

*Annual Report*

**2021**



## what is a corps?

*strengthening America through service and conservation*

Following in the footsteps of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the corps model seeks to lessen the skills gap between education and employment. Corps are locally-based organizations that engage young people in service projects that provide in-demand skills training through service-learning and community engagement. AmeriCorps members earn a Living Allowance and are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of their service term.

## letter from the board chair

*"The places that we interact with are more than just dots on a map, they are places that can provide a sense of community and collect the stories of the many people that have looked out their windows, lie in the cemeteries, and stewarded the historic places you all have worked on."*

*- NBHPC Board Member*



Dear Friends,

For those I have yet to meet, I am Laura Leppink, Northern Bedrock's newly elected Board Chair, 2017 alumnus of the program, and occasional Technical Specialist.

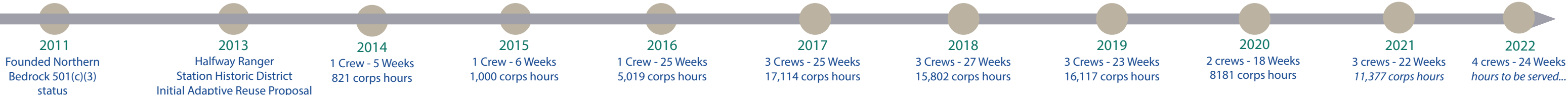
Like so many other organizations, we have faced many changes this past year. With each change, Northern Bedrock Corpsmembers, staff, and board members inspired me with their continued dedication and care. Our 2021 field season was our most technical season to date offering both challenges and many successes. The continued impacts of COVID-19 have engrained stronger health and safety standards while also reminding us of the importance of cooperative community building.

We continue to see the impact of our Corpsmembers' work, and it reinforces our dedication to sharing our passion for heritage stewardship in new and exciting ways. In 2022 we look forward to a new field season with a full roster of projects that will give our future Corpsmembers a rich experience working with an array of places and hands-on trades. Through these experiences, we aim to empower our Corpsmembers to take the skills they have learned back to the spaces, places, and people that are important in their lives.

Overall, we are honored to be able to continue building relationships and learning from the people and communities connected to the places we serve. With that, we now can continue to take pride in our work, share the knowledge we hold, and be a program that allows people to turn their knowledge into action.

With appreciation,

## organization timeline



## mission

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

## values



*Serving*



*Transforming*



*Preserving*



*Honoring*

## northern bedrock historic preservation corpsmember program

*building pathways to the preservation trades*

While utilizing a camping program model, Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps provides corpsmembers hands-on experiences in historic preservation, community service, and conservation. We provide a variety of skills trainings to help prepare our corpsmembers for the trades field. Corpsmembers also practice their community living, leadership, and team building skills as they work to complete a successful field season. Consultants, Technical Specialists, and Project Hosts provide technical training and project supervision, and complete work projects alongside crews. Corpsmembers also learn the value of team-building, effective communication, goal setting, and conflict resolution.

## technical specialists

*skilled professionals, trades mentors*

To help foster pathways for young adults to enter the historic preservation field, Northern Bedrock partners with skilled tradespeople. Through expert instruction and project management, Technical Specialists guide Corpsmembers in learning a wide variety of trade skills and preservation techniques. When selecting Technical Specialists, Northern Bedrock prioritizes recognized industry experts with prior experience facilitating hands-on training and a proven record of proactive risk management.



*"As per usual, the crew did great and worked hard to finish things up. We ended up doing some fairly advanced woodworking and window repair along with the usual scraping and painting. The [host] seemed very happy with the work." - Technical Specialist*

### skills learned

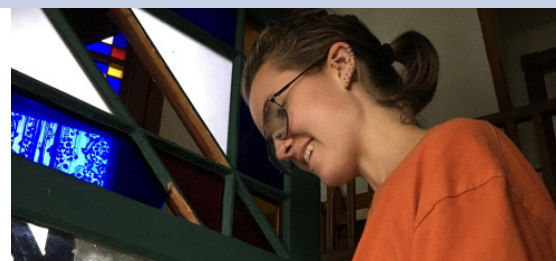


### Scraping and Painting

Corpsmembers learned how to prepare buildings for new paint and stain finishes. By properly removing old paint and stain, Corpsmembers were able to identify areas of rot, insect damage, or mold prior to applying new finish.

