

# Welcome to Utah Conservation Corps



Student Affairs  
UtahStateUniversity



# Welcome Letter

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome to the Utah Conservation Corps! You are a critical part of our mission to develop the next generation of conservation leaders, and we appreciate your dedication to conservation in the beautiful state of Utah and the Intermountain West. Whether you are a lifelong Utahn or new to the region, we welcome you and hope you will grow to love our landscapes and communities as much as we do.

As a Crew Member, you help fulfill our mission, convey our vision, and instill UCC and AmeriCorps values through service to public lands and environmental education. Nationwide, AmeriCorps members worked to conserve more than 400,000 acres of public land last year. The UCC crews alone improved more than 8,000 acres of public land, 125 miles of trail, and 30 miles of waterways. Our work makes a difference in the environment and in peoples' lives.

The UCC is committed to an inclusive culture of community and service in a safe and positive environment. The UCC staff are here to support you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

It is possible that UCC AmeriCorps members may also be called upon to assist with emergency response activities related to natural disasters. In doing so, you will join the ranks of past UCC members and hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps members from around the nation who have stepped up in times of great need. Because of the passion and dedication of individuals just like you, people throughout the country have developed a deep respect for AmeriCorps members as an integral part of disaster response in times of greatest need.

Thank you for your commitment to service.

Sincerely,

Utah Conservation Corps Staff

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# Introduction

This informational welcome packet is designed to be a resource for everything you'll need to start your AmeriCorps term of service with Utah Conservation Corps (UCC). Please read the entire packet as it includes important information regarding onboarding, planning for your arrival, training, field projects, gear, and more.

We know this packet may not answer all your questions or concerns, so don't hesitate to reach out to us with questions. We want to make sure you arrive informed and prepared.

We're looking forward to meeting you!

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## About UCC

### History

The UCC proudly follows in the footsteps of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) while expanding the national service tradition to more diverse audiences as a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. UCC began when a group of committed citizens formed a steering committee in the fall of 1999 and wrote a successful AmeriCorps grant proposal in the winter of 2000. The UCC began operation at Utah State University's Outdoor Recreation Center with its first group of AmeriCorps members in January 2001. The early focus was on traditional, hands-on conservation, like trail and fence building & maintenance, habitat restoration, and scientific surveying. Over the years, we've expanded to include environmental education, specialty and affinity crews, disaster response, and urban farming.



Civilian Conservation Corps | Zion NP | 1930



Utah Conservation Corps | Uinta Mountains | 2022

## Mission & Values

**The mission** of the Utah Conservation Corps is to develop the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

**Our vision** is to create sustainable communities and conserve the natural heritage of Utah and the Intermountain west.

**We are committed** to an inclusive culture of community and service in a safe and positive environment.

### We Value:

- The strong traditions of conservation and stewardship in American society
  - Leadership development and personal growth among members
  - Inclusion of underserved populations
  - Partnerships to address environmental challenges
  - The development of civically engaged and informed citizens
- 

## AmeriCorps

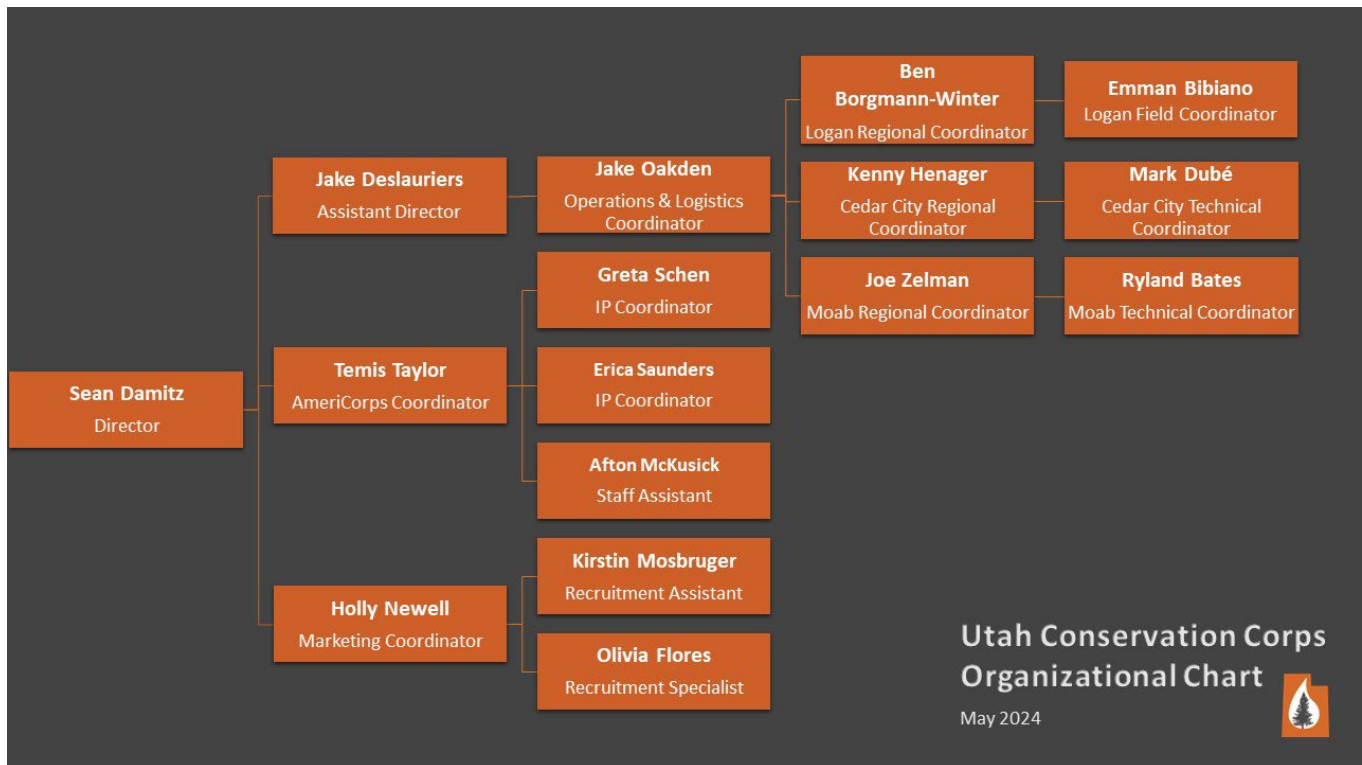
AmeriCorps is a national program that engages Americans in service to meet critical community needs. Nationally, AmeriCorps members serve at a variety of non-profit organizations with differing focus areas. UCC is a State AmeriCorps program with service opportunities in Utah and neighboring states related to the environment. As an AmeriCorps member with UCC, you are committing to a term of service to build healthier, stronger, more sustainable communities and to conserve the natural heritage of Utah and the Intermountain west.

