



ORANGE COUNTY
CONSERVATION CORPS

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



OCCC's approach to employability teaches teamwork and cooperation by utilizing work projects that are beneficial to the community and the environment. We do this by creating an atmosphere where Corpsmembers have the chance to develop on an educational, professional and personal level while providing opportunities to access well-paying, long-term and meaningful jobs.



Table of Contents²

Message from the CEO.....	03
Executive Staff & Board of Directors.....	04
Corpsmember Demographics.....	05
Corpsmember Development Outcomes.....	06
Alumnus Spotlight	
Jorge Morales	07
Corpsmember Spotlight	
Jacob Gutierrez	08
Partnership Spotlight	
Defending California	09
Advancing Sustainability	10
Hands-On Skills, Real-World Impact	11
Corpsmember Conservation Work Statistics	
Natural Resources Department	12
Recycling Department	13
Our Sponsors & Supporters	14
Financials Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.....	15

Message from the CEO[🌿]

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and dedicated staff, we are honored to share our 2024–2025 Annual Report—a reflection of a year defined by impact, resilience, and progress. From our rapid response to the devastating January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, to meaningful recycling achievements, to immersive wildland fire and forestry training, our Corpsmembers continue to step forward—prepared to meet critical needs and build lasting careers.

We are especially proud of the conservation outcomes highlighted on pages 12 and 13, which demonstrate the real, measurable difference this work is making across our communities.

Within these pages, you'll also find the powerful journeys of Jorge Morales and Jacob Gutierrez—stories that bring our mission to life. Their paths, from Corpsmember to County of Orange employee and from high school dropout to college student, reflect what's possible when opportunity meets determination.

Yet alongside this progress, the data on page five is a clear reminder that many of the young adults we serve continue to face significant barriers. The need remains urgent—and so does our commitment.

Together, these results and stories tell a larger truth: this work matters, and it is working. With your continued partnership, we will expand access to opportunity, strengthen our communities, and empower the next generation to lead with purpose and confidence.

Thank you for standing with us—and for making this impact possible.

With gratitude,



Katharyn O. Muniz
Chief Executive Officer



Executive Staff



Tony Huynh
Chief Financial Officer



Jeremy Newton
Director of Operations



Tony Dinh
Program Manager



Susan Soria
Manager, Corpmember
Leadership & Development

Board of Directors



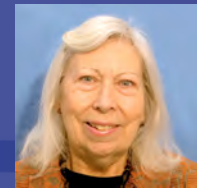
John Murillo
Chairman
Market President,
Enterprise Bank & Trust



Christopher Abel
Vice Chair
Communications Consultant



Albert J. Garcia
Treasurer
Director, Environmental Services,
Southern California Gas Co.



Barbara Whitney
Secretary
Community Service Leader,
City of Irvine Open Space Preserve



Gary Alan Sheatz
Board Member
Attorney at Law,
Everett Dorrey LLP



Kris Murray
Board Member
Executive Director, Association of
California Cities-Orange County



