mission

To develop enduring workforce and life skills through service learning in historic preservation and community stewardship.

values

Serving
Northern Bedrock serves young adults and Minnesota communities through historic preservation. Young adults learn trades and life skills through service learning projects at not-for-profit project sites, restoring and maintaining our historical legacy throughout Minnesota.

Preserving
Corpmembers preserve history by maintaining Minnesota’s historic structures and landscapes. By investing in their historic infrastructure, communities enliven public spaces and strengthen their connections to future generations. Technical specialists preserve skills and experience by passing on their knowledge to the new generation of tradespeople.

Transforming
Corpmembers develop a robust sense of their capabilities working as a team in a professional context on community project sites. Project hosts experience the renewal of their community spaces and stories. Historical landscapes and structures with backlogged maintenance are transformed by time-honored work.

Honoring
Historic preservation honors community experiences, and the skills and knowledge needed to create and maintain these resources. Through service-learning projects, corpmembers enter into the stream of history, becoming stewards of historic resources.

organization timeline

2006
Historic Preservation
Focus - Halfway Ranger Station Stewardship

2011
Founded Northern Bedrock
501(c)(3) status

2014
1 Crew - 4 Weeks
821 crew hours
One of my very first duties as the new Executive Director was to help update Northern Bedrock’s mission statement. We were in the midst of the Polar Vortex and I hardly knew which way was up yet, but I enthusiastically joined the ongoing conversation. Mission statements exist to showcase who you are and what you do. I appreciate that they give purpose to action, and put dreams into words. My career has focused on mission-driven organizations, including over two decades with conservation corps programs. I’ve witnessed firsthand their incredible impact on participants, partners and projects alike, and find Northern Bedrock to be just as inspiring and forward-thinking.

Our phrasing shifted a bit but still honors our foundation, the bedrock upon which we were built and for which we are named. Our emphasis remains on skill development - in our case in young adults. They come to us from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and places, but each one has made a commitment to the organization, to each other and to learning and practicing the hands-on skills of historic preservation. They help build and support communities throughout Minnesota by doing this, and are supported by those communities in return. Myriad partners, project hosts, grantors, volunteers and technical specialists enable us to put our mission into action. You are undoubtedly one of them, and we thank you for your transformational contributions to this program.

With a freshened mission statement and a few new faces on the staff and Board teams, we are fully committed to showcasing the historic fabric of the communities we serve while shaping the futures of our corpsmembers who take part. Why and how we do what we do is just as important as the work we finish in a day. I hope you enjoy this synopsis of our 2018 program, and that you are looking forward to the 2019 field season as much as I am!

Jill Baum
Executive Director
historic preservation skills

Log Building
Log buildings were the most common type of structure worked on this season. Crews maintained 12 log buildings, providing hosts with skills and outcomes scarcely found locally. Log buildings are often nationally significant, linked to engaging stories that inspire the public; an impact that would be lost without the preservation work completed by corpsmembers.

Window Restoration
This year crews completed seven projects that included window restoration. Crew members scraped paint, removed glazing, replaced glass, re-glazed, painted and repaired 84 window sashes and 13 screens.

Cemetery Restoration
Crews reset 142, cleaned 251, edged 166, excavated 51, and repaired 12 monuments across seven cemeteries in MN. This work mitigates future safety and liability concerns of toppling heavy headstones in these public spaces as well as instills a deep sense of history in the corpsmembers.

Carpentry
Crews worked on five major carpentry projects. They learned how to remove and replace siding, replace window sills and casements, replace trim, build shutters, construct a shed and install flooring.

Painting + Staining
Historic Preservation tasks such as scraping, painting and staining structures is often not a priority for host sites due to lack of funds or staff. Northern Bedrock crews were able to support hosts in these efforts on five historic structures, including a round barn built in 1937 by WPA crews.

Documentation
The results of project documentation and assessments of historic properties aid in the survival and accuracy in future interpretation of the property. Corpsmembers documented each project through photos and individual hitch reports. These reports can be utilized by hosts when determining priority maintenance tasks, highlight what Northern Bedrock crews can accomplish and accurately document work completed.