### The AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. 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.

## Staff

Our staff works either out of one of our field offices or remotely throughout the Intermountain West. You can visit our [Contact Us](#) page to see everyone’s role, phone number, and email address. If you’re unsure who to contact, reach out to the Technical or Regional Coordinator at your assigned field office. You can also email [uccrecruiter@usu.edu](mailto:uccrecruiter@usu.edu), and we will direct you to the appropriate person.





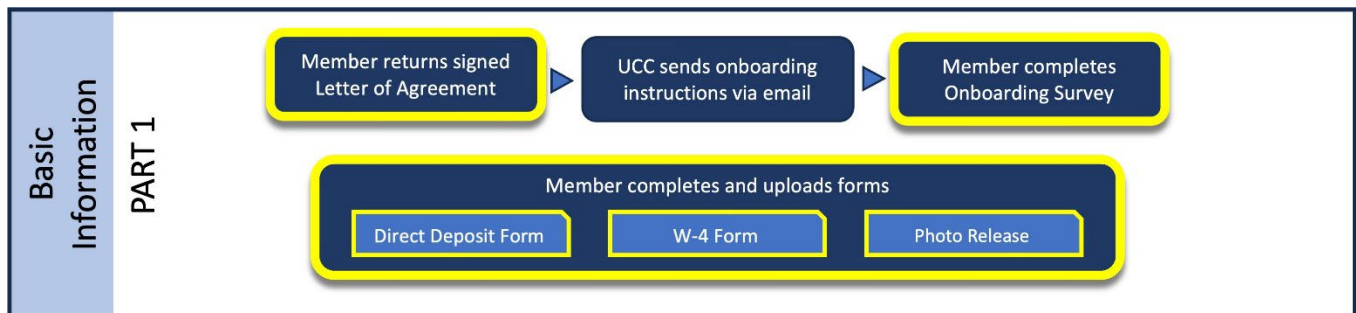
# Onboarding

There are four main parts to onboarding for the UCC. To get you started, the first 2 parts are described below. You will receive emails and instructions as you go through this process.

**The steps you will need to complete are highlighted in yellow.** You may refer to this chart or to the UCC Onboarding webpage to track your progress. Please email [ucconboarding@usu.edu](mailto:ucconboarding@usu.edu) with any questions.

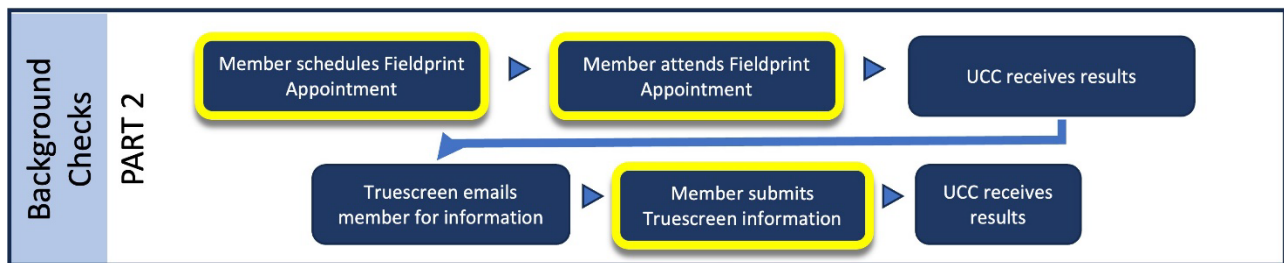
## Getting Started

- Begin by filling out the [Onboarding Questionnaire](#)
  - You will need to upload a photo of your ID with the Onboarding Questionnaire
  - This stage gathers the information to begin your onboarding process. Our questionnaire also collects emergency contacts and information about any medical conditions to help ensure your safety.
- Download and complete the [W-4, Direct Deposit](#), and [photo release](#) forms, then upload them through the submission portal on the [Onboarding Part 1 & 2](#).
- Don't forget to include your SSN #, signature, and date when submitting these forms.
- Upload these forms through our secure portal to protect your personal information!