### Window Restoration

Corpsmembers scraped paint, removed glazing, replaced and re-glazed glass, and painted and repaired window sashes. They restored windows at five sites throughout Minnesota – including stained glass windows at Fillebrown House!



### Cemetery Preservation

Corpsmembers reset, cleaned and edged monuments at two different cemeteries across Minnesota. This work ensures the safety of monuments and visitors. Cemetery projects provide Corpsmembers a chance to learn about the people who helped develop the communities we serve.

### Masonry Restoration

Corpsmembers restored rock walls, picnic tables, and staircases at four sites in 2021. Corpsmembers learned the importance of accurate restoration work and how to evaluate and apply mortar and replace rocks.



### Log Structure Maintenance

Corpsmembers learned how to treat insect and water damage, prepare and install log replacements in structures, and seal structures through finishing waxes, stains, and paints.

### Documentation

Corpsmembers enthusiastically learned the importance of project documentation. By recording daily logs, hitch reports, and project photos, Corpsmembers were able to document project progress and accomplishments.



### Leadership and Teamwork

Corpsmembers served in rotating leadership roles on our three field crews this season. Crews cooked meals together, camped under the stars (or rain clouds), and traveled throughout the state to improve historic structures and landscapes all while adapting to new COVID-19 health and safety guidelines!



### 2021 by the numbers

- 20 camp-tastic sites
- 11 project hosts welcomed crews
- 18 corpsmembers served communities
- 4 technical specialists taught trade skills
- 4 staff organized programming



- 2 joists replaced
- 15 square feet of firebrick installed
- 22 jars of peanut butter eaten
- 25 feet of log replaced
- 30 square feet of firebrick removed
- 42 windows restored
- 56 square feet of siding installed
- 85 monuments reset
- 211 feet of trim installed
- 609 feet of daubing installed
- 900 square feet of flooring installed
- 1,746 square feet of masonry repointed
- 1,844 square feet of masonry cleaned
- 1,846 tortillas eaten
- 3,024 square feet of Borate applied
- 6,816 square feet of roofing replaced
- 8,995 square feet of landscape managed
- 10,533 square feet of structures cleaned
- 14,974 square feet of finish scraped
- 20,662 square feet of finish applied

*"I feel like I've really been able to challenge myself and track my own development, both in technical skills and interpersonal skills. I truly believe that I am exiting this program a stronger and wiser person - someone I am proud of."*

-Corpsmember



### corpsmember post season survey results

- 86% agree or strongly agree that they have a **solid technical skill base**, up from 27% on pre-season surveys
- 82% agree or strongly agree that **have improved their leadership and communication skills**
- 95% agree or strongly agree that they are **prepared to advocate for historic preservation**

## 2021 field schedule

### Hitch 1 | June 1 – June 9

#### Orientation

### Hitch 2 | June 15 - 23

- 1- **Halfway Ranger Station Historic District** (windows + public window restoration workshop)
- 2 - **Fairground Cabin, Becker County Historical Society** (log maintenance)
- 3 - **Fenske Pavilion, Superior National Forest** (roofing, masonry)

### Hitch 3 | June 29 – July 7

- 4 - **Hoist Bay, Voyageurs National Park** (scraping/painting, siding repair)
- 1 - **Halfway** (windows continued, prep for Passport in Time)
- 5 - **Ely Cemetery** (cemetery restoration)
- 6 - **Grand Portage National Monument** (historic trail masonry restoration)

### Hitch 4 | July 13 - 24

- 7 - **Graeser Park, Robbinsdale** (masonry, landscape restoration)
- 8 - **Forest Lodge w/ HistoriCorps, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest** (roofing)
- 6- **Grand Portage National Monument** (historic trail masonry restoration)

### Hitch 5 | July 27 - August 4

- 9 - **Sawbill Cabin, Superior National Forest** (log maintenance, scraping/painting)
- 10 - **Continental Divide Wayside, Chippewa National Forest** (masonry, roofing)
- 11 - **Perham Cemetery, Otter Tail County Historical Society** (cemetery restoration, chinking and daubing)