Karen Klepack
Board Member
Director, Business Operations,
Prologis



Paul Jaurequi
Board Member
Vice President, Strategic
Partnerships Incipio Group



Genoveva Meza Talbott
Board Member
Owner, Attorney at Law,
Meza Talbott Law

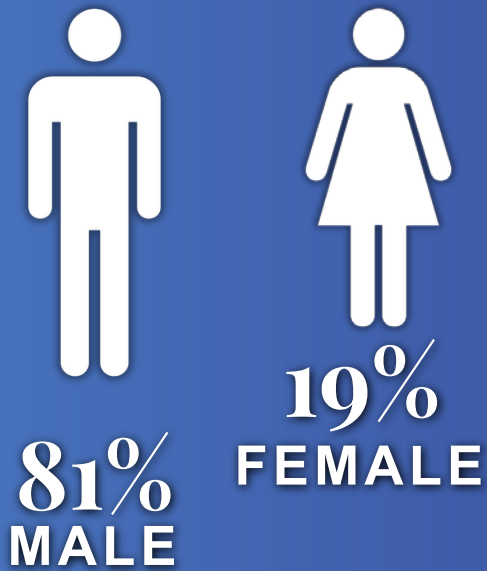


Juanita Preciado
Board Member
Retired-County of Orange

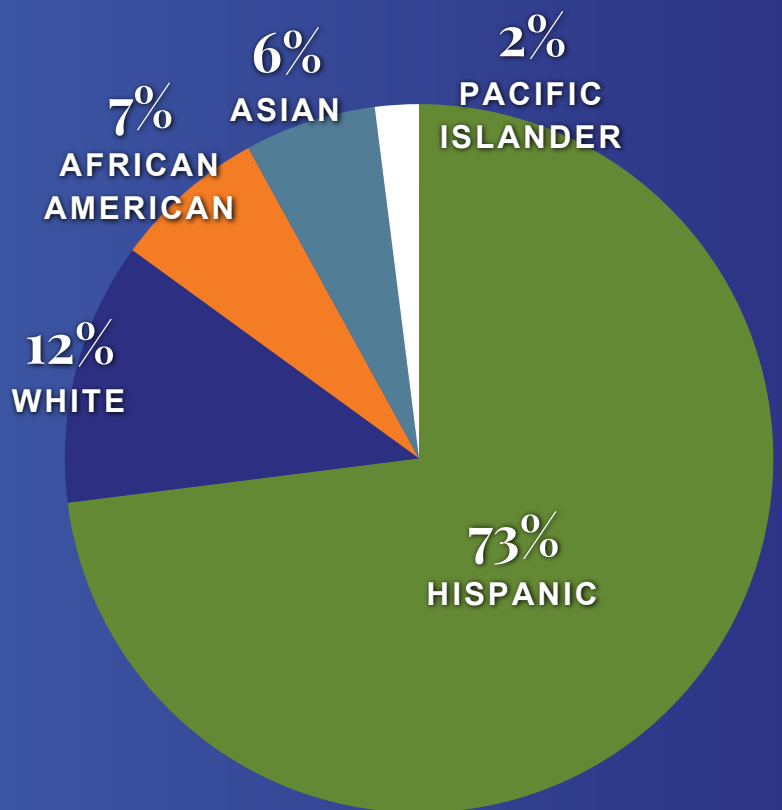
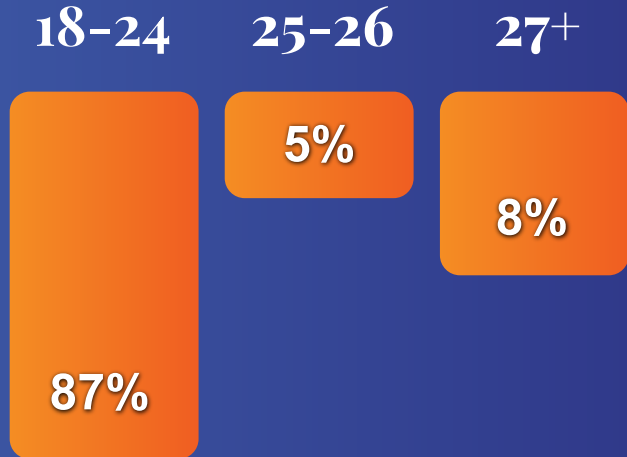


Daisy Sarmiento
Board Member
Retired-County of Orange

Corpsmember Demographics



AGE RANGES



Corpsmember Development Outcomes



35
enrolled
in college or
trade school



45 obtained
a certification



12,680 Lbs.
food distributed
through food pantry



117,077
paid hours



227 CMs attended
skill/career based workshops



68
employed
for first time



73
employed
post-corps



10
earned
a high school
diploma while enrolled



12
obtained
a drivers license

Alumnus Spotlight



“The habits and skills you build here will carry you far. Public service is a rewarding path, and the Corps gives you a strong foundation to succeed.”

JORGE MORALES

Jorge came to the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) searching for opportunity but what he found was a pathway to a career and a stronger future. During his time at OCCC, Jorge immersed himself in hands-on conservation projects, challenging himself personally and professionally.

With the guidance of dedicated case managers, supervisors, and the support of his peers, he built a foundation rooted in work ethic, responsibility, and teamwork. These early experiences led him to a career in public service with the County of Orange.

Through fieldwork and training, Jorge developed critical skills that set him apart. He learned to operate power tools safely and efficiently, adapt to diverse work environments, and approach challenges with a solution-oriented mindset.

His commitment and leadership potential quickly became evident, earning him the role of Crew Supervisor which allowed him to guide others while continuing to strengthen his own abilities.

Jorge credits his success to the consistent balance of challenge and support he experienced throughout the program. Tight project deadlines and high expectations pushed him to stay focused and disciplined, while OCCC staff provided the encouragement and mentorship he needed.