AmeriCorps requires that all members pass a National Security Criminal History Check. Directions for making your fingerprint appointment can be found [HERE](#).

- Fingerprint screening is the first step in passing your background checks. Begin by making an appointment for fingerprinting ASAP! Prioritize this step! You cannot proceed with other onboarding until this is complete.
- After your fingerprints are processed, you will receive an email from Truescreen Application Station. This email will contain instructions on how to complete your background check.
- **Once your background checks have cleared, you will receive an email with instructions for parts 3 and 4 of your onboarding.**



## Driver's Training

- Complete your Defensive Driver's Training by following the instructions on [Pre-Service Training](#).

**Know what you are expected to have completed for onboarding BEFORE you arrive!**

**If your onboarding is incomplete you may be unable to start work on your first day and/or your first living allowance payment will be delayed.**

**Background checks + fingerprinting take time: complete these ASAP.**

**Questions? email [uccrecruiter@usu.edu](mailto:uccrecruiter@usu.edu)**

# Travel & Training

## Travel

### First Day

Meet at your assigned Field Office location. Time is TBD, but plan on as early as 8 am. We will be in touch with more details closer to your start date.

Summer Crew Members – June 1, 2024

Fall Crew Members – August 22, 2024

You must bring: Documentation for your I-9 processing. For this, people most often use a U.S. passport **OR** a government issued photo identification card **PLUS**, a social security card or birth certificate. For acceptable forms of documentation for I-9's visit [UCC Resources webpage](#). Note: Original forms of the ID are required – photos or copies are **NOT** acceptable.

### Transportation

If you are flying into Salt Lake City or Las Vegas, you may be able to book transportation through commercial operators running express shuttles.

### Field Office Locations

#### *Logan*

1483 East Canyon Road, Building A  
Logan, UT 84321

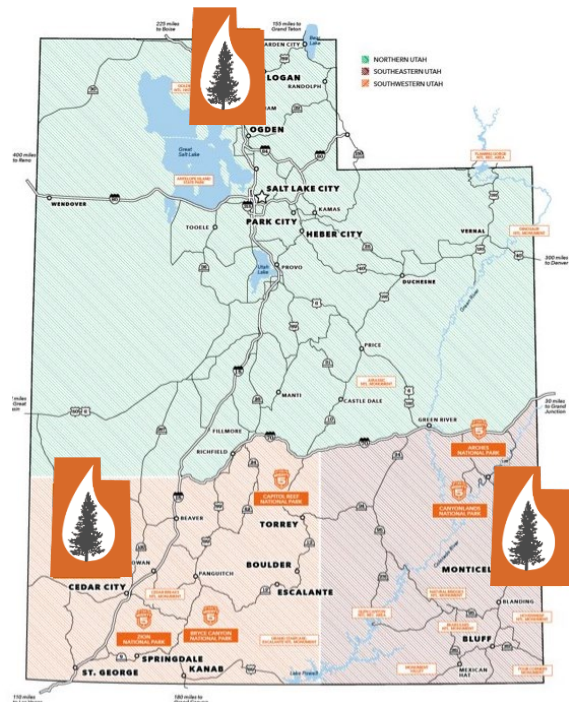
#### *Moab*

1181 South HWY 191, Building 3  
Moab, UT 84532

#### *Cedar City*

621 North 400 West  
Cedar City, UT 84721

[CLICK HERE for a Google Map of OFFICE LOCATIONS](#)



# Training

## Overview

Training begins on your first day and will span a 2-week period. We ask you to be flexible, adaptable, and understanding with training and day-to-day schedules. A detailed schedule will be presented on your first day or in email from field staff before you arrive.

*Be prepared to:*

- Travel extensively over the training period. You will be traveling in UCC vehicles. Personal vehicles will be parked at your assigned field office during training and when you're on hitch.
- Have all the required gear and make sure your work boots are broken in before you arrive.
- Buy your own food for training and the duration of the season. There will be time built into training for grocery shopping.
- Secure your own housing for after training.

