

# YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESC) 2016 Report

## Week 1 – June 6-9, 2016

- 1) **Participants:** Benavidez, Lorenzo  
Dickson, Carson  
Lopez, Alesha  
McCabe, Nathan  
O'Leary, Declan  
Schraad, Zachary  
Stanfield, Wesley  
Steinkamp, Charles  
Vuyisich, Alex
- 2) **Partner:** Los Alamos County Open Spaces/ Trails; Monday-Tuesday: trail near Guaje Pines Cemetery; Wednesday-Thursday: trail across Central from Larry J. Walkup Aquatic Center.
- 3) **Contact:** Eric Peterson: (505) 663-1776.
- 4) **Activity:** Trail maintenance, invasive tree removal.
- 5) **Educational Component:** Proper tool usage, logistics of trail building (how they are built, why they are built in specific locations/orientations), identification of species of trees (indigenous vs. foreign), the necessity for removing invasive trees.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:** Found a greater appreciation for the work that goes into building/maintaining trails and for keeping out flora with high water needs.

## Week 2 – June 13-16, 2016

- 1) **Participants:** Benavidez, Lorenzo  
Bridgewater, Noah  
Cleland, Erik  
Lopez, Alesha  
McCabe, Nathan  
O'Leary, Declan  
Schraad, Zachary  
Steinkamp, Charles  
Vuyisich, Alex
- 2) **Partner:** Los Alamos County Open Spaces/ Trails; Monday-Tuesday: Acid Canyon (canyon directly north of Larry J. Walkup Aquatic Center), Wednesday-Thursday: Graduation Canyon Trail (canyon running north of East Park from LAHS to Los Alamos Airport).
- 3) **Contact:** Eric Peterson: (505) 663-1776.
- 4) **Educational Component:** Fencing removal, trail maintenance, trail clearing (cutting growing foliage back from trails to prevent overgrowth).
- 5) **Activity:** Geographical education (identifying which mesa is which, where the canyons are, and in which direction the trails run), proper methods of pruning plants (which branches to trim away from the trails, where to trim on each branch and why), why chain-link fences are built along trails.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:** Keeping one staff member at the front of a group on a trail to direct and one staff at the rear of the group helps keep participants on-task and is ideal when pruning trail flora.

### Week 3 – June 20-23, 2016

- 1) **Participants:** Ahrens, Connor  
Benavidez, Lorenzo  
Bridgewater, Noah  
Cleland, Erik  
Gellis, Ben  
McCabe, Nathan  
Steinkamp, Charles
- 2) **Partner:** Bandelier National Monument
- 3) **Contact:** Kevin Stillman: (575) 829-3061
- 4) **Activity:** Trail maintenance, trail clearing
- 5) **Educational Component:** Geological education (how the mountains and cliffs were formed, why there are certain oddities in the rock), history of the monument (how the indigenous people used the tools at their disposal to create what we see today), identification of wildlife.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:** Time management regarding hiking into and out of a location along a trail.

### Week 4 – June 27-30, 2016

- 1) **Participants:** Ahrens, Connor  
Bridgewater, Noah  
Cleland, Erik  
Gellis, Ben  
McCabe, Nathan  
Vuyisich, Alex  
Wood, Sebastian
- 2) **Partner:** Los Alamos County Open Spaces/ Trails; Monday: Valles Caldera; Tuesday-Thursday: Canyon Rim Trail, Bradbury Science Museum
- 3) **Contact:** Eric Peterson: (505) 663-1776
- 4) **Activity:** Trail maintenance, trail clearing
- 5) **Educational Component:** History of Los Alamos and scientific advancements during WWII era to present.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:** Stay vigilant in trying to reach contacts to solidify future work settings for service projects.

### Week 5 – July 5-7, 2016

- 1) **Participants:** Ahrens, Connor  
Bridgewater, Noah  
Cleland, Erik  
Gellis, Ben  
Schraad, Zachary
- 2) **Partner:** Los Alamos Historical Society
- 3) **Location:** Tuesday-Thursday: Los Alamos Beta House
- 4) **Contact:** Heather McClenahan: (505) 662-6272.
- 5) **Activity:** The youth were asked to move heavy flagstones from the yard of the Los Alamos Beta

House into a nearby garage. They also planted a couple of small gardens next to the Beta House with flowers and mulched it.

5) **Educational Component:**

The youths learned about the Pajarito plateau and its surrounding region before building the town of Los Alamos became a military necessity. This included the homesteading era and the Los Alamos Ranch House. They also heard about the development period of Los Alamos as a community. Lastly, they learned about the role of Oppenheimer and Groves in keeping the Manhattan Project running smoothly between the military and the scientists.

