

# **Chesapeake Conservation Corps**

Executive Order 13508



**Goal**

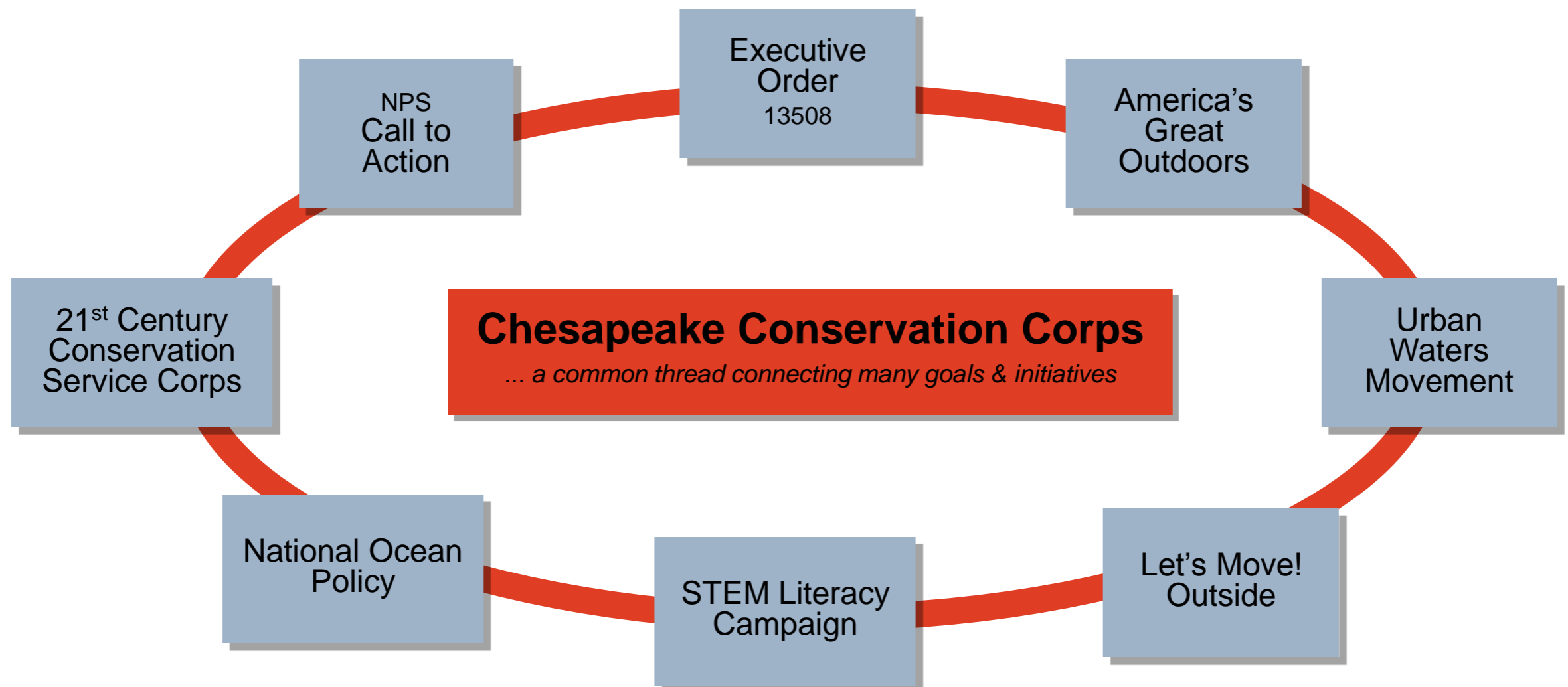
**Expand Chesapeake Conservation Corps workforces**

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Connected Initiatives at the Federal Level

“It’s not any *one’s* Corps, it’s *all* our Corps.  
We’re all meeting our goals together... it’s the  
way government is *supposed* to work.”

- Adriane Clutter, Youth Services Coordinator  
*describing interagency cooperation*



# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Learning from Existing Programs

### Actions

*NPS is coordinating efforts to:*

- **Examine Existing Models & Programs**
  - Especially focused on underserved communities
- **Assess Issues & Needs**
- **Identify Progress Measures & Mechanisms**
- **Develop Corps Expansion Strategy**

### Assessment

- Focus Group (Action Team)
- Surveys (interviews, questionnaires)
- Observations & Participation
- Literature Search
- Pre-Pilot

### Partners

- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Chesapeake Research Consortium
- Earth Conservation Corps
- MD. Dept. of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- NOAA
- Parks & People Foundation
- Pa. Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Student Conservation Association
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Va. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation



Photo Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Trust

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Providing Real Life Experiences for Youth in the Outdoors