**UCC will arrange for travel, transportation, and camping for the duration of training. However, food is NOT provided during training. Make sure you have enough money to cover food and gear purchases before you receive your first payment.**

**First living allowance payment for Summer Crew Members = June 25, 2024**

**First living allowance payment for Fall Crew Members = September 10, 2024**

## More Information

**Be prepared for long (10+ hour) days** that may include virtual, self-led online courses, some classroom time, in-field training, camping in variable (sub-freezing) weather conditions, traveling to a field training site, etc. Training topics will include but are not limited to wilderness leadership skills, chainsaw operation, herbicide application, trail construction, fence building, and Wilderness First Aid coursework. Your flexibility and engagement during training are not only critical to your success, but our programs. Our staff have an immense amount of important material to cover. The training period is your opportunity to learn and ask questions.

# During the Season

## Housing

### Overview

You are responsible for securing your own housing for off time between scheduled projects. Four sturdy walls and a hot shower are vital to maintaining your well-being over the course of your term. Some members elect to split rent on an apartment or house. Splitting housing with other UCC Crew Members is a great way to defray costs; however, be mindful of giving yourself enough space and a place to recuperate during your off time.

Some members choose to forgo the walls and camp at local campgrounds or live out of their vehicle as they travel and explore on their off time. **Note:** Members should not share housing with others who are in leadership positions (ex. No Crew Leaders rooming with Crew Members, or FLT's rooming with Crew Leaders).

- You will find resources we've created to assist you below, but ultimately; housing is your responsibility.
- Keep in mind that housing may take a month or more to arrange.
- You will not need housing during the two-week training period.

### Resources

Click on the tiles below to navigate to the housing resource page with information on rentals, camping, community amenities, and tips depending on your assigned field office. We also suggest you utilize the UCC Telegram Group. It's a great place to connect with other members to arrange housing or ask questions. If you haven't received an invite yet, email [uccrecruiter@usu.edu](mailto:uccrecruiter@usu.edu).



**You CANNOT store your personal belongs, gear, or sleep in your vehicle at any UCC Field Offices. If you need storage space, consider sharing a storage unit with fellow members.**

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## **Transportation**

UCC only provides transportation when you're on hitch. You are responsible for arranging transportation to/from the field offices and during your off-time. You can only park your personal vehicles at the field office while on hitch. Additionally, personal vehicles are not permitted to travel to project sites unless approved in advance.

### **Logan**

Logan is an accessible, bike friendly city; however, many members find it helpful to have a personal vehicle to get to the office, store their gear, and travel during their off time. Please do not expect to rely on other members for rides; if you do not have a vehicle, it is wise to have an apartment, as there is no storage space at the office.

Logan has a FREE local bus service. Information on routes and hours can be found at [www.cvtdbus.org](http://www.cvtdbus.org)

### **Cedar City**

Cedar City is an accessible, bike friendly city. Many members find it helpful to have a personal vehicle in order to get to the office, store their gear, and travel on their off time. Please do not expect to rely on other members for rides; if you do not have a vehicle it is wise to have an apartment, as there is no storage space at the office. Parking for personal vehicles at office ONLY while on hitch.

CATS is the Cedar City bus system. It does cost money to ride, and the routes are somewhat limited.

<https://www.cedarcity.org/92/Transportation>

### **Moab**

Having a car is HIGHLY recommended. Moab is an accessible, bike friendly city. The Moab Area Transit (MAT) pilot program is a fare-free, transit service in Moab. MAT includes an on-demand microtransit service providing door-to-door transportation to and from any location within the broader service area. It also includes a fixed-route service that will bring riders to predetermined destinations along Main Street. <https://moabcity.org/615/Moab-Area-Transit>



## Food

We do NOT provide food. The living allowance provided is to be used to cover the cost of food and off-time housing during your term. You will be responsible for feeding yourself and contributing to group meals from the first day you arrive (during training and throughout the season). Be sure you are able to cover your expenses until you receive your first living allowance payment.

### Meal Planning – Things to Consider

When planning meals, be specific about how many meals you're planning and how many snacks you might eat throughout the day.

- Breakfast: Many members opt for a simple and quick breakfast, like oatmeal or bagels with nut butters and fruits.
- Lunch: Members usually eat lunch at the worksite. This means having lunch ready to go in your pack in the morning. You might consider sandwiches, wraps (just about everything is good wrapped in a tortilla), or bagels with toppings like peanut butter, jelly, avocado, hummus, cheese, tuna packets, etc. Supplement your lunches with granola bars, trail mix, fruit (apples, oranges, bananas, or dried fruit), crackers, nuts, cheese, cookies, veggies, hummus, etc.
- Dinner: Crews are encouraged to cook dinner as a group using the kitchen kit supplies provided by UCC. Dinners are determined and planned by the crew depending on dietary preferences and restrictions. Members may also elect to cook their own dinner meals, if desired.
- Snacks (and Secret Snacks): You will need A LOT of snacks throughout the day. Pack a few of your favorite snacks for every hitch. You may also consider bringing a "secret snack" for your crew. Secret snacks are for everyone on your crew and are kept a secret until you decide it's secret snack time (after dinner, or anytime crew morale might need a little boost). When its secret snack time, you can break out the snack for everyone to enjoy. Let the snack aisle guide you!

