



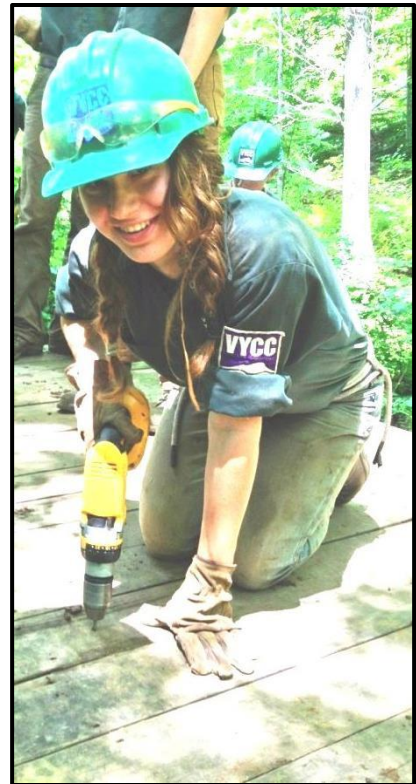
January 2, 2014

Jason Cooper  
Friends of the West River Trail  
138 Elliot Street, Suite 3  
Brattleboro, VT 05305

Dear Jason and Friends of the West River Trail,

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' (VYCC) partnership with the Friends of the West River Trail was a wonderful three week trail maintenance and construction project for the VYCC to support our mission to teach individuals to take personal responsibility for all their actions. The VYCC's crew, *Summer 7*, was made up of two experienced and well-trained Crew Leaders and eight motivated 18-24 year old Corps Members. Throughout the season, this vibrant crew garnered a reputation as a healthy, balanced, fun, creative, energetic and determined group of young adults.

At the core of our partnership was the enrollment of eligible youth in the VYCC's highly respected work-based learning program. These youth represented a wide variety of socio-economic and educational backgrounds. Through the encouragement and guidance of their Crew Leaders, members of the crew faced the challenges of group living, enhanced communication skills and learned to work together to achieve spectacular results all the while becoming closer with one another throughout the process. During this time, they worked on high-priority projects, planned and cooked meals together, engaged in educational activities such as the Writing, Reading, and Discussion (WoRD) program, and recreated together. The experience as a whole taught valuable job skills as well as essential interpersonal skills that they will be able to look back on and utilize in their future professional development.



"It's all about taking initiative!" ~Gray Barrett, *Summer 7 Corps Member*



During *Summer 7's* time on the West River Trail the crew benefited greatly from your presence and support at the worksite. Your reliable communication with the crew was helpful and the project assistance you provided by hauling rocks with an ATV and trailer was instrumental in the success of the project. Your connections with members of the community brought excitement, support, and education to the crew, which gave the crew motivation and a sense of accomplishment for their work. Your involvement on this project continued a successful collaboration between the VYCC and the Friends of the West River Trail for the overall betterment of the Trail and surrounding communities.

The crew had many opportunities to learn from you, their Crew Leaders, and the work itself. The exposure to a variety of tools enabled Corps Members and Crew Leaders alike to leave the experience with an assortment of new skills while completing high-priority trail improvements. These improvements included a bridge reconstruction, trail maintenance and trash removal, and the construction of a new spur trail. The crew reconstructed an 11-foot bridge using recycled materials and lashed railings. On a five mile section of the trail, work included the installation of culverts and wooden sign posts, as well as the removal of tires, large car parts, and a shed. North of the Rice Farm road, the crew cleared vegetation and constructed a new half mile section of trail.

Of the several projects *Summer 7* completed this season, many members noted that they felt most accomplished after their time on the West River Trail. The VYCC views this project as a huge success. It was a wonderful opportunity for young adults to learn the technical skills involved in building a bridge and in creating a positive experience for trail users.

What follows is a detailed list of work completed by *Summer 7* on the West River Trail this summer and a crew photo.

Summary of Service	
Service Hours	960
Crew Leaders Employed	2
Corps Members Employed	8
Crew Weeks	3

Work Completed	Number	Amount/Quantity
Bridges Constructed	1	11 feet
Drainage Structure Installed	8	-
Culverts Installed	7	-
Grade Reversals Installed	1	-
Dry Stack Columns	4	-
Dry Stack Wall	1	-
Signs Installed	8	-
Trails Constructed	1	2,640 feet
Turnpiking Installed	5	188 feet
Trash Removed:		
Large Car Parts	-	25 pieces
Shed	1	-
Tires	1	-

### *2013 Vermont Youth Conservation Corps* **Summer 7**

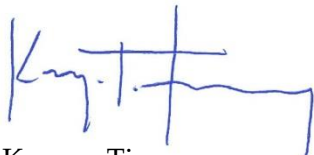


*Summer 7* From Left to Right: (front row) Gray Barrett, Roslyn Peters, Zach Sullivan, Amelia Barton, (second row) Dylan Berger, Nicholas Martiros, Emma Rubalcava, Kate Stevens, (back) Brittany Kusserow (Crew Leader) and Alec Harris (Crew Leaders)

The funding for the crew time on this project was supported through the VYCC's partnership with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. Thanks again for your commitment to working with the VYCC. Your support was instrumental in the success of our crews this summer and provided a positive experience for young people in Vermont. We look forward to working with the Friends of the West River in 2014.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keegan Tierney', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Keegan Tierney  
Director of Operations