### Hitch 6 | August 10 – 18

- 12 - **CCC Camp Rabideau, Chippewa National Forest** (carpentry, scraping/painting)

### Hitch 7 | August 24 – September 1

- 13 - **Fillebrown House, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society** (woodwork, window repair)
- 14 - **City of Stillwater** (window restoration video)
- 4 - **Fujita Cabin, Voyageurs National Park** (log maintenance, scraping/painting)

### Hitch 8 | September 7 - 15

- 4 - **Camp Marston, Voyageurs National Park** (scraping/painting)
- 15 - **East Bearskin Boathouse, Superior National Forest** (log maintenance, scraping/painting)

### Hitch 9 | September 21 - 29

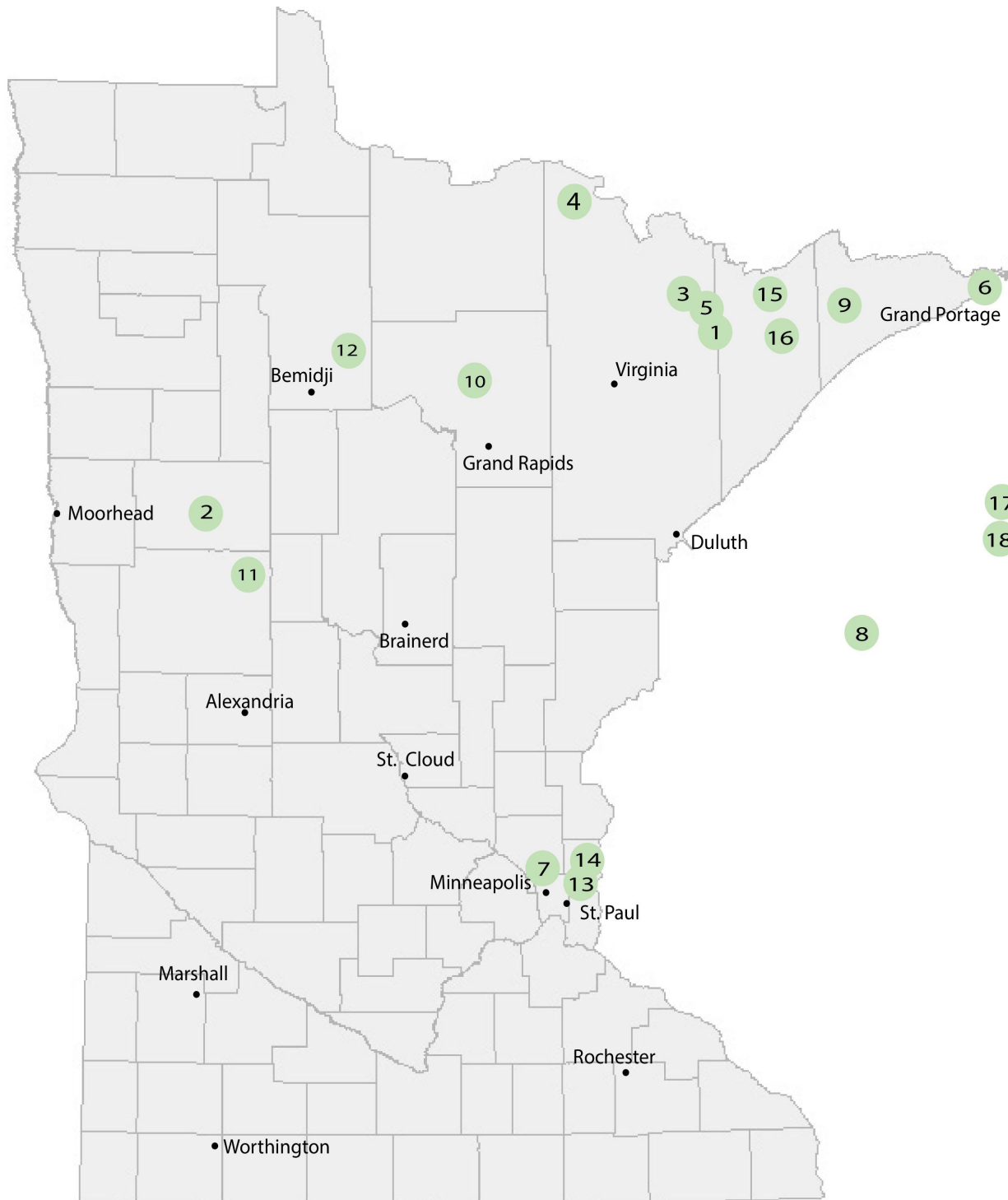
- 4 - **Kettle Falls, Voyageurs National Park** (log maintenance, flooring, chinking/daubing)
- 1 - **Halfway Ranger Station Historic District** (roofing, masonry)