## Know What You Need

- **Electrolytes:** You're going to be working your butt off and need not only to replace calories and water but salts too. Most members accomplish this by adding electrolyte supplements to their water. Consider purchasing salt tablets (magnesium, potassium, calcium combination) that are sugar-free. These are light and do not contain a lot of unnecessary ingredients. Other tablets, like Nuun, and powders like Scratch and Ultima will also do the job, but with flavor. Powerade and Gatorade are mostly sugar and sodium, providing a lower quality (but far more affordable) electrolyte option. MIO has a limited number of electrolytes in comparison to alternatives. It's best reserved for flavoring funny-tasting water.
- **Calories:** You'll be at elevation doing strenuous physical labor. It is common for individuals to blow through 3,000-6,000 calories a day. Make sure you always pack enough food! If you are planning a meal for multiple Crew Members, consider the fact that other individuals may require larger or smaller portions than you typically do.
- **High-quality Food:** Plan a menu for yourself (and your crew dinners) that is diverse and includes both macro and micronutrients!
  - **Carbohydrates:** Whole carbs like legumes (lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas), tubers (potatoes, sweet potatoes), whole fruits (apples, bananas), couscous, nuts, granola, and grains (oats, quinoa, rice, barley, tortillas) and pasta are better than highly processed carbohydrates and foods with added sugars.
  - **Fats:** Consider unsaturated fats, such as those found in nuts, seeds, fish (tuna & salmon packets), avocados, dark chocolate, and vegetable oils. Don't be afraid of saturated fats such as those found in butter (if you are working in cooler weather) and cheese (cheddar, as well as hard cheeses such as parmesan, do well in warmer temperatures—leave your brie at home).
  - **Protein:** It will be difficult to bring raw meat on hitch. Consider a cured or canned version of the meat, such as jerky, packets or cans of meats or fish, cured sausages, nuts, legumes, seeds, tofu, tempeh, beans, and nutritional yeast. Meats like canned chicken or a roll of sausage are easy to add to any stir fry with rice and vegetables. Eggs travel best if hard boiled first. If you are vegetarian, vegan, or cooking for a crew with vegetarians, nuts, legumes, seeds, tofu, tempeh, beans, and nutritional yeast area all good sources of protein.

- Vitamins and Minerals: These are essential to good health and play hundreds of roles in the body. Two examples of key vitamins are iron and magnesium, which are important to maintain at elevation, especially if you are coming from sea level. Consider vegetables such as bell peppers, zucchini, cauliflower, and broccoli - these are easy to buy and to cook outside even in the backcountry (but eat them early before they spoil).

Remember:

- Ice is NOT always going to be accessible.
- Instead of ice, freeze gallon jugs filled with water. These last longer and prevent melting ice from soaking everything else in your cooler. Your crew will have access to one cooler provided by UCC. You will need to work together to ensure there is enough room for everyone's food.
- Use what spoils easily first (mushrooms, leafy greens, berries, avocados, etc.). When possible opt for non-perishables and foods that require minimal refrigeration.
- If you insist on fresh meat, freeze it before going out on hitch and use it early to prevent food poisoning.
- Wash your hands and food items before meal preparation and eating.
- Thoroughly clean dishes and food prep areas after meals.

# Gear

If you haven't already reviewed the gear list, you can find it [HERE](#).

- *Al's Sporting Goods* (Logan UT): Discount card required. Discounts vary based on item. Contact UCC staff if you need an Al's Discount Card.
- *Cedar Sports* (Cedar City UT): Discounts for gear and outdoor rentals.
- *Campsaver.com* (Millville UT – near Logan): 20% “locals” discount if you pick up at their store location.
- *Moab Gear Trader* (Moab UT): UCC members do NOT get discounts, but they have a wide selection of discounted new and used gear.
- *Outdoor ProLink*: [www.outdoorprolink.com](http://www.outdoorprolink.com) Anyone with an outdoor job can sign up. Email [uccrecruiter@usu.edu](mailto:uccrecruiter@usu.edu) for your employment verification form.
- *Expertvoice*: <https://www.expertvoice.com>

## Financial Support

### Uniform Reimbursement

We provide uniform reimbursement for boots and work pants. To be reimbursed for these purchases, follow the instructions at [Onboarding Part 5](#). Allowances are based on the length of service term (see below). Email [jake.oakden@usu.edu](mailto:jake.oakden@usu.edu) with questions.

- 1700-hour members: \$150
- 900-hour members: \$100
- 450-hour members: \$75

### ProDeals

You will have access to ProDeals after you return your signed letter of agreement (LOA). In most cases, this will be enough to gain access. If further proof is needed, email [uccrecruiter@usu.edu](mailto:uccrecruiter@usu.edu) for an employment verification form.

# Overview of Field Service

## **Crew + Hitch Structure**

Your service and lifestyle while at UCC will show you what you are capable of and will present opportunities for personal and professional growth. You'll find a new level of hard work and determination by working long hours, oftentimes in challenging conditions. This is collaborative work; you will learn to work as a team in areas you might otherwise not have visited and with people you may have otherwise not met. You will also have the opportunity to network with project partners, thereby developing possible future employment opportunities. In short, we encourage you to make the most of your time here.