### Corps Program Objectives

#### Employ

- Get on-the-ground stewardship projects done in a variety of disciplines – conservation, restoration, interpretation, green infrastructure, green streets/parks
- Connect to new, emerging career opportunities – such as green jobs

#### Educate

- Build skills & capacity for volunteer action & careers in stewardship & service

#### Engage

- Provide opportunities to connect youth with the outdoors & heritage
- Engage diverse participants that reflect local communities
- Provide program pathways to engage youth in a multi-year progression of experiences

#### Empower

- Foster a generation of citizen stewards with an ideology of service



Photo Courtesy of Maryland CJC

**Building the next generation of stewards**  
—leading by example through  
work, play & civic action.

# Expanding Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Outline Needs & Barriers to Growth

### Program Needs

#### **Reliable Multi-Year Funding**

- Sustain existing Programs & foster development of new Programs

#### **Cooperative Program Model**

- Support youth progression through a Corps Pathway to green careers

#### **Collaborative Evaluations**

- Coordinate monitoring of short & long-term Program outcomes

#### **Project Development Support**

- Identify & plan projects that “maintain the old & build the new”

#### **Promotional Support**

- Engage multi-generational audiences - through social media technology and traditional means



# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

Working in Parks & Communities and Along Trails & Waterways

## Project Types

### Increase and Improve Public Access to the Outdoors

- Restore Neighborhood Parks
- Build & Maintain Facilities
  - Hiking and Water Trails
  - Fishing Piers & Observation Areas

### Restore Clean Water

- Clean Streams
- Create Green Streets
  - Build rain gardens
  - Plant trees

### Expand Citizen Stewardship

- Place-Based Education
- Environmental and Historical Interpretation

### Improve Natural Habitat

- Restore Wetlands & Marshes
- Restore Fish Passages
- Plant Forest Buffers

### Respond to Climate Change

- Carry out energy conservation projects

### Strengthen Science

- Monitor Water Quality
- Monitor Wildlife

### Sustain Fish & Wildlife

- Restore Oysters
- Restore Stream Habitat
- Monitor Habitats



Photo Courtesy of Knight Green Jobs Training Center - Energy Coordinating Agency

# Chesapeake Conservation Corp

Providing Opportunities for Recreation, Education and Creativity

## Enrichment Activity Examples

### Water Recreation

Fishing  
Crabbing  
Kayaking  
Canoeing

### Land Recreation

Mountain biking  
Hiking  
Camping

### Map Reading

Geocaching

### Culture

Visit museums & historic sites

### Science

Visit scientific research sites

### Civil Service

Tour power plants  
Tour water & sewer plants  
Learn disaster preparation & cleanup skills

### Communications

Photography  
Create videos

### Life & Career Skills

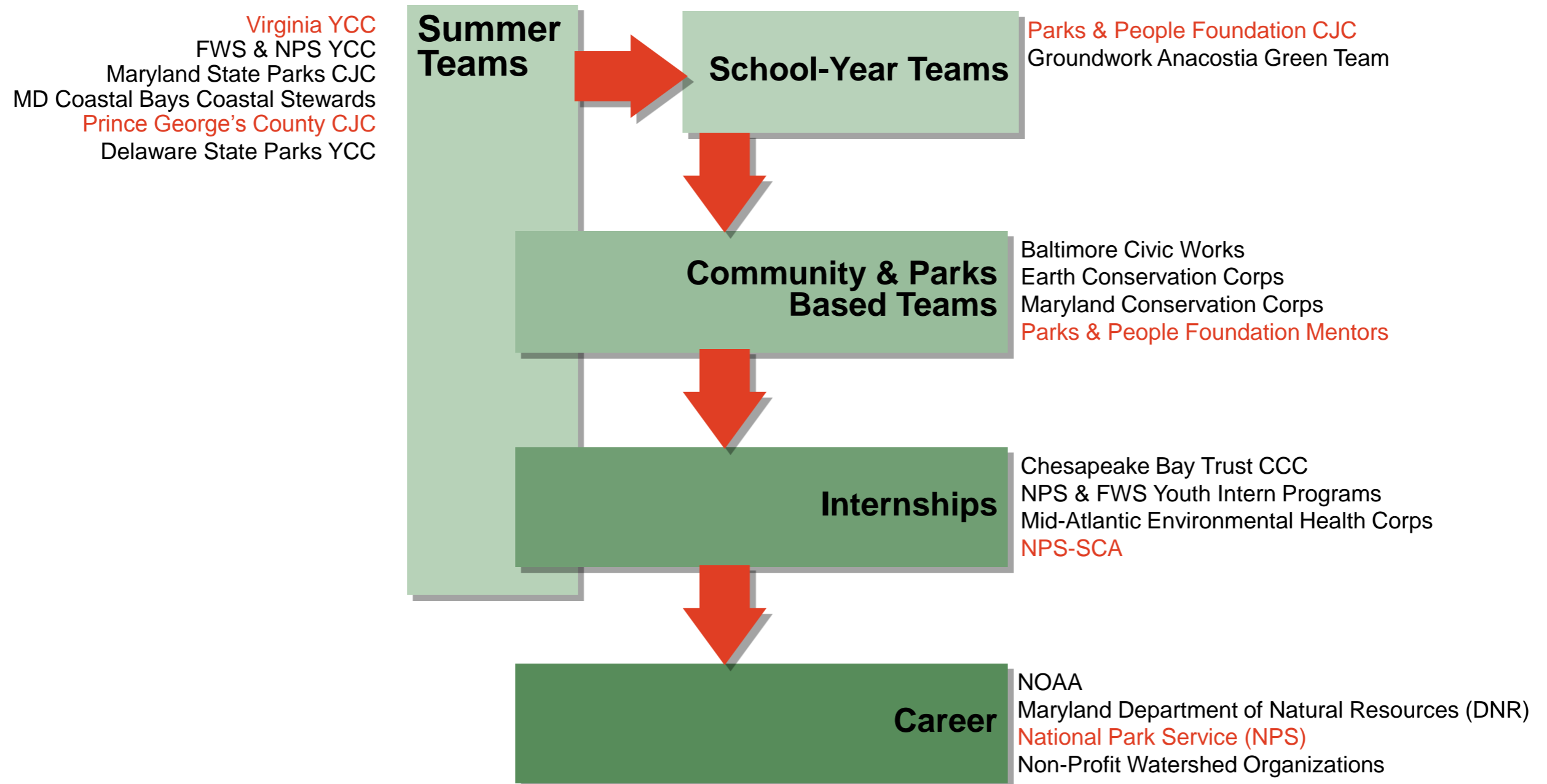
Establish bank accounts  
Career workshops & talks



