



## SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Final Hitch Report

### The Student Conservation Association in Partnership with The Durham Conservation Commission

Crew Leaders – Leslie Lopez and Courtney Dillon

#### Introduction:

From June 18 to June 28, 2019 a crew of six NH AmeriCorps members worked on Doe Farm conservation easement to complete two dimensional lumber bridges and two native timber boardwalks.

#### The Crew:

##### The crew members included:

1. Leslie Lopez
2. Courtney Dillon
3. Kelly Brigham
4. Charlie Ferens
5. Nathan Handley
6. Griffin Gansworth



This crew was led by SCA members Leslie Lopez of Ossining, New York and Courtney Dillon of Rindge, New Hampshire. Courtney graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and is interested in pursuing a career in conservation work. Leslie graduated with a bachelor's degree in geology and is interested in a career in water quality conservation.

#### Accomplishments:

Our hitch was located at Doe Farm conservation area in partnership with the Durham Conservation Commission in Durham, NH. We constructed (2) dimensional lumber bridges and (2) native timber boardwalks with lumber decking. The lumber bridges elevated the trail over seasonal water crossings and were blended into their respective locations with ramps to accommodate multiple user groups including bikes. This was considered a hybrid backcountry/front country hitch so we followed Leave No Trace principles in order to minimize our impact while camping for 11 days.

#### Project Summary:

##### 1 Mile of Trail Improved:

- (2) Spanning Lumber Bridges with Ramps Constructed, Totaling 55'
- (2) 20' Native Timber Boardwalks Constructed
- 122' of New Trail Blazed
- 311' of Trail Corridor Cleared
- Total Number of Crew Member Service Hours: 407
- Total Number of Crew Members: 6
- Total Number of SCA Conservation Coordinator Technical Support Hours: 7.5
- Total Number of SCA Crew Supervisor Technical Support Hours: 21.5
- Total Number of Service Hours: 436

### Crew Highlights:

We had many positive interactions with trail users and some folks passed by us daily on their routine walks. We enjoyed going to Wallis Sands beach on our day off and getting to see the Durham area. The food items brought to us during the hitch were a big highlight! It was very fulfilling getting all of the project work completed in the hitch. There were a few design changes, like the ramps, and we are very proud to have accomplished what we set out to do.

### Project Challenges:

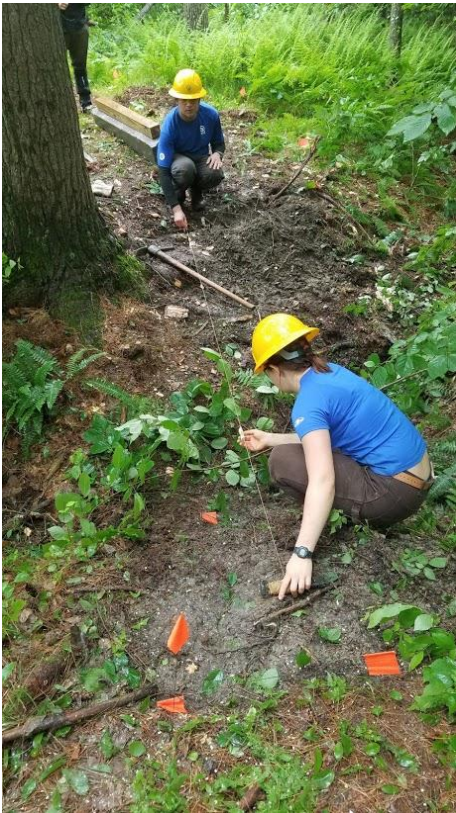
There weren't any major challenges, however weather played out differently than the forecast had shown so we were surprised when it did or didn't rain. The prevalence of poison ivy seemed like a challenge at first but it was manageable and none of us developed any reaction.

### Thank you:

Much appreciation and special thanks goes to Ellen Snyder, CEO of Ibis Wildlife Consulting, for being an incredibly supportive, attentive and hospitable partner. She was always readily available to answer any questions we had and was directly involved in the progress of our projects. Thank you to the Durham Conservation Commission for taking advantage of the SCA NH corps' call for projects. Also, an immense thank you to Sarah Wilson and her family for their hospitality and providing our team with a source of potable water. And lastly, thank you to our project coordinator Zach Colatch and supervisor David Graham for their continued support during this project.

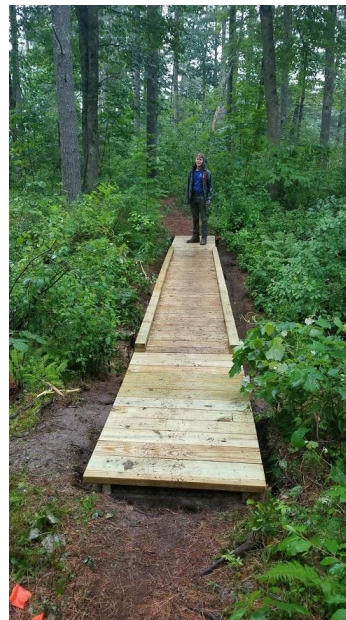
### Photos:

**Before**



**After**





The SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Program is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Since 1994, SCA NH AmeriCorps has provided nearly one million hours of service to the lands and people of New Hampshire. Each year, 30 full time volunteers contribute more than 50,000 service hours, providing environmental education programming to the state's residents and visitors, and completing conservation service projects that improve and protect the state's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.