After the initial training period, you and your fellow members will be assigned to a field crew. Most crews are comprised of one crew leader and four crew members. Every crew has a different project schedule for the season. Some crews are assigned to different projects and locations each week; some crews spend multiple weeks or the entire season on one project. Projects with the UCC may include (but are not limited to):

- Trail work (restoration, maintenance, decommissioning, and construction)
- Fencing (t-post/wire, post/cable, worm fencing, etc.)
- Timber stand improvement
- Invasive species control (hand pulling weeds, herbicide application and chainsaw work)
- Road decommissioning
- Fuels reduction
- Stream restoration

The average project week (aka hitch) starts at the UCC office, where each crew will load all their personal, work, and group equipment and supplies for hitch into their assigned UCC vehicle (aka rig). They drive their rig to the project site, where they will begin service in the field. Days in the field begin early in the morning. Crews typically eat breakfast and go through their personal morning routine before starting the stretch and safety circle, which is a designated time for members to stretch and discuss safety and risk for the day. It takes about 15 minutes and is the official start of the workday.

This means members are in their uniform with PPE (personal protective equipment), food (lunch, snacks, electrolytes), and water ready to go before stretch and safety circle begins. Additionally, crews have two designated 15-minute breaks throughout the day, and one 30-minute break for lunch.

At the end of their hitch, crews return to their field office, where they are expected to clean, sharpen, repair, and maintain the vehicle, tools, and chainsaws. They also complete a post-hitch report, enter hours served on IPT, and prepare for the following hitch. Although hitch schedules are highly variable, they often follow an approximately 9 day on/5 day off or 5 on/2 off schedule.

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## **Communal Living**

A big part of this experience is the people you work and live with for multiple seasons. Many alumni say their crew was the highlight of their time with UCC. They started as strangers and left lifelong friends. While that will not always be the case, it is important to recognize that communal and crew style living means collaborating and making compromises to ensure a well-functioning group. There will be various tasks that need to be done on hitch that occur outside of normal work hours such as: tool maintenance, cleaning, vehicle checks, cooking, and campsite maintenance in order to ensure a safe and comfortable working and living environment. Everyone in a crew must do their part. A well-functioning crew is a happy crew and a beautiful sight to behold!

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## **Projects**

Projects are coordinated in partnership with various land management agencies and non-profit organizations. UCC works diligently to coordinate project schedules that support our mission and accomplish important conservation goals. Projects may be backcountry (hiking into the project site, camping away from a vehicle) or front country (such as driving to the project site daily, camping at the vehicle, or non-camping lodging). Projects may be urban (located in a city or town) or rural (located in national parks, forests, etc. with limited access to facilities and resources). Weather is variable, and work and campsites can range from 2,000-13,000 feet in elevation. There are a variety of factors that determine project work and schedules. Members must be ready to adapt and be willing to go where duty calls. In the past, this has even included being available to respond to national disasters.



## Physical Preparation

Again, we want to stress the physical nature of our work. Before arriving in Utah, we staff strongly suggest that you prepare for the field by following some type of workout schedule. Making this fun means it's more likely to get done, so get outside - hike, bike, hunt, fish, climb, etc. We also suggest some lightweight workouts and cardio. Being physically prepared will start your season off with more confidence and fewer aches and pains. *Start breaking in work boots now!* Showing up with brand-new, never-been-worn work boots will only set you up for blisters and a miserable first few weeks. Start hiking and breaking into those new boots as soon as possible! The below links are fitness programs that different agencies and athletes use for similar work:

- <http://www.fitclimb.com/page/6-week-beginner-mountaineering>
- <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/conditioning-backpacking.html>
- <https://www.outsideonline.com/1928551/month-one-build-endurance-pro>

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## Off-time & Requested Time Off

*Off-time is provided between each hitch*, but the amount of time varies due to project length, location, and travel. Regardless, you will have opportunity for personal time between hitches.

Utah boasts some of the best outdoor recreation destinations in the country. While you will enjoy many beautiful places during project time, we strongly recommend recreating on your off-time, before, or after your season. There are abundant destinations for hiking, climbing, backpacking, mountain biking, sightseeing, etc. However, keep in mind *UCC is a full-time commitment during your term*. We want you to be aware unforeseen and extenuating circumstances may impact your project schedule, scheduled off-time, or the projects you were assigned. We need you to be flexible and understand other plans and commitments must come second to UCC.

**We do our best to accommodate time off requests, but we cannot guarantee time-off outside of regularly scheduled days off.**

**Notify your supervisor ASAP if you need time off during the field season.**

# **Service + Benefits Information**

## **Culture of Service**

When you accepted your position with the UCC, you agreed to a term of service, not a traditional job. Doing service work is rewarding in its own right, but it also comes with other benefits. Discounts with select vendors, connecting with the community, meeting new people, learning new skills, and unexpected hospitality are just some of the benefits that service can bring. However, service also means you are dedicating yourself to months of hard work while receiving a living allowance and education award as compensation. As an AmeriCorps member, you should take pride in your dedication to the needs of our country and the public lands. Few people are willing to accept the challenge of national service, so THANK YOU in advance for your commitment.