Photo Courtesy of Maryland CJC

# Expanding Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## The Direction Forward – A Corps Programs Pathway Model



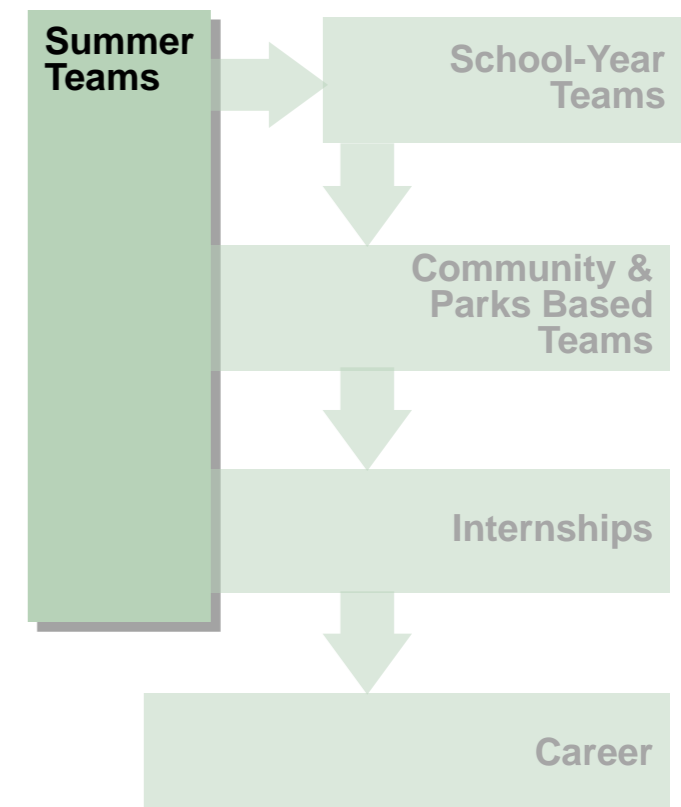
\* Partial list of Corps Programs

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Virginia Youth Conservation Corps



*"To engage Virginia's youth in a structured program of important conservation and park projects on public lands while providing learning that fosters teamwork, self-esteem, social responsibility and respect for the environment."*



# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

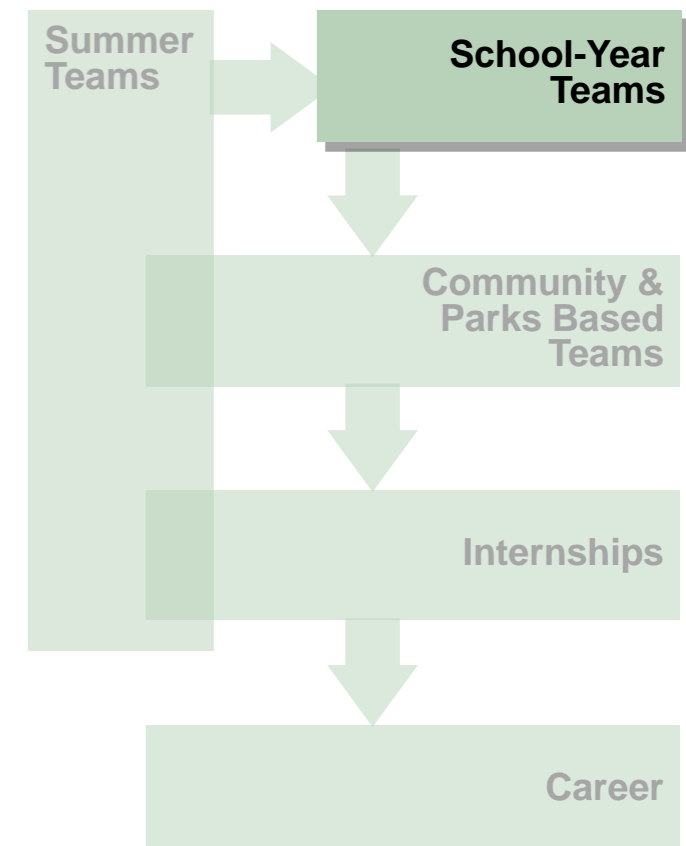
## Parks & People Foundation After-School CJC



*“Dedicated to supporting a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities;*

*creating and sustaining beautiful and lively parks;*

*and promoting a healthy natural environment for Baltimore.”*



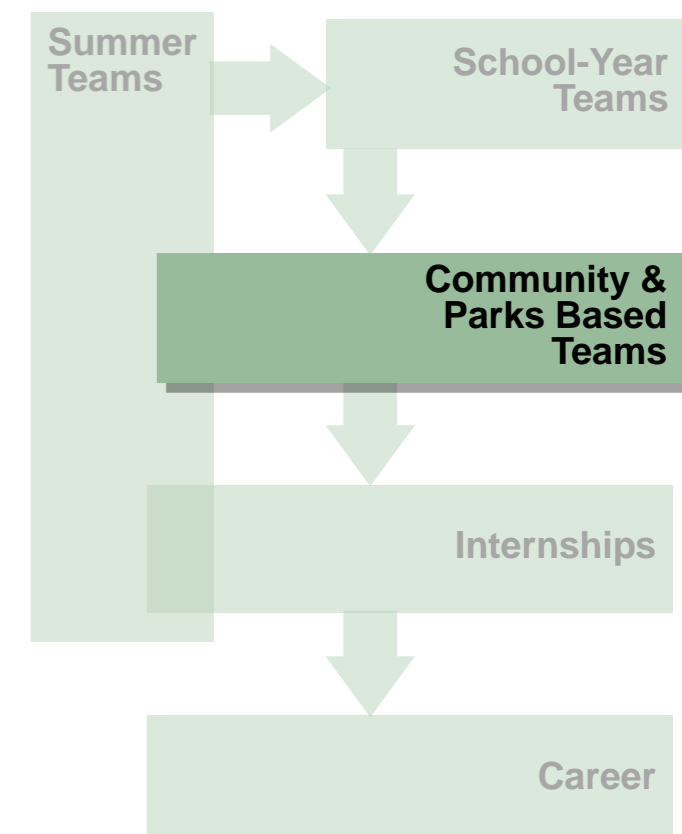
# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Xtreme Teens CJC in Prince George's County