6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:**

Instructor learned that it is good to be hands-off as much as possible with the youths in simpler task, with only minor bits of feedback.

**Week 6 – July 11-14, 2016**

1) **Participants:**

Ahrens, Connor  
Bridgewater, Noah  
Dickson, Carson  
Lopez, Alesha  
Schraad, Zachary  
Steinkamp, Charles

2) **Partner/Location:**

Betty Ehart Senior Center

3) **Contact:**

Linda Bonacella: (505) 662-8923

4) **Activity:**

The corps members were tasked with cleaning up the Bower Garden outside the Betty Ehart Senior Center, including sweeping away and bagging pine needles, weeding, and straightening up tools and potted plants. The youths were also asked to interact with the seniors in the "Day-Out" Program. They listened to the seniors talk while playing bingo, building puzzles, singing, and exercising with them.

5) **Educational Component:**

The corps members learned what the center provides for seniors. Through listening to the seniors in the Day-Out program, they also learned the personal history of seniors and how important it is that we listen to the stories of people in older generations.

6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:**

I learned that youths have a general sense of the importance of listening to elders, but it is good to make sure they also understand how it makes the seniors feel (e.g. less lonely, more edified).

**Week 7 – July 18-21, 2016**

1) **Participants:**

Bridgewater, Noah  
Dickson, Carson  
Gellis, Ben  
Lopez, Alesha  
Schraad, Zachary  
Stanfield, Wesley  
Steinkamp, Charles  
Vuyisich, Alex  
Wood, Sebastian

- 2) **Partner/Location:**  
Los Alamos Co-op Market
- 3) **Contact:**  
Tim Morrison: (505) 695-1579
- 4) **Activity:**  
The corps members were asked to disassemble a greenhouse planter in preparation for it to be repurposed as a sandbox for children.
- 5) **Educational Component:**  
The corps members learned what a “Co-op” is and what it means to be a co-op in the grand scheme of the US capitalist economic system. They also heard about how the Los Alamos Co-op is run and how executive decisions are made for which services it provides to the community (e.g. whether it should be a food market or have community service groups). The youths also learned why co-ops are important for individuals and communities.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:**  
We learned that having the proper tool for a job makes it go much faster and more smoothly. Also, it is good to make sure you have the proper size for what you need before you buy the tool.

**Week 8 – July 25-28, 2016**

- 1) **Participants:**  
Bell, Jackson  
Bell, Olivia  
Dickson, Carson  
Lopez, Alesha  
Steinkamp, Charles
- 2) **Partner/Location:**  
Pajarito Environmental Education Center (Monday-Tuesday); Los Alamos YMCA (Wednesday-Thursday)
- 3) **Contact:**  
Katie Watson: (505) 662-0460
- 4) **Activity:**  
The corps members assisted in an educational children’s activity in which they helped kids create paper-mache “wasp nests” and collect “pollen”. The youths were also asked to weed areas outside, and they watched a 40 minute educational planetarium movie.
- 5) **Educational Component:**  
The youths learned the difference between bees and wasps. For example, they learned the difference in the environmental benefits and diets of each. The youths also learned how to paper mache. Through the movie, the youths got to learn what goes on visually in the world that our human eyes cannot detect.
- 6) **Lessons Learned/Notes:**  
Supervisors learned that it is best not to leave challenging youths alone with non-YESC partner volunteers. The youth had established relationship dynamics among themselves that did not translate respectfully to these volunteers. This allowed us to emphasize caring and respect to the youth, which enabled them to reflect on inconsiderate actions such as using a volunteer’s kneeling pad.

Year	Last	First	Gender	Hours	Total hrs.
2016	Connor	Ahrens	m	52	
2016	Jackson	Bell	m	16	

2016	Olivia	Bell	f	16	
		Benavidez			
2016	Lorenzo	LANB	m	44	
2016	Noah	Bridgewater	m	92	
2016	Erik	Cleland	m	40	
2016	Carson	Dickson	m	64	
2016	Benjamin	Gellis	m	60	
2016	Alesha	Lopez	f	80	
2016	Nathan	McCabe	m	60	
2016	Declan	O'Leary	m	16	
2016	Zachary	Schraad	m	72	
2016	Wesley	Stanfield	m	32	
2016	Charles	Steinkamp	m	88	
2016	Alex	Vuyisich	m	44	
2016	Julia	Wood	f	32	808