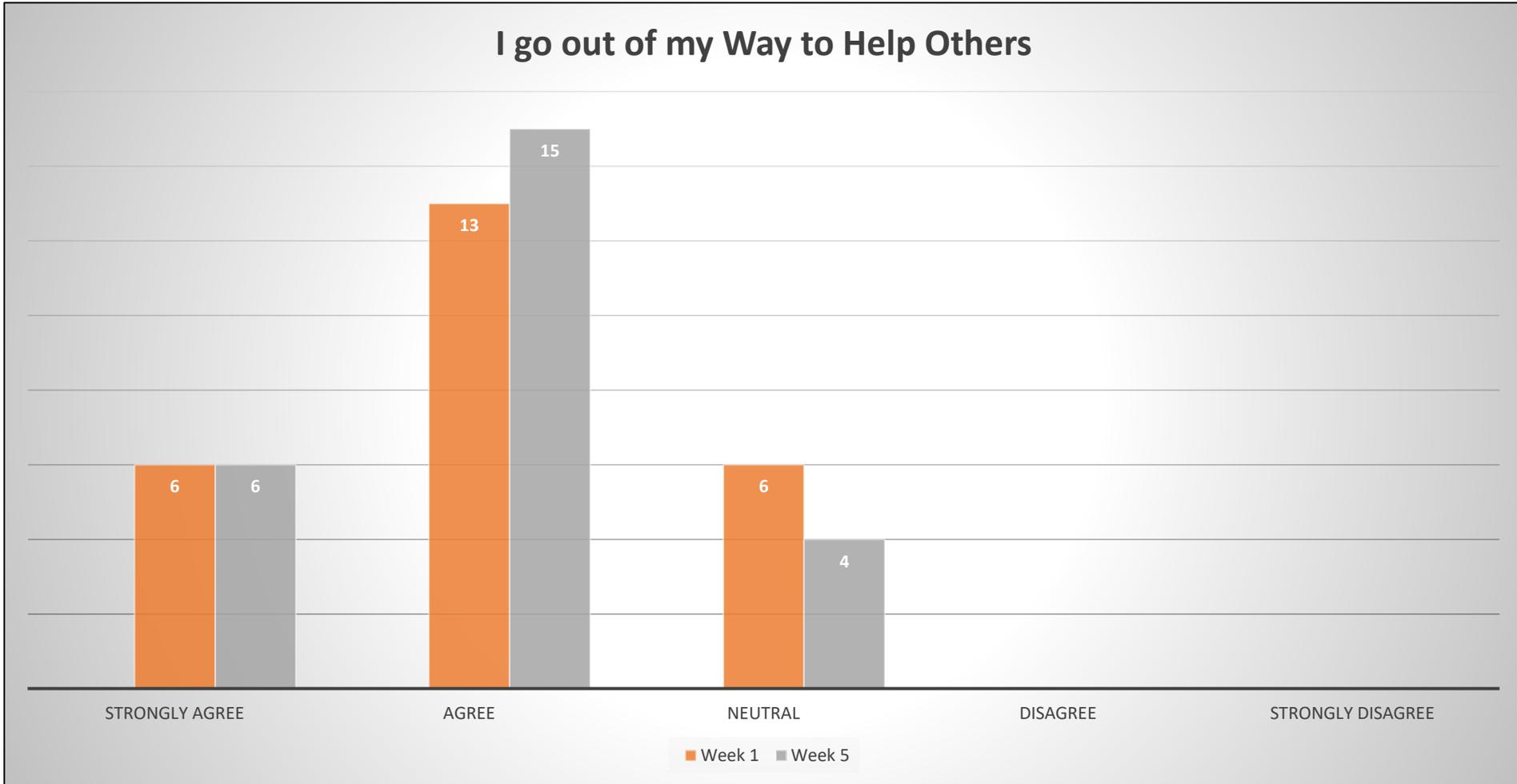


Participant Impact



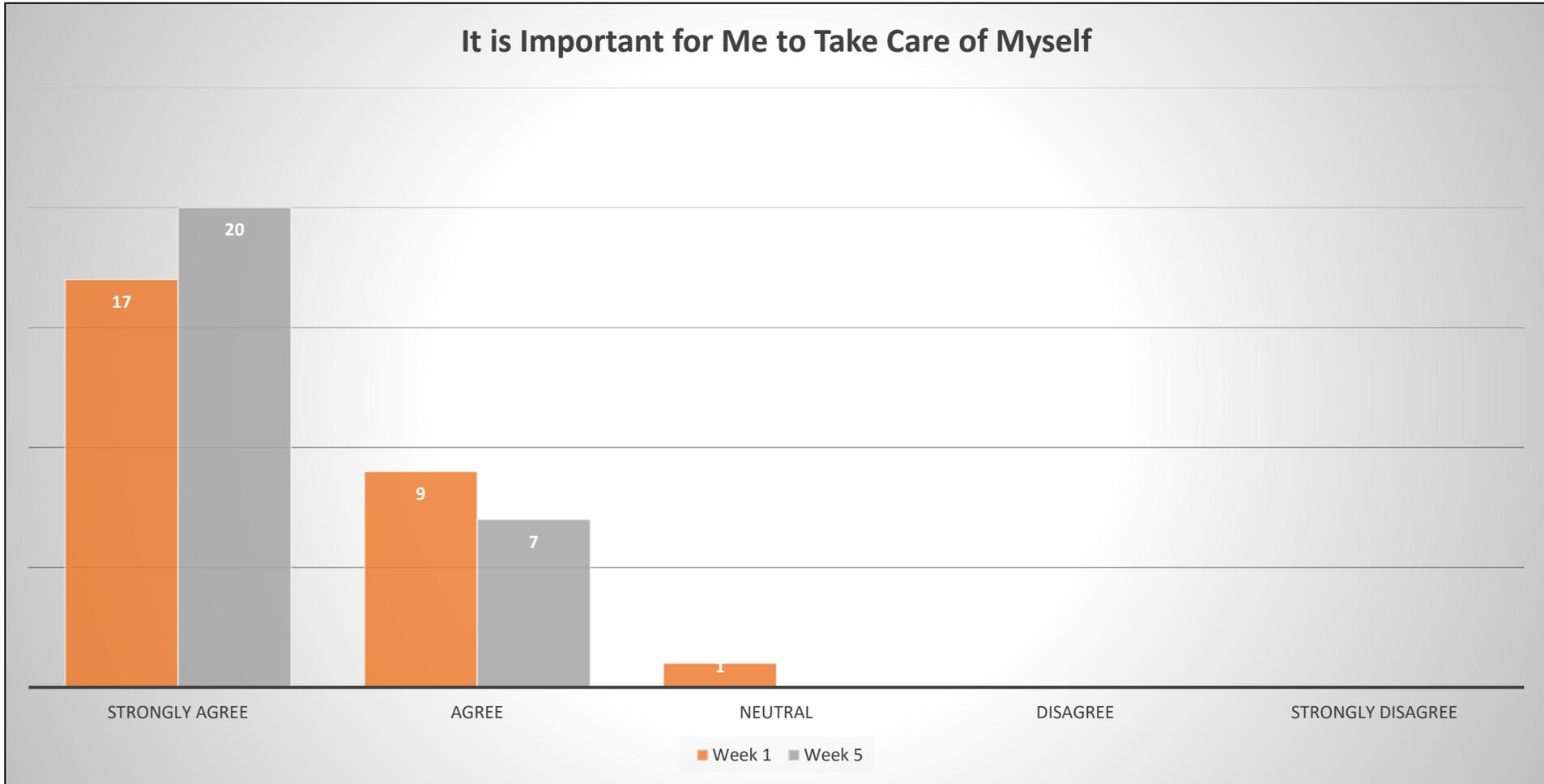


Participant Impact





Participant Impact





Member Demographics

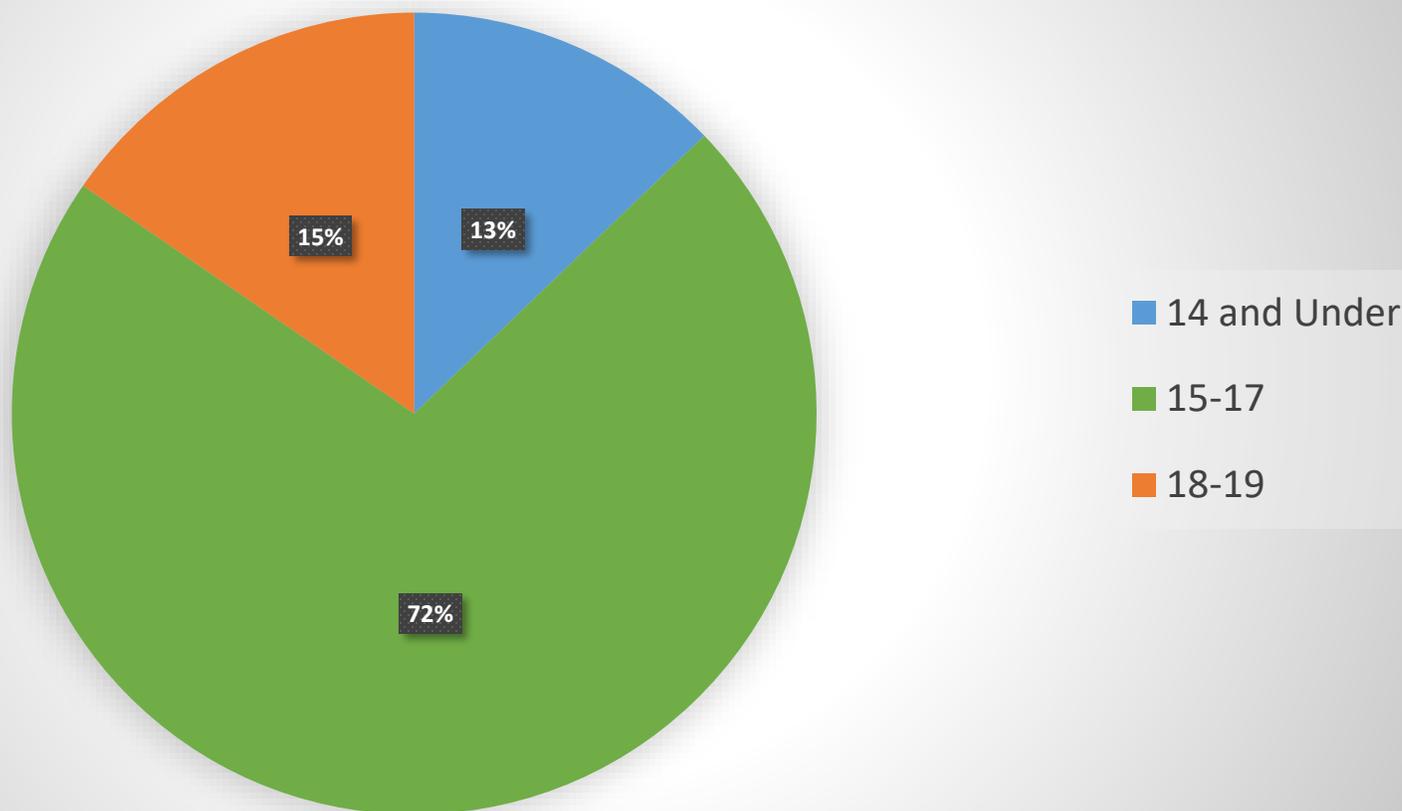




Member Demographics - Age



CJC Member Demographic - Age

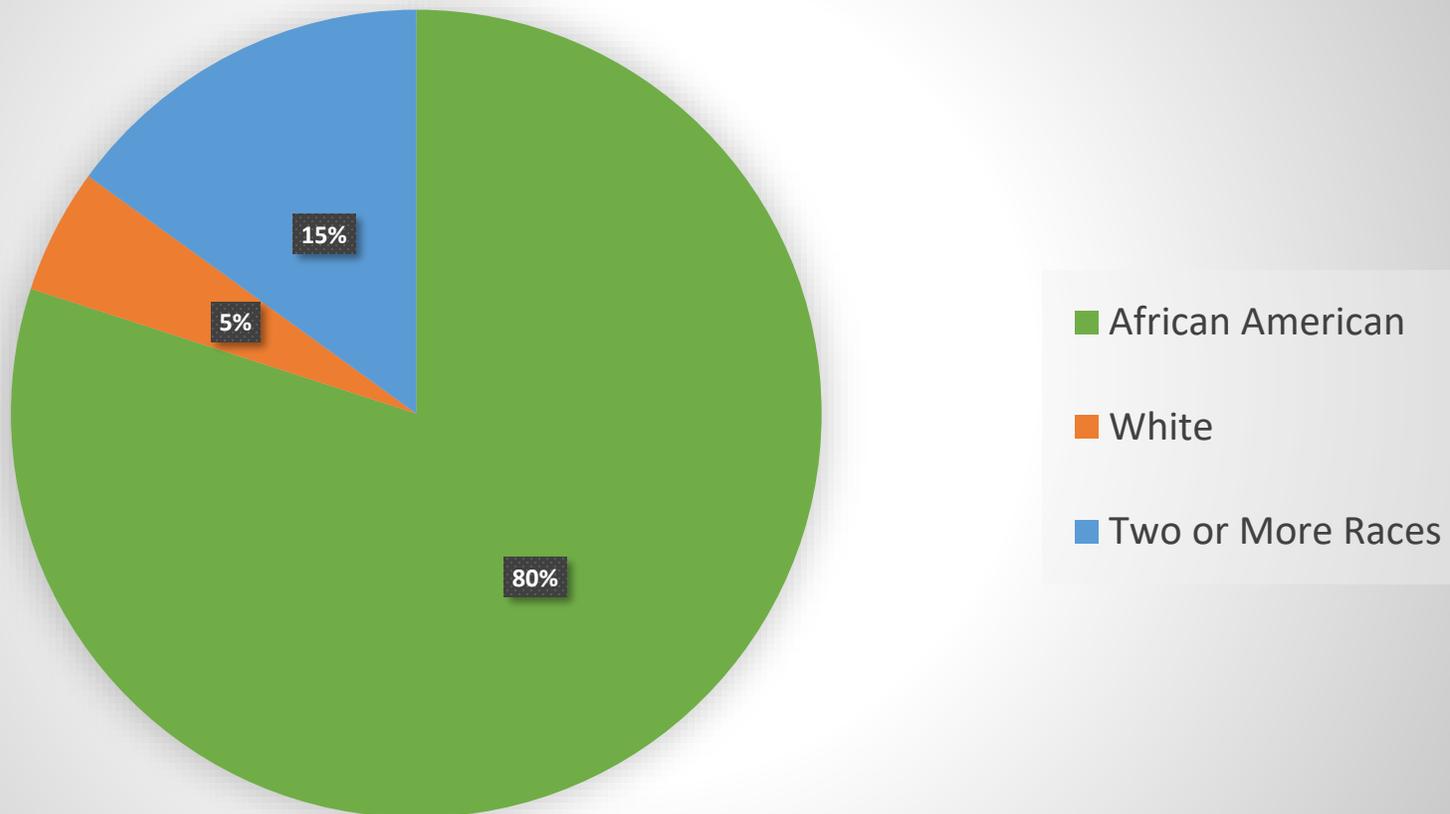




Member Demographics - Ethnicity



CJC Member Demographic - Ethnicity

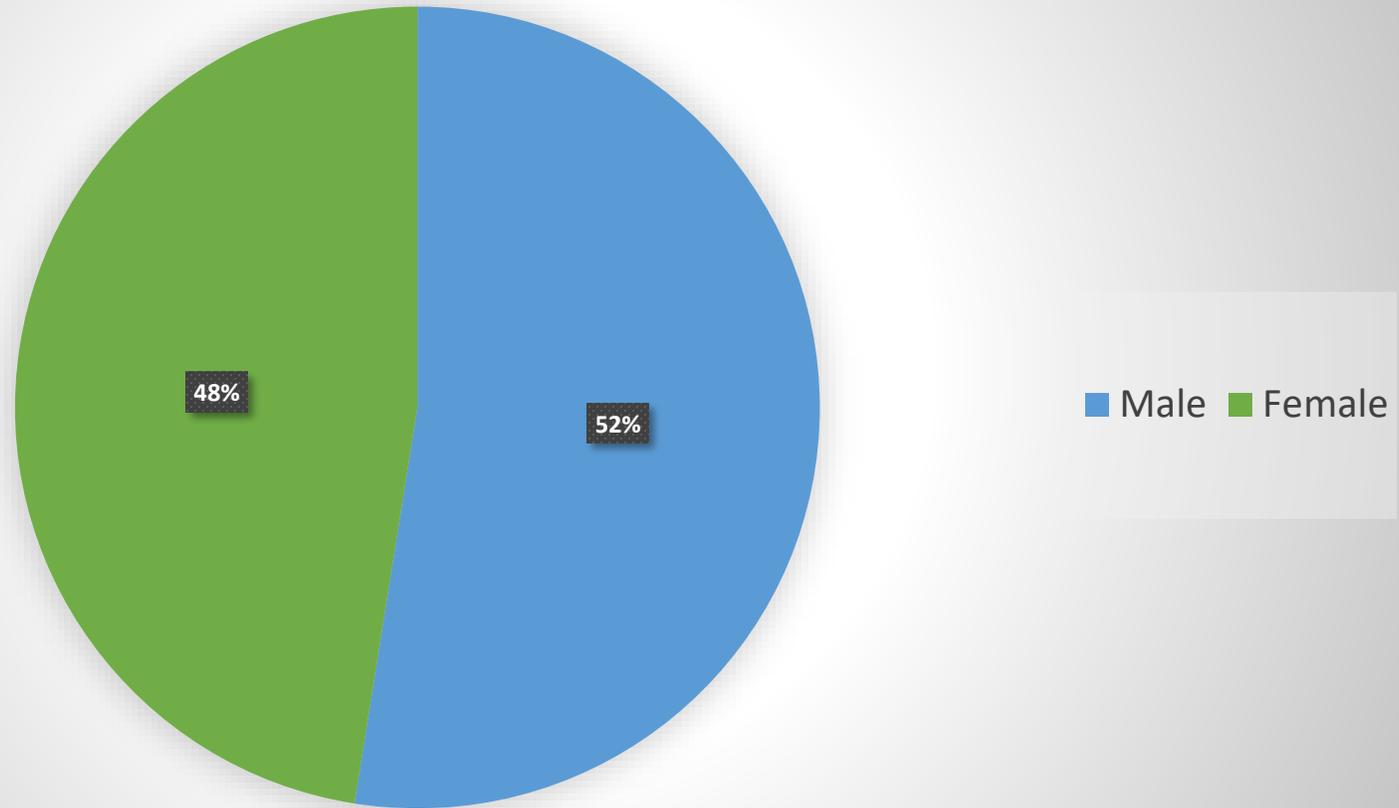




Member Demographics - Gender

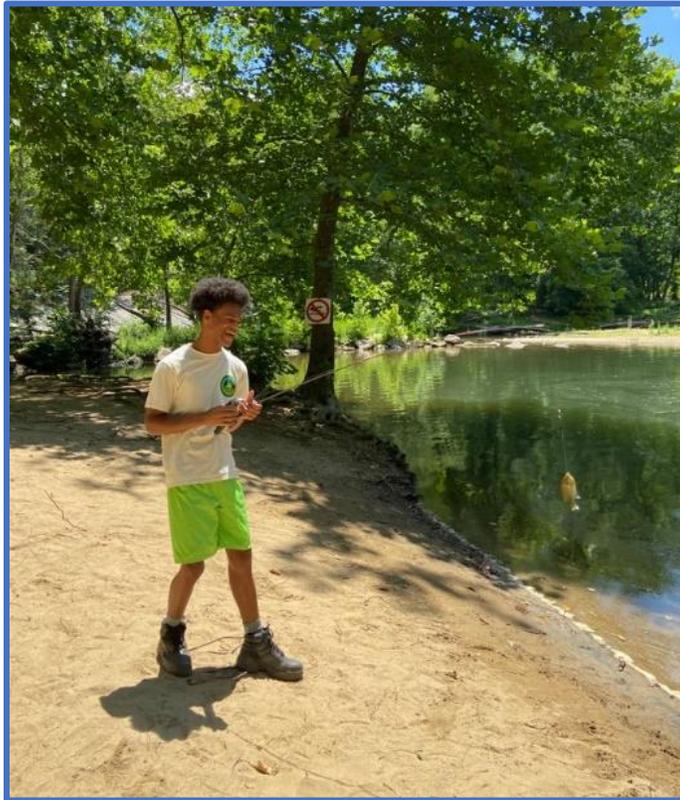


CJC Member Demographic - Gender





Great Stories



Patapsco Valley State Park

Santana Dickerson is 15 years old from Baltimore, MD. Santana entered the program having never even seen a rabbit. He