That support extended beyond the field. OCCC staff worked closely with Jorge to refine his resume, prepare for interviews, and identify his strengths. Access to certifications, educational opportunities, and career guidance helped him become a competitive candidate and made his transition into the workforce seamless.

Today, Jorge is proud to serve his community in his role with the County of Orange a milestone that reflects both his determination and the impact of OCCC’s mission.



Corpsmember Spotlight

JACOB GUTIERREZ

Jacob Gutierrez's path to the Orange County Conservation Corps began during a difficult chapter in his life. Recently homeless and without stable employment, Jacob was walking down Raymond Avenue in Anaheim looking for work so he could help pay rent at his friend's home. That day, he found an opportunity that changed his future.

"I needed a job," Jacob recalls. "They hired me, and I was a high school dropout. They also gave me the opportunity to finish high school."

Since joining OCCC, Jacob has made remarkable progress. He recently earned his high school diploma through the OCCC High School Diploma Program with John Muir Charter Schools. He has returned to the field, contributing to conservation projects, and is now preparing to apply to Cypress College to pursue a career as an x-ray technician.



What stands out most to Jacob about OCCC is the people—especially the teachers. "The most special thing about the Corps is how much the teachers love and care for each student," he says.

At 20, Jacob once felt uncertain about his future. "A couple years ago, I felt like my life was flashing before my eyes. I was already 20 and not doing anything." Today, he offers encouragement to others: "You have time, it just depends on how you use that time."

Jacob's story reflects the mission of the Orange County Conservation Corps: to support young adults facing barriers by providing meaningful work experience, education, and pathways to a brighter future. We are proud to have Jacob as part of our team and look forward to supporting him through college and beyond.

Partnership Spotlight

Defending California: OCCC's Rapid Response to Disaster

When disaster strikes, swift action makes all the difference. In early 2025, as wildfires impacted Southern California and left neighborhoods and landscapes in ruin, the Orange County Conservation Corps responded to support critical recovery efforts.

At the request of the Governor's Office and multiple state agencies—including the California Office of Emergency Services, California Conservation Corps, California Department of Water Resources, Caltrans, California Geological Survey, Cal Fire, and local conservation corps—OCCC crews were deployed to assist in statewide watershed protection and cleanup operations.

Before the last embers had fully cooled, crews were called again as heavy rains threatened additional damage. Forecasts of flooding, mudslides, and erosion posed serious risks to already vulnerable communities. In response, OCCC rapidly mobilized to construct protective barriers and implement mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts.

For ten consecutive days, crews worked in challenging conditions to reinforce at-risk areas ahead of the storms. Their efforts helped prevent further damage and protect California's natural landscapes and surrounding communities.

Through resilience, teamwork, and a commitment to environmental stewardship, OCCC remains on the front lines of disaster response—helping restore stability and safeguard communities in the aftermath of disaster.



“SEEING THE IMPACT OF OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS WAS INCREDIBLY INSPIRING AND REINFORCED MY DEDICATION TO LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS LIKE THIS”
-OCCC CORPSMEMBER, MEGAN MCMAHON

Partnership Spotlight

Advancing Sustainability: OCCC's 2025 Recycling Achievements

In Fiscal Year 2025, OCCC made meaningful progress in environmental stewardship, advancing sustainable practices across the region. These efforts were supported in part through our continued partnership with CalRecycle (California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery), which helps expand and strengthen recycling programs throughout Orange County.

Over the year, OCCC recycled more than 453,000 pounds of beverage containers and 65,000 pounds of e-waste, reducing landfill waste and supporting a more circular use of resources. The team also processed 2,211 abandoned waste tires and 2,045 pounds of tire rims, ensuring these materials were safely handled and diverted from the environment.

Additional efforts included recovering 6,420 pounds of scrap metal and reviewing 129 used oil collection centers to help maintain safe and responsible handling of hazardous materials.

Community engagement remains a key part of OCCC's mission. Staff participated in 55 community events in partnership with organizations such as Orange County Coastkeeper and Surfrider Foundation, promoting recycling awareness and environmental education. At the recycling center in the City of Irvine, OCCC served 12,758 customers, providing accessible services and guidance on responsible waste management.

Together with CalRecycle, OCCC continues to expand its impact—strengthening programs, improving efficiency, and helping build a cleaner, more sustainable Orange County for generations to come.