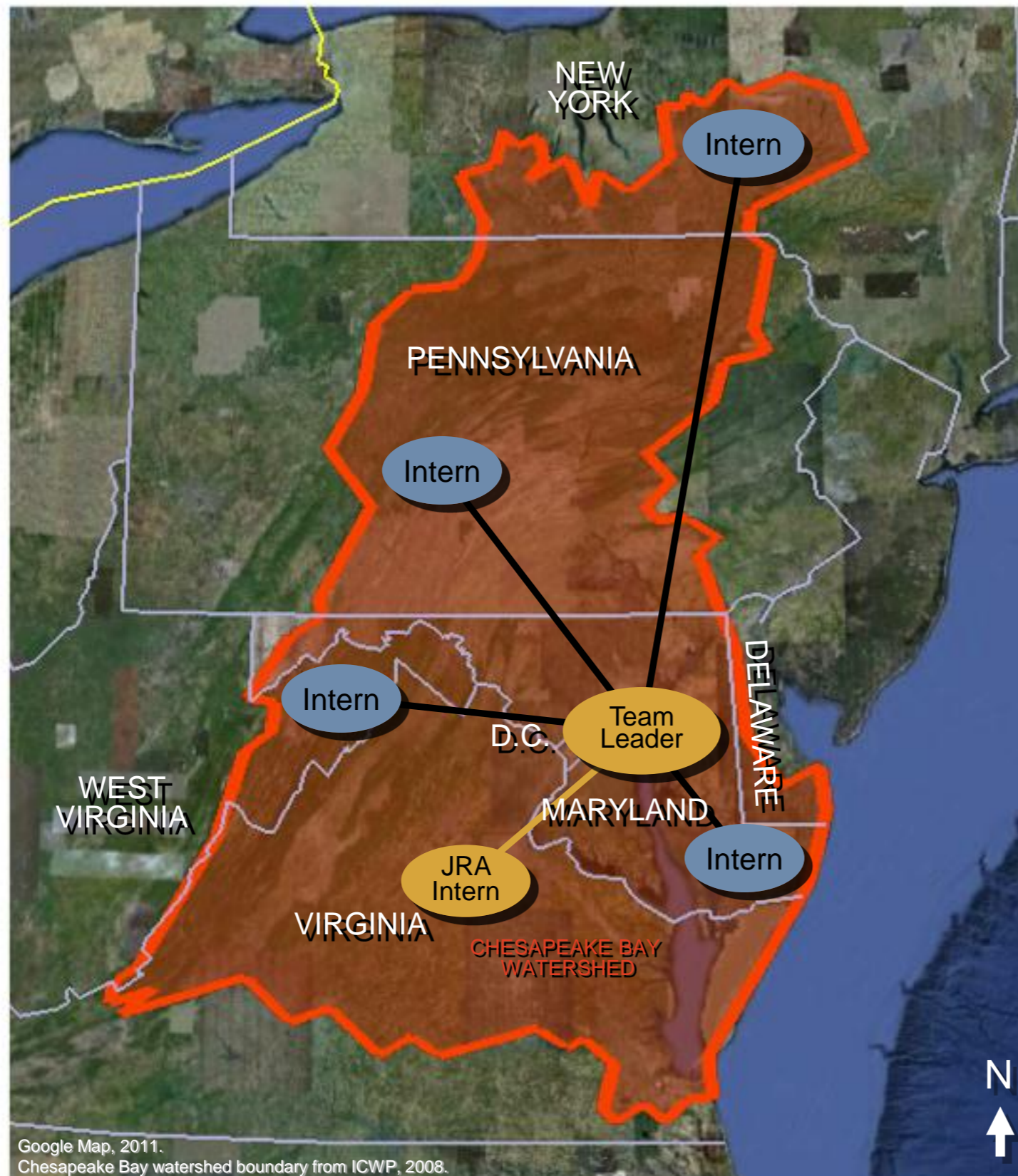
Photo Courtesy of Maryland CJC

*“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 & its tributaries.”*

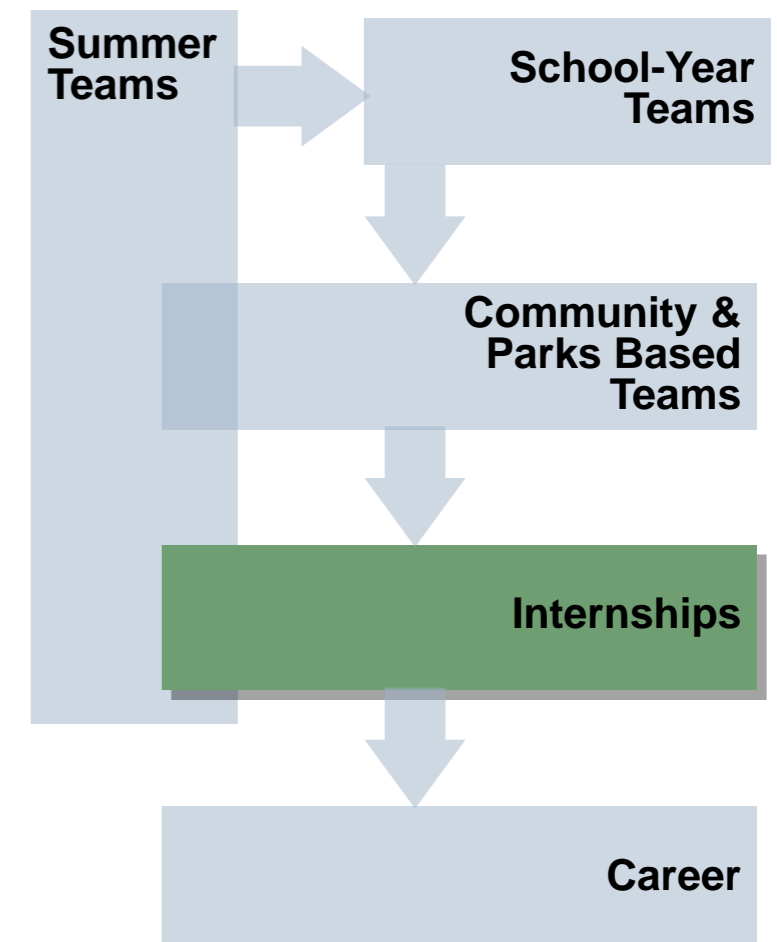


# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## NPS Intern Team



*"To bring consistency and coordination to youth, volunteer and stewardship programs, Provide support to state & non-profit host organizations, Identify opportunities to advance development and enjoyment of the Captain John Smith & Star Spangled Banner Trails, And support NPS efforts to engage youth & volunteers in stewardship activities"*



# Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Connections to Careers

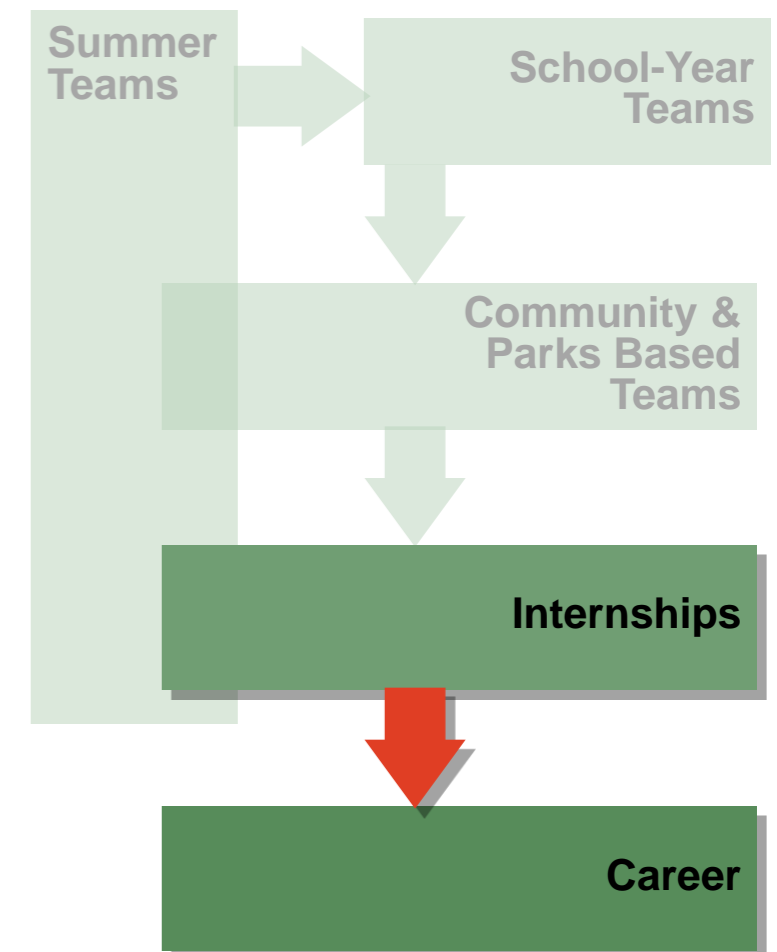
### Federal Initiatives

#### Pathways Programs

- New student internship
- New recent graduates
- Graduate students (Presidential Management Fellows)

#### Public Land Corps (PLC)

- Youth ages 16-25
- Eligible after 960 hours of service on public lands
- Non-competitive hiring process, including:
  - National Park Service
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service



# Chesapeake Conservation Corps Network

## Understanding the Collective Impact

### Measuring Program Outputs

How many youth participate?  
How many hours of work are completed?  
What are the leveraged resources?  
How many partners are involved?  
What projects were completed?  
What enrichment activities occur?  
What % of youth would participate again?

### Measuring Program Outcomes

What knowledge have youth gained?  
What skills have youth developed?  
What is the long-term impact?  
How many youth enter into jobs?  
How are participants' attitudes & behaviors affected?  
What are the social cost-benefits of programs?  
How do programs connect youth to the outdoors?

**The data needed to help tell the story:**  
to prove the value of corps programs and build sustainable sources of  
funding and program support.

