



# ACCC FAQ

## WHAT IS THE ACCC? WHAT IS AYW? WHAT IS TXCC?

### ACCC

The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps is a unique jobs training program in partnership between the City of Austin and several non-profits within the city. The goal of the ACCC program is to provide economic relief to citizens that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic while supplying jobs training and experience.

### AYW

American YouthWorks (AYW) is an Austin-based non-profit that provides jobs training programs in construction, healthcare, and environmental conservation in addition to a GED partnered education program. AYW is partnering with the City of Austin to have three ACCC crews that complete habitat restoration and public land improvement projects.

### TxCC

Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC) is a jobs training program within American YouthWorks that is also a part of a national service program called AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members have a set term limit for participants to complete service hours in exchange for a modest living stipend. At the end of the term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an education award that can be used towards future education opportunities. AmeriCorps members with the TxCC program complete similar conservation based projects as the ACCC crews, but the TxCC AmeriCorps members travel outside the local Austin area including outside the state of Texas.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TXCC AND ACCC CREWS?

The main difference between the two programs is compensation, project locations, and program funding. For the ACCC program, members are paid \$15/hr for crew members and \$17/hr for crew leaders. It is an hourly position, so pay is dependent on the individual earning hours. The program is funded exclusively by the City of Austin, so project work is confined to land managed by the city. ACCC members' eligibility is dependent on City of Austin residency, employment status, and current economic income.

For TxCC positions, the pay is a stipend, so members have to earn hours during a pay period (bimonthly) to earn their stipend, which is a fixed amount. The current stipend is \$699 per paycheck for Crew Members and \$839 per paycheck for Crew Leaders. This program is funded through federal grants (AmeriCorps) and money generated from project work through agreements with local, state and federal entities. Examples of these entities are Travis County, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the US Forest Service.



The second distinction is the location of projects. TxCC crews can work both in and out of the City of Austin. TxCC crews can be expected to go on hitches, in which members camp at the project site and work for 10 days in a row and have 4 days off back in Austin. Food and travel is provided for these hitches. For the ACCC, the projects are only located in the City of Austin, so there are no overnight requirements.

Both ACCC and TxCC positions at American YouthWorks are full-time, 40hrs/week. No overtime is granted at this time for either position.

## **WHAT IS A TYPICAL CONSERVATION PROJECT?**

The typical project focuses on habitat restoration. A lot of the time, this means using chainsaws to cut unwanted, overgrown, or invasive plant species and disposing of the cut material. For trail projects, this could include reshaping or adding structures to the trail to reduce the erosion of the walkable or tread surface. In general, there is a lot of cutting, digging, lifting, and hauling associated with the projects.

We DO NOT specifically work with wild or domestic animals of any kind, even though many of our projects benefit their habitats.

## **DO YOU PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE?**

Yes. Both TxCC and ACCC programs at American YouthWorks provide health insurance.

## **HOW MUCH TIME IS SPENT OUTSIDE?**

All of the positions take place outside. Besides initial orientation and some training opportunities, all work is outside and participants should expect to work in all kinds of conditions (hot, cold, rain, windy, etc.).

## **DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE IN CONSERVATION TO BE A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE?**

No. The point of the ACCC program is to give experience to people that are looking to work in the conservation and natural resources field. Moreover, the purpose of this program is to increase the racial and gender diversity of the conservation field by being an affirming space for participants to learn best practices and explore career opportunities.

Like many positions, successful candidates ought to demonstrate willingness to learn and grow within the program and be able to commit to the full term length.

## **HOW DO I GET TO PROJECT SITES?**

Crews get to the project site in organization-owned passenger vans. It is the participant's responsibility to get to the headquarters location (1901 E. Ben White Blvd, 78741) every morning before 8 AM. If you have issues with transportation, please inform the interviewer so that accommodations can be explored.





# ACCC OVERVIEW

Scheduled to start August 16th, 2021 for crew leaders, and August 23rd for crew members.  
Positions end at the beginning of April 2022 (8 month term).

Pay includes \$17/hr for crew leaders, and \$15/hr for crew members.

Health Insurance is provided.

Only observed holidays are off. No break time is allocated.

Light administrative duties will be expected in terms of paperwork and timesheets throughout the term.

Training – There will be an orientation and training before crews start project work with other training throughout the term.

We have COVID protocols in place to have a safe working environment and reduce possible transmission. All protocols must be followed.

Crew leaders and members will be required to get themselves to AYW headquarters (1901 E. Ben White Blvd. 78741) each morning to rig up.

SAD policy – no smoking/alcohol/drugs while on site or at headquarters.

We'll provide a uniform during your orientation, and all of the personal protective equipment you'll need: hard hat, gloves, safety glasses, ear protection.

We require denim or canvas pants, and 8" tall all leather boots. There is a boot allowance for participants to use towards the purchase of their boots.

**FOR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM,  
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS GOMON  
[CGOMON@AMERICANYOUTHWORKS.ORG](mailto:CGOMON@AMERICANYOUTHWORKS.ORG)**

