
OEC NEWSLETTER

Official publication of the Onondaga Earth Corps

Summer Program Comes to a Close

BY ALEX COLEMAN-GRIDLEY

As Onondaga Earth Corps' summer program nears its end, we can take a chance to look back on how much we have accomplished over the past season. The 30+ youth and young adults who took part in the program have given back to the community by cleaning up trash from the streets, removing invasive species for our parks, and gaining service experience that they will be able to carry with them for their future endeavors!

We eagerly look forward to the end-of-season banquet, which will be held on Friday, August 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Vision Center on 1221 South Salina St. in Syracuse. The banquet serves not only as a celebration of the end of the season, but as a chance for the OEC team to take a step back and look at how much hard work we have accomplished together over the past months.

In this edition of the newsletter, readers can learn more about our accomplishments over the summer, including a clean-up at Schiller Park, a project in the Adirondacks performed by the Advanced Young Adult crew, and a couple of OEC Fundraisers being held by supportive community members.

Upcoming Events:

OEC Summer Banquet

August 16, 2019
from 6:30pm-8pm
@ The Vision Center
1221 S. Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
An end-of-season celebration of service

The Famous Michel Brunch!

October 9, 2019
from 11am-2pm
@ 185 Brookside Lane
Fayetteville, NY 13066
Hosted by Jackie Michel
An OEC Fundraiser and meet and greet

Encore!

November 9, 2019
from 6pm-9pm
Save the Date
Syracuse, NY
Hosted by OEC Volunteers
Annual OEC Fundraising Event



The crew explores the woods during summer orientation at the 4H Environmental Education Center in Amboy, NY

AYA Crew Takes on the Adirondacks

BY TAVEON STENSON

The Advanced Young Adult Crew spent three weeks in Old Forge in the Adirondacks on a National Grid Tree Assessment Project with Nelson Tree Company. We shadowed three different trained OPCs (one person crews) over 20 miles of power lines (on & off-road) daily. We learned how to properly assess and mark trees that pose a hazard to the power lines. During our training, we learned how to use iPad based software that kept track of the 600+ marked trees on this project. Between the months of September and October, we will be returning to the Adirondacks to shadow tree crews scheduled to cut the trees we marked this summer.

Here's what the crew members had to say about the project:

Shane Fuller: "My experience in Old Forge took me out of my comfort zone having me be away from home. At the same time this was a great opportunity for me to learn skills that most people don't get a chance to go and do. I learned how to identify the native Adirondack trees and how to identify if they will or are hazardous to the service wires. I learned a lot about the different people we worked with and how they ended up in the field they are in now. After this experience I have gained valuable skills that will help me in the future."

Victor Reeder: "My experience in Old Forge has brought out a significant amount of perspectives towards my life. Honestly, I love getting trained on new things that I haven't learned yet on how to do. I respect the quote teach a man how to fish and he can eat for a lifetime. I was out there in a totally different atmosphere away from home."

Schiller Park Clean-up

BY BEN LOISELLE

One of the many projects that OEC youth crews participated in this summer was an invasive species removal project in Schiller Park. Crews cleared buckthorn from approximately 25,000 square feet of steep hillside.

This project was a great introduction to invasive species for the crews, who were able to work alongside representatives from the Syracuse City Parks Department, SUNY ESF, the Syracuse Parks Conservancy, and other organizations. Crews learned about the history of the park, how to identify and remove buckthorn, and how to properly handle various tools.

The project culminated in a work day with 100 youth and young adults from PEACE, as well as a visit from State Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and meet and greet with Mayor Ben Walsh and County Legislator Peggy Chase. Several youth crew members were also filmed and interviewed by news outlets reporting on the project.



AYAs Shane (l) and Victor (r) in Old Forge, NY

Summer Orientation at the 4H Center

BY ALEX COLEMAN-GRIDLEY

Youth and Young Adults in OEC's summer program got a taste of the great outdoors with a two-day camping trip to the 4-H Environmental Education Center in Amboy, NY. During this retreat, the crew members had a chance to combine service and learning, gaining valuable outdoor skills while giving back to the environment through teamwork-based service. The OEC Crew cleaned nearly two miles of hiking trails for their service project, in addition to learning skills like how to pitch tents and start campfires. (And roast marshmallows!)

For the service project, OEC Crews were split up into various teams to work on different sections of the trails. Trash along the trails were picked up and brush that had grown onto the path were cleared to ensure that future campers could enjoy the woods as we did!

In one of our most memorable excursions, crews took a hike led by 4H coordinator Linda Brosch, to a nearby pond to catch fauna living in the pond. Everyone also had a chance to interact with critters including snakes, toads, and dragonflies. Overall, the experience was valuable in establishing camaraderie among the new crew members, giving everyone a chance to work together and bond in a place with limited cell reception!

Past Events:

Schiller Park Clean-up

August 13, 2019 @ Schiller Park, Syracuse, NY



Adopt-A-Block w/ SUNY EOC

March 21, 2019 @ Marriott Hotel in Syracuse, NY



Adopt-A-Block on the Northside

March 21, 2019 @ Marriott Hotel in Syracuse, NY



Christina (l) and Jim Mott (r) after a race

Let's #Run4OEC!

BY YVONNE CHU

Onondaga Earth Corps Board Member, Christina Leigh Docteur has been running for OEC to help raise money and spread awareness of the mission of the organization. So far she has completed three runs and plans to run many more leading up to a marathon in November. Fellow OEC supporters have joined her in her efforts by running and sharing the OEC fundraising page. Her goal is to raise \$4,700.

If you would like to support Christina and OEC, please visit www.onondagaeearthcorps.org/run4oec or search "Run 4 OEC" on Facebook, to check out, donate, and share her story!

OEC Announces Bottle Bonanza Kick-Off

BY PIETER KEESE

Onondaga Earth Corps is pleased to announce a new and easy way to donate to the organization! Redeem your returnable bottles and cans to one of our new redemption center partners. Designate the proceeds of your redemption to OEC and they will credit our account for that amount.

Visit one of the following conveniently located redemption partners. Remember to designate donations to Onondaga Earth Corps:

F-M Returnables

**202 West Seneca Street
Manlius, New York 13104**

Express Bottle Return

**2312 Erie Blvd East
Syracuse, New York 13244 (Mention Onondaga
Earth Corps or recipient #8)**

Papa Cans and Bottle Return

**1421 W. Genesee St. (near Erie Blvd
intersection)
Syracuse, New York 13204**

**Bottle and Can Retrieval Center (next to Dollar
General)**

**2956 E. Genesee St.
Syracuse, New York 13224**

Thank you for your efforts to support this great organization!

For questions comments or concerns, contact

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ABOUT THE ONONDAGA EARTH CORPS

When the Eli MacDonald Green Team was restructured in 2005 as the Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) for local communities, OEC was formed to:

- Help youth understand the relationship between people and the urban ecosystem
- Engage youth in hands-on community and environmental service learning projects
- Train youth for future jobs and careers in environmental fields
- Empower youth by developing their leadership abilities that help them analyze situations, solve problems and implement strategies to improve their communities