### Hitch 10 | October 5 - 13

- 16 - **Isabella Ranger Station, Superior National Forest** (log maintenance workshop)
- 1 - **Halfway Ranger Station** (carpentry, log maintenance)

### Hitch 11 | October 19 - October 27

- 17 - **Lost Lake Cabins, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest** (window restoration)
- 18 - **Franklin Lake Campground, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest** (masonry)



## 2021 partnerships

- AmeriCorps
- Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums
- Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
- Northland AmeriCorps Collaborative
- National Park Service
- Rethos
- Superior Fuel
- The Corps Network
- U of MN Cloquet Forestry Center
- USDA Forest Service



*"Working with and getting to know the "kids" is a delight. Learning about their backgrounds and experiences adds an interesting perspective to our lives. In the process we coach/teach them new life skills that are on the weeks project list and give them responsibility. The first day they are strangers and at the end of the week it's sad to say goodbye and the odds of our paths crossing again are minimal at best. When you get a note from the group like this one, you know they listened, learned new skills, enjoyed the work and their week special. They are our future, keep them coming..."*

- Community Member

## halfway ranger station historic district *saving the past, in the present, for the future*

Halfway Ranger Station Historic District (Halfway) sits on 12 acres within the Superior National Forest. Dating back to the early 1900s, the site has a rich history that encompasses a logging camp, USDA Forest Service administration, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), wildlife conservation research, and community programming.

In 2015, Northern Bedrock entered into a participating agreement with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station to maintain the site by facilitating Corpsmember and community focused hands-on trainings. In 2021, Northern Bedrock signed a fifty year Section 111 lease. The new agreement allows Northern Bedrock's board and staff continue to work towards sustainable use plan that engages Corpsmembers, volunteers, and the historic preservation community through year-round programming and outreach.



Halfway boasts an architecturally unique complex of buildings, including seven Rustic/Adirondack-style log buildings built in 1934-35 by the CCC and three stick-framed structures used by the Northern Research Station.

## minnesota state historical society *legacy grant*

Since 2018, Northern Bedrock has been improving the Halfway Ranger Station funded thanks to a Legacy Funds Large Grant for the rehabilitation of the Ranger Dwelling and the Lake State Forest Experimental Station (LSFES) Building. This year's projects focused on a structural assessment of the second story of the Ranger Dwelling. The assessment plan will work as a road map as we work to complete the second floor rehabilitation.

## Passport In Time *preserving the nation's past with the help of the public*

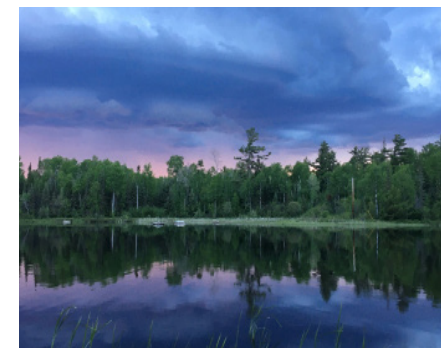
Early October brought five US Forest Service Passport In Time (PIT) volunteers, community members, and one crew to Halfway. Together we were able to tackle larger projects, including installing new soffit, fascia, and roofing, rebuilding the chimney, and restoring the original windows on the Wolf Cabin (District Office).



## orientation *hello halfway, welcome corps life*

After initial introductions and enrollment paperwork in Duluth, Corpsmembers and staff headed north to Halfway for an immersive orientation and jumped right into living and learning together!