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps Network

## The Power of Programs

Partner Programs	# of Youth Positions	Program Length	Hours per Week	Total Hours of Engagement
Chesapeake Bay Trust (Chesapeake Conservation Corps Interns)	21	50 Weeks	40	42,000
MD State Parks – MCC	50	43 Weeks	40	86,000
VA State Parks – YCC	159	3 Weeks	40	19,080
MD State Parks – CJC	324	6 Weeks	40	77,760
Parks and People Foundation (After School Program)	20	30 Weeks	12	7,200

**More than 230,000 hours of youth engagement:**  
Collective knowledge potential

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps Network

## Sharing the Story

### Methods

- Traditional & social media
- Briefings, seminars, conferences
- Research reports & best practices summaries

### Key Audiences

- Potential funding partners
- Project developers
- Communities
- Citizen stewardship groups
- Schools
- Potential program staff
- Youth – past, present & future participants

# Chesapeake Conservation Corps Network

## The Power of Leveraged Funding

<i>Chesapeake Bay Watershed</i> <b>Funders &amp; Programs</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
<b>Parks and People Foundation*</b>	\$4.1M
<b>MD State Parks - CJC &amp; MCC</b>	\$2.9M
<b>National Park Service</b> <i>Northeast &amp; National Capital Regions</i>	\$2.8M
<b>VA State Parks – YCC</b>	\$309K
<b>Chesapeake Bay Trust</b>	\$500K
<b>US Fish and Wildlife Service</b> <i>Northeast Region</i>	\$392K

Includes  
60 youth positions  
funded through  
Chesapeake Bay Office  
(pre-pilot)

FY2011 Statistics  
\* 2010 Statistics

# Expanding Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Connecting People, Places & Programs

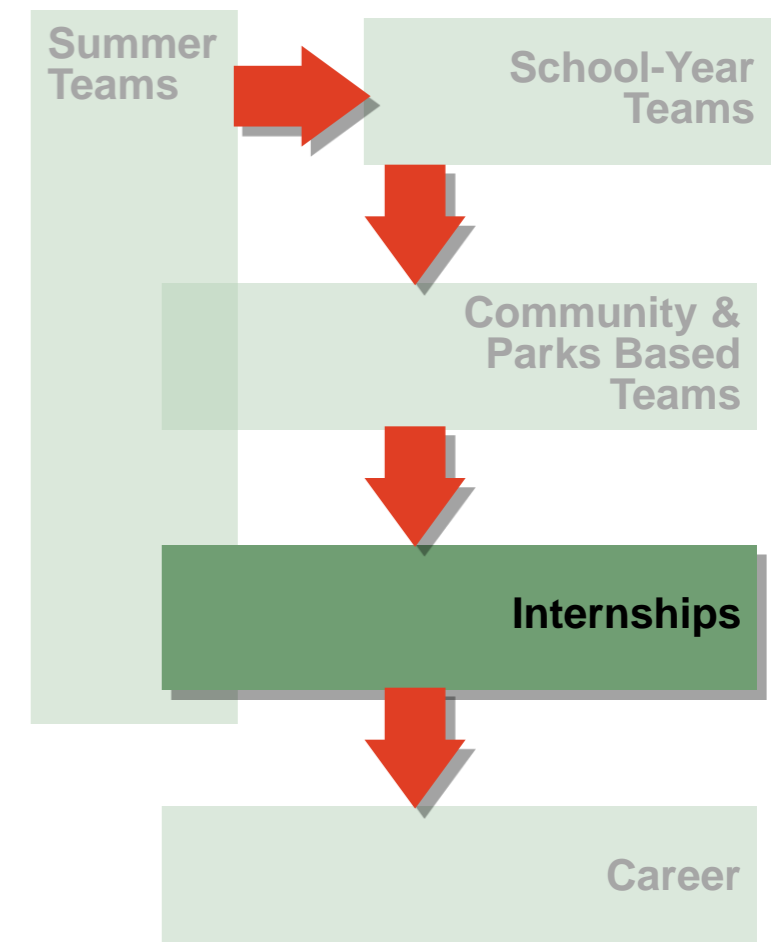
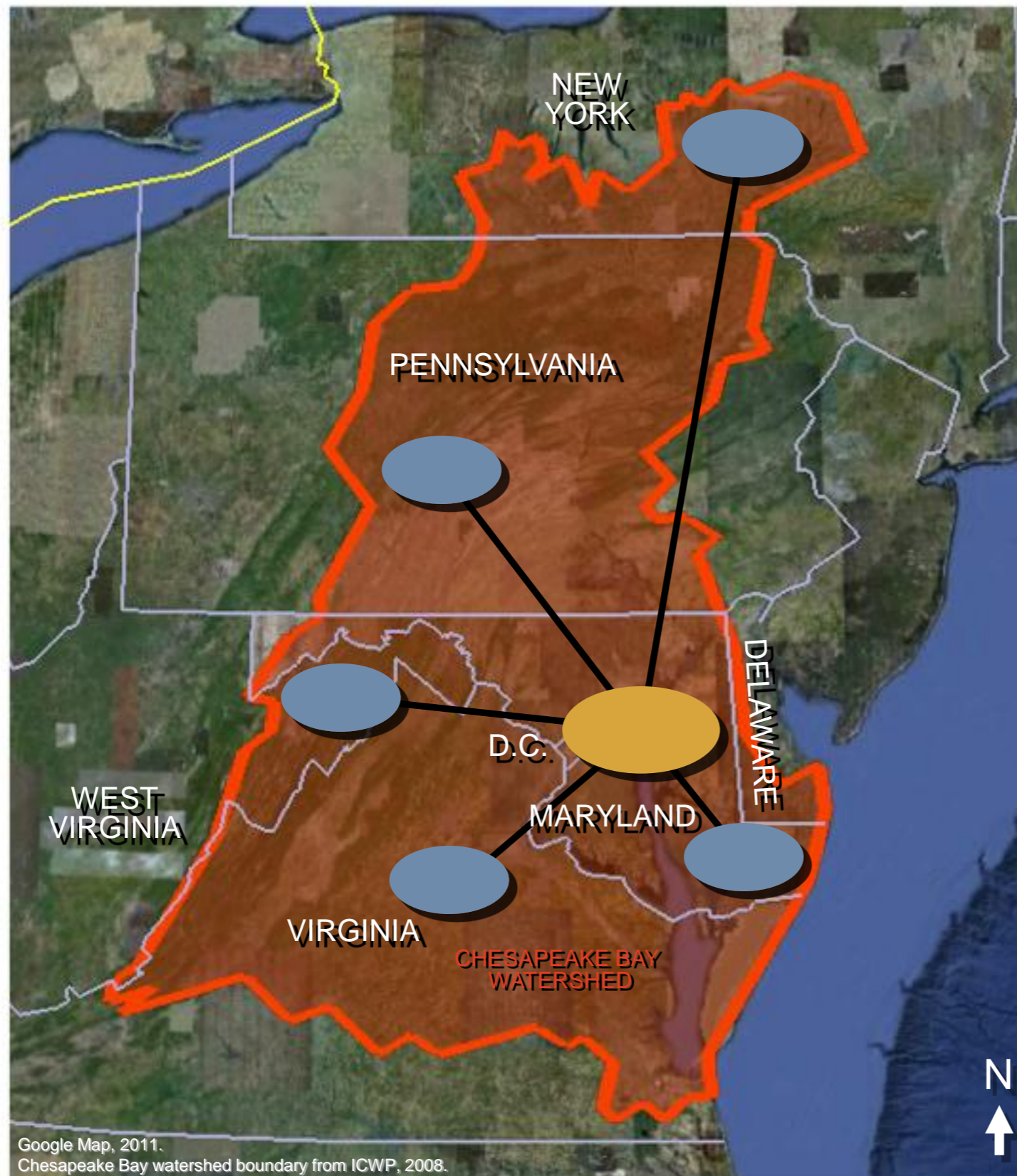
### Chesapeake Conservation Corps Network Could:

- **Support & motivate** existing Corps Programs
- **Attract** steady sources of funding, projects & technical resources
- **Establish** a Corps Program Pathway Model
- **Share** best practices & collectively evaluate impact
- **Collaboratively promote** Corps Program efforts
- **Identify** potential new Corps Programs
- **Engage** youth



# Expanding the Chesapeake Conservation Corps

Intern Team Concept: Supporting the Network & Building Connections



# Expanding Chesapeake Conservation Corps

## Next Steps

### Building the Network

#### **Develop & support a Coalition/Alliance of Program Managers**

- *Identify function, members & responsibilities*
- *Identify key actions, timeline & outcomes*
- *Develop regional approach to Corps Expansion*

#### **Sustain Corps Programs through reliable multi-year funding**

- *Identify collaborative funding opportunities*
- *Brief key stakeholders*
- *Work with colleges and universities to develop course credits for corps programs*
- *Utilize intern team to add Program capacity*

#### **Understand & optimize Corps Programs**

- *Develop program framework & pathway model*
- *Identify common key evaluation measures*
- *Utilize intern team to support evaluations*
- *Maintain suite of best practice documents*

#### **Develop & support online Program clearinghouse & related Technology**

- *Develop website*
- *Create apps for field data collection*
- *Develop social media & support with intern team*

### Sharing the Strategy

#### **Reach out**

to key staff and stakeholders for initial input and fine-tuning .  
(Ongoing)

#### **Continue to collect data**

on organizational and programmatic needs for Programs.  
(Ongoing)

#### **Present to Action Team**

to fully develop strategy, and outline short- and long-term actions for implementation.  
(December, 2011)

#### **Meet**

to identify network building tasks  
(January, 2012)

#### **Identify & meet**

with key officials of federal, state and local agencies & organizations committed to engaging youth in the outdoors and green careers..  
(January...)

### **Expanding Corps workforces:**

Engage more people - establish new partnerships, projects & pathways