Archeology
The Superior National Forest and the Minnesota DNR initiated a land-swap involving over 8,000 acres of land. The area must be surveyed to identify any heritage resources. Crews surveyed 240 acres, sifting for artifacts (known as “shovel testing”) and learning how to analyze and catalogue items.
2018 by the numbers

15,802 hours of historic preservation work
26 week field season
26 historic structures improved
300+ cemetery monuments maintained + repaired
22 project host sites throughout Minnesota
8 technical specialists teaching historic preservation trade skills
240 acres of land under archeological survey
1,309 corpsmember nights slept in a tent

86% better at planning, organizing and completing tasks
93% gained and improved on their technical skills
93% are more knowledgeable about historic preservation
93% have a better idea of what their career goals are
73% are more confident that they can do the work needed for a job
86% feel they are a more valuable member of their community
86% have a stronger sense of responsibility to preserve historic places

*results from corpsmember surveys
what is a corps?
Following in the footsteps of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Corps Model addresses the skills gap between education and employment. Corps are locally-based organizations that engage young people (generally ages 16-25) and veterans (up to age 35) in service projects that address recreation, conservation, disaster response, community needs and historic preservation. There are 130 corps nationwide that are part of The Corps Network.

northern bedrock historic preservation corpsmember program
Our AmeriCorps statewide training and service program serves as a pathway to the preservation trades. It provides a service learning opportunity for young adults, 18-25 years old. Northern Bedrock AmeriCorps members are selected to participate in our program. They earn a living stipend every two weeks and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of a six-month or three-month service term.

Corpsmembers receive training in a variety of historic preservation skills and use those skills at various historic sites and structures throughout the state of Minnesota. In 2018 Crews were comprised of five corpsmembers and a crew leader. They work on service projects for eight days, camping at or near the service project site. This is known as a “hitch”, which was typically followed by six days off.

corpsmember experience

“ I feel I have become a part of Minnesota's history because of my time with Northern Bedrock. I have more confidence in my skills and talent because of this work experience. I want to tell everyone how amazing the program is. I would like to be involved in Northern Bedrock because it is an amazing catalyst for career growth.”
- Addison

“ I have applied for graduate school to continue with a career in historic preservation...I have a greater appreciation for local preservation efforts and older building techniques.”
- Erika

“Northern Bedrock has made me keep my eyes open for trades jobs and educational opportunities. I have been using the skills I learned at Northern Bedrock around my own home and will be reglazing my windows in the spring.”
- Ian
The Halfway Ranger Station Historic District is located on the South Kawishiwi River, 10 miles south of Ely, MN on approximately 12 acres of land in the Superior National Forest. The Station dates back to the early 1900’s and has a rich history including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Halfway currently encompasses 12 buildings.

In 2015 Northern Bedrock entered into a Participating Agreement with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station to conduct training and maintain the site. We are implementing an Adaptive Reuse Plan so we can expand use of the site.

The Station boasts an architecturally unique complex of buildings, including seven prime examples of CCC-built Rustic/Adirondack style log buildings. The history and surviving structures of this site are unmatched nationally.

Halfway is our education and training center. We conducted our program orientation at the site to immerse our Corpsmembers into historic preservation and the corps life. Corpsmembers then visited Halfway periodically for workshops and service projects. They learned how to construct sawhorses and bat houses, they installed new walk boards on our scaffolding, assembled bed frames in the Ranger Dwelling, and built shelves in the new project trailer.

The crews regraded behind the District Office and the Warehouse, which helps prevent water and pests from harming the buildings. They replaced fascia on the classroom that had rotted away, and re-glazed 10 windows on the warehouse.

They applied borates (a salt that prevents fungus, mildew and pests such as powder post beetles and termites) to the exterior of the Pump House, Boathouse, Warehouse, and Oil House, and to both exterior and interior of the District Office, the building that has the largest powder post beetle issue. Regularly applying borates is part of our ongoing log building maintenance.

Lastly, we hosted a hewing workshop where Corpsmembers learned log handling, peeling, hewing and dovetail cutting skills. Thanks to Gerald David at GFD Woodworking and the Historic Preservation Education Foundation – Partners in Training Grant for helping us make that happen. The workshop, hosted in both 2017 and 2018, has been a Corpsmember favorite.
projects and sites in 2018

Crew Leader Training
Northern Bedrock Headquarters, Duluth
1. Temple Emanuel Cemetery

Hitch 1
Northern Bedrock Headquarters, Duluth
2. Orientation and Training at Halfway Ranger Station
3. Lakeview Cemetery, Tower

Hitch 2
4. Chippewa National Forest, Shingobee building rehab
5. Duluth Armory, Lead Paint Mitigation and Window restoration, Duluth

Hitch 3
6. Sawyer Church, Chinking and Daubing, Sawyer
7. Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery, Minneapolis
8. Grand Portage National Monument, Maintenance and Bridge restoration / Stockade repair

Hitch 4
9. Superior National Forest, Archeology
10. Chippewa National Forest, Joyce Estate building repair, Bovey
8. Grand Portage National Monument, Bridge restoration

Hitch 5
11. St. John’s Cemetery, Stillwater
13. White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, Build and install shutters, old Town Hall Building
14. Winona County Historical Society, log cabin repair during county fair, St. Charles