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## **Culture of Conservation Corps**

UCC is proud to be a part of more than 100 conservation corps working throughout the United States. In the past, you may have even worked with one or more of these other organizations, a government agency that does similar work, or already served with UCC. Every corps, agency, and season is unique, so as you enter into this field season we encourage you to be open to new experiences, willing to share your experience, learn from others and respect where they are coming from, and embrace diversity.

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## **AmeriCorps**

As an AmeriCorps member serving with UCC, you receive a living allowance (stipend) during your term and an education award after successfully completing your term. The education award can be used for tons of different things like school tuition, living costs, student loans, study abroad programs, specialized skills programs, and more! You may also be able to defer qualifying student loans while serving. Information about AmeriCorps can be found at [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov) and through your My AmeriCorps account, which you will gain access to after starting with UCC.

If you have questions about AmeriCorps, contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator.

## Living Allowance + Payroll

Living allowance payments are disbursed evenly on a semi-monthly basis, directly deposited on the 10th and 25th of the month (or next business day) into your bank account by Utah State University's payroll department. The .pdf attachment near the end of your Member Service Agreement on IPT defines gross disbursement amount and dates of your first and last payments.

**Utah State University's Payroll Department** manages your W-4 and Direct Deposit information. You may be contacted by them directly if there are questions related to your forms. If you have questions related to W-4 (taxes and withholdings) and direct deposit information or you would like to modify those forms, you should call USU Payroll. **USU Payroll: (435) 797-1059**

**Note:** Living Allowance disbursements are subject to payroll taxes and tax withholdings. Expect your paycheck to be less than the total disbursement amount listed in your Member Service Agreement.

If you have questions about payments or compensation, contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator.

**Summer Members starting on June 1 should expect to receive their first payment on June 25**

**Fall Members starting on August 22 should expect to review first payment on September 10**

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## Taxes + Pay Stubs

Payroll, tax, and contact information are available through USU's Banner Self Service page.

<https://ss.banner.usu.edu/BannerExtensibility/customPage/page/HOMEPAGE>

Login using your A-number and the password you set up during your onboarding process. This site uses [Microsoft Authenticator](#) to protect your sensitive information.

You can view or download electronic paystubs and W-2 tax statements, and check or change:

- W-4 forms
- Direct deposit bank account information
- Contact information

For help logging in, contact: **USU IT Service Desk** – (435) 797-HELP (4357)

## Education Award

After successfully completing your AmeriCorps term of service, you are eligible to receive the **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award**. You can use the award to repay qualified student loans and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs. The money is held in a national trust fund and is paid directly to the school or loan holders by AmeriCorps. You will manage your education award through your my.americorps.gov account.

More information about the award can be found on the [UCC Alumni page](#), or by contacting the AmeriCorps Coordinator. **Your Education Award is managed by AmeriCorps, not UCC. If you are having trouble using your education award, or have additional questions, please call the AmeriCorps Hotline at 1-800-942-2677.**

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## Federal Loan Forbearance + Interest Accrual Payback

Once you are enrolled in your AmeriCorps term you may apply to put qualifying loans in forbearance for the duration of your term and apply for interest accrual payback upon successful completion of your AmeriCorps term. These benefits will be managed and applied for through your my.americorps.gov account.

- **Student Loan Forbearance (on qualifying loans):** apply at the beginning of your term
- **Student Loan Interest Accrual Payback:** apply at the end of your term

See the “Starting Your Term” section on the [Member Resource](#) page for more information or contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator for more info!

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## Food Stamps

Many UCC AmeriCorps members apply and qualify to receive SNAP benefits (food stamps) through the Utah Department of Workforce Services. More information will be provided during your orientation. For more information about SNAP, to request employment verification, or for assistance with completing any other related documents, contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator.

## Member Assistant Program (MAP)

See the section below on Member Resources for more information.

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## Health Insurance

Starting or ending AmeriCorps service is considered a [Qualifying Life Event](#) for insurance purposes. UCC AmeriCorps members may start a new health insurance plan through the **Healthcare.gov Marketplace OR Medicaid** during a special 60-day enrollment period. This enrollment period starts on your first day of service with UCC.

**UCC does not cover the cost of health insurance for members in less than a 1700 hour, full-year term of service.** Though the cost is not covered by UCC, members in less than 1700 hour, full-year terms still qualify for the special enrollment period.

**Take Care Utah** is a network of nonprofit organizations and individuals across the state of Utah focused on helping people access health insurance coverage. They can assist you in navigation of Healthcare.gov and Medicaid as an AmeriCorps member with UCC. Visit the [Take Care Utah](#) website to find local assistance.

Contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator for more info.

# Member Resources

## Need Support While You're Here?

### USU & State Resources

#### Sexual Misconduct

UCC & USU strive to create a learning and working environment free from sexual misconduct. If you have experienced [sexual misconduct](#) (sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or sex-based stalking), USU offers many resources and services to help you heal and succeed at USU. For information on USU resources, community resources throughout Utah, confidential and reporting resources visit [usu.edu/sexual-respect/resources#community](https://usu.edu/sexual-respect/resources#community).