Hands-on trainings included team building, OSHA 10 construction safety, Wilderness First Aid/CPR, Leave No Trace, risk management, crew leadership, tool use and safety, AmeriCorps policies, spike camp management, meal planning, and Historic Preservation 101!



### End of Season Program Reflection

*"From the Twin Cities to Voyageurs National Park, and from Detroit Lakes across the border to Cable, Wisconsin, the ground we've covered could never outweigh the skills we've developed and the friendships that have blossomed this season. This fall, some of us will continue to work in the preservation field while some will explore other paths. But regardless of what the future holds, all of us will come away stronger – both individually and collectively as a corps – and we are grateful for the memories, bonds, and experiences that have made these months so valuable.*

*As another crop of us enter back into the world filled to the brim with technical and personal skills we've cultivated this season, we can't wait to see where the future will take us and Northern Bedrock!"*

- 2021 Northern Bedrock Crew



District Office Roof (Before)



District Office Roof (After)



Repairing District Office Roof

## public workshops

Public programming allows Corpsmembers, Staff, Hosts, and Technical Specialists to share their site, passion, and technical expertise with the community they are serving. These personal connections help to foster a sense of community stewardship, purpose, and place in Corpsmembers.

Through planning and facilitating public workshops, Corpsmembers hone their leadership, public speaking, and programming skills. This provides Corpsmembers an opportunity to become the teachers and share their new skills with the public.



*"In the future, I would like to be an active member of my community with work experience that goes beyond an office. I hope to study public interest law and this program offers a unique perspective on community engagement."* - Corpsmember

## Window Restoration

RETHOS and Northern Bedrock partnered to provide two window restoration workshops. In June, a hands-on workshop was hosted at Halfway Ranger Station. Participants were able to see the entire process of window restoration - from removing the sashes to installing new glazing putty and finishes.

Participants were able to work with historic windows removed from Halfway or bring their own window from home.



We anticipated hosting a second window restoration with RETHOS and the City of Stillwater. However, that project morphed into a series of instructional videos starring Northern Bedrock Corpsmembers. The videos were produced for inclusion at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Conference held virtually in September 2021. The videos are also available on Rethos Places Reimagined's YouTube channel.



## 2021 field season staff

Jill Baum, Executive Director  
 Charley Langowski, Operations Director  
 Peter Bergene, Historic Preservation Program Manager  
 Marshall Boone, Field Logistics Coordinator

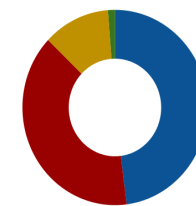
## board of directors

Inez Wildwood, Chair  
 Laura Leppink, Vice-Chair  
 Paige Mitchell, Treasurer  
 Dylan Klein, Secretary  
 Walt Ogstad  
 Rachel Peterson  
 Doug Thompson  
 Tom Church



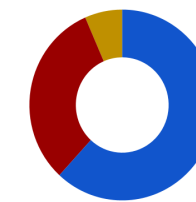
2021 was our most technical season yet! We are excited to grow our in house expertise to continue to provide meaningful educational and hands-on training opportunities to our Corpsmembers.

## financial summary



### Funding Sources

Minnesota State Historical Society	\$320,000
Fee-for-Service	\$261,130
PPP Loan (Forgiven)	\$77,775
Donations	\$8,095
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$667,000</b>



### Expenditures

Program	\$303,756
Management and General	\$155,207
Fundraising	\$32,194
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$491,157</b>

Thank you to all our in-kind donors for site interpretations, story telling, floor scraping, lemon bars, and herring! Because of you, (and despite COVID-19), Corpsmembers were able to experience a successful Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps Field Season! Northern Bedrock is also beyond grateful for the continued support offered by our Project Hosts, Technical Specialists, Partners, Corpsmembers, and the Communities in which we serve.

*"Dear future corps members, your field season will fly by so take time to stop and enjoy the beautiful Minnesota wilderness at each project site. Also, don't forget your sunscreen, bug spray, and hats!"*

- Corpsmember, advice to future corpsmembers



*Northern Bedrock is a member of 21<sup>st</sup> CSC. 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 including the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Energy and NOAA, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Corporation for National and Community Service.*