



FINAL REPORT

Denali National Park Leader Team



2014

Denali National Park, Alaska

August 18th to September 13th, 2014

Project Leader: Jean Bartholomew

Executive Summary

Denali National Park and Preserve hosted a Student Conservation Association (SCA) Leader Team during the 2014 season. This crew of 5 SCA leaders worked on the Mount Healy Overlook Trail from August 18 until September 13, 2014.

About SCA

The mission of 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 Elizabeth Putnam, a college student with a big dream. While at Vassar College, she developed her senior thesis around the concept that a commonsense solution to the abuse and under-maintenance of America's treasured public lands would be putting to good use the energy, talent and hard work of a force of youthful volunteers. In the intervening 56 years, SCA has deployed a force of more than 70,000 members, completing 26 million hours of conservation service in 550 parks, forests, wildlife refuges and urban green spaces at the national, regional, state and municipal level in all 50 states.

The SCA Conservation Corps program serves the communities and land throughout the nation by accomplishing significant conservation service projects that enhance and protect natural areas and by providing educational opportunities to promote the understanding, protection and stewardship of these natural areas. The four programmatic outcomes are taken directly from the mission: Service, Leadership, Conservation and Stewardship.

Service – is the hands-on experience and skills that SCA members need to perform conservation-based work on and for our partners and the land.

Leadership – is about creating positive and safe experiences: developing self-awareness and understanding one's personal strengths and limitations; supporting individuals and groups to maximize their accomplishments; and developing the management and decision-making skills to unite people and resources towards a common goal.

Conservation – is the foundation of SCA's mission to shape environmentally focused leaders and stewards. This begins with a basic understanding of the natural world and our interaction, relationship, and impact on it. Furthermore, SCA members should develop an understanding and appreciation for the history and ethic of the conservation movement and how it influences decisions now and for the future.

Stewardship – is the commitment to care for one's complex and diverse community- human and natural – and the ethic and action that support continued health and use in the future.

Data Tables

Trail Work Totals for August 18th – September 13th, 2014

Log Retaining Wall (feet)	30
Timber Check Steps (#)	11
Drain Dips Built (#)	6
Lateral Trail Drainage Constructed (feet)	100
New Full Bench Trail Constructed (feet)	500
Stumps Removed	5
Trail Clearing/Opening (feet)	500
Trail Closed (feet)	187
Onsite Job Trainings (#)	4

Performance

SERVICE

These leader crew members came with a diverse range of experiences leading high school students on National and Community Crews across the United States. Jean Bartholomew, a native of Pittsburgh, PA served as the project leader for the crew. She is an alumna of SCA programming and a veteran leader. This is her fifth leader team and her first time as a project leader. Jean has a Wilderness First Responder and a rigging certification.

The crew closed and rehabbed the original 187 feet of existing trail. They broke up the rocky trail, and planted tundra mats with the organic soil they had salvaged during new trail construction. They built 10 alder bundles to serve as check steps and installed 3 drains to this section.

The crew also installed 11 check steps on the first switchback and two members had their introduction to timber work installing a 30-foot retaining wall with root cribbing.

One day was spent obliterating social trails off of the Horseshoe Lake Trail. Two members worked with the Maintenance Team during filming of the television show *Inside Man* with Morgan Spurlock. They helped install decking on a bridge and spoke with Spurlock about the importance of engaging youth and young adults in environmental education and conservation stewardship in national parks.

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The team had the wonderful opportunity to have a USAJobs training. Lexie Carey from the Denali Trail Crew took the time to help us learn how to navigate the website and build our resumes to fit the USAJobs format. Lexie previously led for the Southwest Conservation Corps and helped members to understand how to tailor their SCA experience to apply for NPS and Forest Service trail crews. Melody Abel and Evonne Ellis also provided support and shared their resumes with the group.

Melody Abel provided a basic rigging training and taught members how to use rigging for stump removal. This was a great introduction to rigging for the team.

The Team

The 2014 DENA 5 leader crew members included:

1. Allegra Mount, Tucson, AZ
2. Emily Fonti, New York, NY
3. Gabriel Cummings, Union City, NJ
4. Jeffrey Havey, Chicago, IL



Day One: DENA 5 atop Mt. Healy Overlook Trail

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Thank You!

A huge thank you is owed to Melody Abel, Denali Trails Volunteer Coordinator. Her day-to-day project management, project and logistical support, patience, and humor made this an incredible experience for everyone!

Additional thanks goes to Jakob Schieber and Mary Pope for their trails support and knowledge, and Lexie Carey for being a great neighbor and mentor to the group. And last but not least, thank you to the Mount Healy Team for their daily encouragement and feedback!



Gabe, Melody, and Emily pose on the new trail.

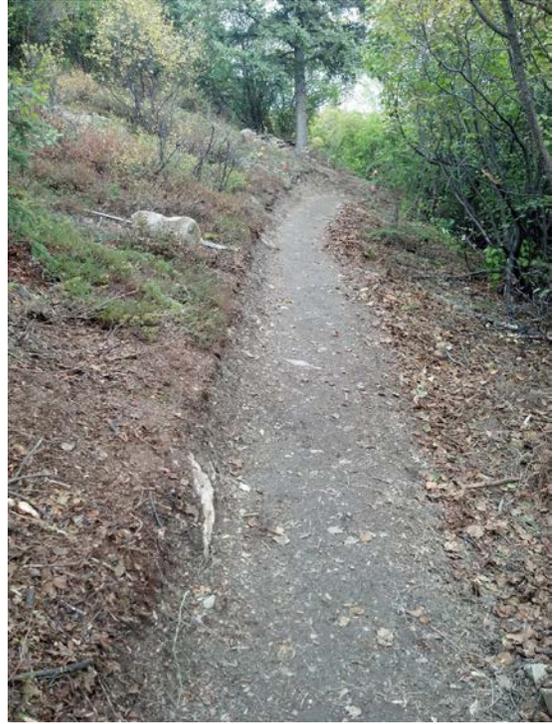


Melody at lunch.

Photographs

Below: Team peeling back tundra mats to save for trail restoration.

Right: New trail completed with restoration!



Check steps fanning out across the first switchback.



Retaining wall with "root cribbing."