#### USU Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information (SAAVI)

The Sexual Assault & Anti-Violence Information (SAAVI) Office is a campus-based office providing safe, confidential counseling, advocacy, and information to the USU community. SAAVI's services are open to all USU students, staff, and faculty. Learn more at <https://www.usu.edu/saavi/> or call the crisis hotline 435-797-7273.

#### Utah Sexual Violence Crisis Line

The Utah Sexual Violence Crisis Line is a safe, confidential service offered to survivors of sexual violence anywhere in the state. If you or a loved one are looking for support, please call Utah's 24-hour Sexual Violence Crisis Line at 1-888-421-1100.

#### SafeUT App

Talk to a confidential therapist 24/7.

Call 801-587-3000. You can download the app for a private chat.

Apple

Android

### AmeriCorps & National Resources

#### MyLifeExpert

The MyLifeExpert program provides access to thousands of up-to-date articles, videos and worksheets on topics including health and fitness, financial, career, family, college and more. Sign up for [www.mylifeexpert.com](https://www.mylifeexpert.com) on your desktop mobile device. **Company access code: americorps**



### Member Assistance Program (MAP)

To access counseling for support on any topic or issue small or large call the toll-free number at: 1-800-451-1834 and state that you are an AmeriCorps member with the Utah Conservation Corps. Members are eligible for six free counseling sessions \*per issue\* during their term of service.

You will be connected with a professional, licensed counselor with AllOne Health. In-the-moment support is provided for topics such as substance abuse, stress, depression, anxiety, grief counseling and many other areas. Whatever the question or challenge, please do not hesitate to call - anytime of day. You may be provided information or referrals for in-person counseling, childcare, housing, and other local information that may be useful to you. Life coaching, legal forms, and other services are also available.

Access benefits at [www.allonehealth.com](http://www.allonehealth.com) using your USU email and company code: americorps

### National Service Hotline

AmeriCorps members have the expectation and the right to serve in a safe environment, and to be treated with dignity and respect. AmeriCorps expects all program leaders and grantees to create safe service environments for our members and volunteers.

If you are experiencing a threat to your safety or security, and you are not comfortable discussing the matter with your program leaders, sponsor supervisors, or local law enforcement officials, you can contact our National Service Hotline at: 1-800-942-2677. Learn more at <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/safety-security>

### National Sexual Assault Hotline

Call 1-800-656-4673 to talk with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider. Additional resources available at <https://www.rainn.org/resources>

### 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Call 988 for 24/7, free and confidential support, prevention and crisis resources for you or others in distress. Learn more at <https://988lifeline.org>

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## **The Patricia Sagawa Corpsmember Relief Fund**

The Corps Network established **The Patricia Sagawa Corpsmember Relief Fund**. This fund is designed to provide critical financial support to young adults facing barriers during their term of a service.

Funds can be requested to support short-term relief including, but not limited to childcare, clothing, food, housing, medical expenses, transportation, utilities, unforeseen need to travel home, etc. Learn more at <https://corpsnetwork.org/our-impact/patricia-sagawa-corpsmember-relief-fund/>

## Tips & Things to Know Before You Go

- Your office's Field Staff are rich resources for information about local food shopping, equipment availability, recreational opportunities, etc. Pick their brains!
- Make friends with UCC project partners and federal agency personnel! Many UCC AmeriCorps members pursue positions with our partners after their term of service.
- If you serve at least 640 hours with the UCC, you may be eligible for special hiring status for federal positions through the Public Lands Corps program. For more details: <https://www.usu.edu/ucc/resources>.
- If you don't have a bike you can buy or rent a cheap one in town for commuting.
- Used gear is often far more affordable than brand new gear.
- Delicate electronic equipment and extended backcountry work projects are not fond of one another. If you decide to bring your laptop, digital SLR camera, phone, etc., UCC is not responsible for its well-being. Take measures to protect your gear.
- Take advantage of all the opportunities to explore and enjoy the places you'll be working.
- Carpool or take public transit (if available) to all those exciting days off destinations.
- Learn to do some or all of the following: bike, ski, snowboard, glissade, ice climb, rock climb, rappel, hang glide, skydive, canyoner, slack line, ride horses, canoe, kayak, raft, swim, sail, wind surf, kite board, and generally enjoy the incredibleness of Utah.
- Go to local farmers markets. Most Utah farmers markets will give SNAP (food stamps) participants an extra \$30 in matching funds for each market day (<https://www.utahfarmersmarketnetwork.org/snap-double-up-food-bucks>)
- Attend free community events. There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy locally produced goods and experience local seasonal festivities.
- Get a library card and use it.
- Planet Fitness or other gyms offer affordable memberships that grant you access to shower facilities.
- If you are serving in Logan, make use of USU-sponsored programs like Aggie Blue Bikes (cheap bike rentals), Aggie Rec Center (cheap monthly fee for access to showers, gym, rock climbing, charging outlets/wifi), and SNAC (staff/student food pantry)