left the program with a working knowledge of trail maintenance and a collection of new experiences in nature, including a love for fishing. In the picture captures the memory of Santana's first catch, "I caught a fish! I never thought I would do that."



Great Stories



Gunpowder Falls State Park

Kennedy Morgan is a 15 year old from Baltimore City. She is a bright young woman who aspires to be a teacher one day. Kennedy has great leadership skills, works well on a team, and a problem solver. Kennedy mentioned learning many skills from the SCA/CJC program and looks forward to helping her grandfather with small projects around the house.

Quote: *"I've never built anything before or used power tools. I'll remember this for the rest of my life."*





Great Stories



Pocomoke/Assateague State Park

One crew member I'd like to acknowledge for their willingness to learn and appreciation for the lessons taught is **Kendall Brittingham**. She is 15 years old and resides in Pocomoke, Maryland. She came into this program with no work experience and even less experience in carpentry and basic tool mechanics. However, she willingly volunteered to take on tasks she had never done before and grew very fond of using a power drill. After just a few short days she learned the different components of a drill, understood how to change out bits, and soaked up as many tips and tricks as possible on how to use a drill more effectively. By the end of the program, she could drive a screw in, change bits in a blink of an eye, and had learned techniques that she passed on to her fellow crew members to help them better perform. I couldn't be more proud of her for learning a new skill and going the extra mile to retain and apply these lessons to her own life.





Great Stories



Susquehanna State Park

A standout member of our crew all summer long was **Taurren Generette**. Taurren is 16 years old and lives in Street, Maryland. He, like the rest of the members in the crew, is in the foster care system and was well acquainted with the other members prior to the program. Taurren's can-do attitude and disciplined work ethic served as guidelines for the rest of the members, even on the hottest, most humid workdays while working on our trail reroute. He always preached "embracing the challenge" of all that came with the summer experience, from bug bites to tiring days in the sun. A self-proclaimed "inside kid," Taurren proved that all it took to be a star SCA crew member was a positive mindset, and a willingness to learn and be uncomfortable.





Graduation



At the end of the season, we host a graduation to acknowledge the hard work of all participants and to congratulate them on the projects they accomplished as a team.





Acknowledgements



Thank you to everyone integral to the success of the Conservation Jobs Corps. Everyone involved from Members, Team Leaders, SCA program staff, Park Partners, and Workforce Partners, were an integral part of the success of the season. Thank you to our team leaders for rising to the challenge as leaders, mentors, and friends to CJC members. A special thank you to Pat Bright- Executive Director of Conservation Corps, Luke Terrell - Director of Conservation Corps, and Bethany Watts - Deputy Director of Conservation Corps for their continued support throughout the year and their dedication to making CJC a success. SCA would also like to thank the Maryland Park Service and their staff for opening their parks to the CJC program and helping teach the next generation of conservation stewards.