Hitch 6
15. Murray County Historical Society, round barn painting, Slayton
9. Superior National Forest, Archeology

Hitch 7
2. Halfway Ranger Station
16. St. Michael’s Cemetery, Bayport
9. Superior National Forest, Archeology

Hitch 8
9. Superior National Forest, Archeology
15. Murray County Historical Society, round barn painting, Slayton

Hitch 9
2. Halfway Ranger Station, Window Restoration
8. Grand Portage National Monument, Stockade repair

Hitch 10
9. Superior National Forest, Archeology
18. Heritage House Museum, Chinking and Daubing, Westbrook
19. Nobles County Historical Society, Pioneer village Building Rehab, Worthington

Hitch 11
20. Minnesota Discovery Center, Window Restoration, Siding, Trim and Window Casement Replacement, Chisholm
2. Halfway Ranger Station, log dovetail hewn structure workshop with Gerald David

Hitch 12
5. Duluth Armory, Window Restoration, Duluth
21. Cloquet Forestry Center - Career Days, Preservation Panel, Celebration and Graduation
Duluth - Carpentry Union Tour and Clayton, Jackson, McGhee Monument Tour

Bonus Hitch
22. North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, New Home Build, Virginia
**Historical Societies + Museums**

Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network  
Heritage House Museum  
Minnesota Discovery Center  
Nobles County Historical Society  
White Bear Lake Area Historical Society  
Winona County Historical Society  
Murray County Historical Society

**2018 Organizational Partnerships**

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC)  
AmeriCorps  
The Corps Network  
Historic Preservation Education Foundation  
Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
National Park Service (NPS)  
NPS Historic Preservation Training Center  
USDA Forest Service

**Cemeteries**

Lakeview Cemetery, Tower  
Oakwood Cemetery, Hastings  
Pioneer & Soldiers Cemetery, Minneapolis  
St. John's Cemetery, Stillwater  
St. Luke's Cemetery, Hastings  
St. Michael's Cemetery, Bayport  
Temple Emanuel Cemetery, Duluth

**Additional Locations**

Chippewa National Forest - Shingobee  
Chippewa National Forest - Joyce Estate  
Duluth Armory  
Grand Portage National Monument  
North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity

**Additional Locations**

Northern Forest Research Station - Halfway Ranger Station  
Sts Mary and Joseph Church  
Superior National Forest - Archeology

**2018 project hosts**

Northern Bedrock is accredited as a 21CSC. This provides relevant federal agencies and departments the enhanced ability to engage corps through public-private partnerships to complete pressing projects, which encourages coordination across the federal government. Participating Agencies and Departments include the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Energy, and NOAA, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and Corporation for National and Community Service.
board of directors

Inez L. Wildwood, Board Chair
Michael Jiménez, Vice-Chair
Kaitlyn Rudolph, Treasurer
Doug Bowen-Bailey, Secretary
Tim Beaster

Bob Grytdahl
Cynthia Lapp
Laura Leppink
Paul Ormseth
Joan Peters

current 2019 staff

Jill Baum, Executive Director
Jessica Fortney, Historic Preservation Program Manager
Rhea Harvey, Operations Director
Fitzie Heimdalh, Historic Preservation Project Manager
John Lindelof, Outreach Coordinator

Appreciation for Rolf Hagberg
Founding Executive Director

Corpsmembers, staff, board and friends of Northern Bedrock gathered in Duluth to celebrate the season’s end and to thank Rolf.

Words aren’t adequate to describe the vision, enthusiasm, passion and persistence Rolf exhibited over the many years it took to found Northern Bedrock. Thank you Rolf for your dedication to youth, and to the heritage and future of Minnesota!

Rolf R. Hagberg Scholarship Fund

Big thanks to Northern Bedrock and youth supporters Diane and Darryl Sannes! Diane and Darryl donated $3000 and, along with a $2500 match from the Medtronic Foundation, have made $5500 available to seed the Rolf R. Hagberg Scholarship fund for corpsmembers choosing to continue into historic preservation careers.
**Revenue**

- Minnesota Historical Society: $499,000
- Partnerships
- State of Minnesota Appropriation for Pathways to the Trades: $84,416
- Fee-For-Service: $181,900
- Grants and Donations: $3,063
- **Total Revenue**: $768,379

**Expenditures**

- Program: $418,347
- Management and General: $240,152
- Fundraising: $45,214
- **Total Expenditures**: $703,713

**In-Kind Contributions**

- Camping and Facilities: $1,450
- Educational Opportunities: $413
- Food and Refreshments: $941
- Materials and Equipment: $743
- Parking: $1,160
- Project Host Support: $48,189
- Volunteer Time: $2,052
- **Total In-Kind**: $54,948