Partnership Spotlight

Hands-On Skills, Real-World Impact: Building a Workforce for Fire Resilience



OCCC is proud to continue its partnership with the California Local Conservation Corps Foundation on the CalFire-funded “Statewide Local Training, Resilience, and Job Placement” initiative. This collaborative effort prepares young adults for careers in wildfire mitigation, forestry, and natural resource protection.

Following the success of the first cohort, an additional 15 Corpsmembers completed the second round of immersive wildland fire and forestry training. Participants gained hands-on experience in wildfire behavior, defensible space, fuels reduction, chainsaw operations, and the safe use of equipment including chippers, pole saws, and weed eaters, all under expert instruction emphasizing safety, maintenance, and best practices.

In addition to technical training, Corpsmembers received workforce development support such as resume building, interview preparation, and job placement assistance—helping translate their experience into meaningful employment opportunities in fire prevention and land stewardship.

Through this program, OCCC is preparing young adults for careers as forestry technicians, fuels crew members, and seasonal wildland firefighters, strengthening California’s capacity for fire resilience and environmental protection.

With each graduating cohort, OCCC moves closer to building safer communities, a stronger conservation workforce, and a more resilient environmental future.

Corpsmember Conservation Work Statistics

Natural Resources Department | July 2024-June 2025



2,150 Native Plants & Trees **Installed**



360 Miles of Public Road & Alleyways Maintained



135 Miles of Public Lands Maintained



180 Miles of Flood Control Channels Maintained



210 Acres of Invasive Vegetation Removed



1,250 Miles of Public Highways Cleaned



15 Corpsmembers S212 Chainsaw **Certified**



540,228 Pounds of Litter Removed From OC Highways

Corpsmember Conservation[🌿] Work Statistics

Recycling Department | July 2024-June 2025



453,336 Pounds of Beverage Containers Recycled



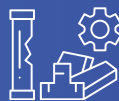
2,045 Pounds of Waste Tire Rims Recycled



65,808 Pounds of E-Waste Recycled



129 Used Oil Collection Centers Reviewed



6,420 Pounds of Scrap Metal Recycled



2,211 Abandoned Waste Tires Recycled



12,758 Customers Served at Our Recycling Center

Our Sponsors & Supporters



ALLAN COMPANY-RECYCLING
ANGELS BASEBALL FOUNDATION
BLACKBAUD GIVING
BRIGHT FUNDS
BUTTE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
CA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - CALRECYCLE
CAL MICRO RECYCLING
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL CONSERVATION CORPS
FOUNDATION
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION -
CAL FIRE
CALIFORNIA JOB CHALLENGE
CALIFORNIA RELIEF
CALTRANS
CARPENTER TRAINING PARTNERS
CHARITABLE VENTURES
CITY OF ANAHEIM
CITY OF BREA
CITY OF BUENA PARK
CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY
CITY OF FULLERTON
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY OF IRVINE
CITY OF LA HABRA
CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH
CITY OF MISSION VIEJO
CITY OF ORANGE
CITY OF SEAL BEACH
COASTKEEPERS
COMMUNICATIONS LAB
DISNEYLAND RESORTS
EL DORADO FOUNDATION
EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

ENTERPRISE BANK & TRUST
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL EAST ORANGE COUNTY CANYONS
FULLERTON ARBORETUM
HONDA CENTER
HUNTINGTON BEACH WETLANDS CONSERVANCY
JOHN MUIR CHARTER SCHOOL
LARRY & HELEN HOAG FOUNDATION
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT
NONPROFITS' UNITED
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY TASKFORCE
OC PARKS
OC PUBLIC WORKS
OC TRIAL LAWYERS CHARITIES
OLAUNU
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
PAINTED BRAIN
PEGGY DOUGHERTY & FAMILY
PROJECT KINSHIP
ROSE FOUNDATION
SANTA ANA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
SIMPLE GENEROSITY
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
SURFRIDER
UNION BANK
WASTE MANAGEMENT ORANGE COUNTY
WESCOM FOUNDATION

Financials Fiscal Year[🌿] Ending June 30, 2025



GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	\$4,561,069
FEE FOR SERVICE	\$2,151,106
OTHER	\$329,892
<hr/>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,042,067

PROGRAM SERVICES	\$6,001,497
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$593,582
<hr/>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$6,595,079

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$6,220,963
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$6,667,951
<hr/>	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$446,988



Orange County Conservation Corps
1853 N. Raymond Ave, Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 956-6222

occorgs.org 
info@occorgs.org 
OCConservationcorps 
@oc_corps 
@HireYouth 
Orange County Conservation Corps 