

# GREEN CORPS

SUMMER REPORT 2021

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## 🌱 ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

### ORGANIZERS BUILD SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING 30% OF NATURE BY 2030

Currently, only 12 percent of our nation's lands are protected, and every 30 seconds, we lose about a football field's worth of nature in areas without protection. What's more, human activity has severely altered three-fourths of the planet's lands and significantly altered two-thirds of the ocean. In order to solve climate change and reverse the decline of America's wildlife, waterways and natural places, scientists are urging us to conserve at least 30 percent of our lands and oceans by 2030.

The good news is that 86 percent of American voters support setting a national goal of protecting 30 percent of our lands and oceans by 2030. To harness that public support for tangible change, The Wilderness Society hired Green Corps in the spring of 2021 to make sure key elected officials got the message loud and clear that their constituents want them to protect our planet.

Four Green Corps organizers hit the ground running, organizing remotely from their homes across the country in key states such as Colorado, Arizona and Nevada. Organizer Noah Offenkrantz made connections with community lead-

ers in Arizona, networked online to find the key environmental players in the state, and recruited volunteers on campuses from Phoenix to Flagstaff. Four weeks later, he turned out more than 80 people to his campaign kickoff meeting, who were excited to convince U.S. Sens. Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly to support the "30x30" platform.

Noah trained up those volunteers to run the campaign, and in just a few weeks, they submitted 28 letters to the editor, with 16 published across the state, and recruited more than 200 people to make calls into Sen. Sinema's and Sen. Kelly's offices about the campaign. Noah also spearheaded the development of a coalition of environmental and tribal groups in Arizona that will continue to collaborate on this campaign into the future. Thanks to Noah's work, both senators responded with clear support of 30x30 and introduced additional legislation to protect the Grand Canyon region in March. Their support of the 30x30 target, along with that of senators from other western states, will lead to long-lasting protections for public lands and oceans for generations to come.



Green Corps Organizer Noah Offenkrantz (top, second from the left) facilitates a kickoff meeting with more than 80 Arizonans for The Wilderness Society's 30x30 campaign to protect 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

## YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

As we head into what will hopefully be the last stage of the global pandemic, I can't help but reflect on the creativity, adaptability and perseverance Green Corps organizers demonstrated this past year. They began Green Corps training last

August on Zoom, not knowing exactly what this year would bring but determined to learn the skills of grassroots organizing. On campaigns to protect pollinators, public lands and oceans, they put those skills to use while engaging hundreds of volunteers virtually across the country.

Though this year was challenging in many ways, we at Green Corps are taking away valuable lessons learned, new approaches and tactical innovations that will enhance our face-to-face campaign work for years to come. Thank you for your enduring support on that journey.

Sincerely,

*Annie Sanders*



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### SARAH STARMAN, GC'19



Courtesy of Patty Cervole

## ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION

Since graduating from Green Corps two years ago, Sarah has been working for

the Endangered Species Coalition, a national nonprofit that uses education, civic engagement and grassroots organizing to protect our nation's at-risk species and safeguard the Endangered Species Act.

Throughout her three Green Corps campaigns in Maine, Iowa and Pennsylvania, Sarah developed a passion for training others and developing leadership. Now, as the national grassroots organizer at Endangered Species Coalition, she runs a training and mentorship program for people who want to learn more about grassroots organizing and make an impact in their communities. Sarah is not only using the skills she learned in Green Corps every day, but is also passing them on to a new generation of organizers. Sarah also manages an annual nationwide lobby day that engages hundreds of citizens each year and sends a powerful message to elected officials about the importance of wildlife.



Courtesy of Christina Diebold

Sarah (right) talking to people in Bangor, Maine, during her Green Corps year about protecting the Atlantic Coast from offshore drilling expansions.



## Training the next generations of environmental organizers

Help train future generations of environmental organizers by including a gift to Green Corps in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For information, call (800) 841-7299, or email [plannedgiving@greencorps.org](mailto:plannedgiving@greencorps.org).

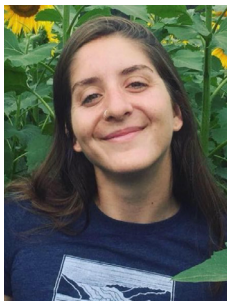


# FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### RIANNA ECKEL, GC'16



Courtesy of Rianna Eckel

## FOOD & WATER WATCH

Rianna Eckel recently joined Food & Water Watch's national organizing team, where she will be spearheading the organization's national organizing efforts to ensure everyone has access to safe and affordable public water.

Rianna first worked with Food & Water Watch as a Green Corps organizer on campaigns in Colorado and New York. After her Green Corps year, she joined Food & Water Watch as an organizer in Baltimore. She built on her Green Corps skills to form the Baltimore Right to Water Coalition, which has worked to pass a comprehensive water affordability ordinance, stop the practice of water shutoffs, ban the selling of people's homes because of unaffordable water bills, block privatization attempts and pass a referendum making Baltimore the first major city in the country to ban water privatization.

Rianna started working on national campaigns at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing to pass a national moratorium on water and other utility shutoffs. In her new role, she will be working to pass the WATER Act to restore

funding to our water infrastructure. Rianna also gets to work in coalition with two Green Corps classmates, which she says is "the best."



Courtesy of Jackie Ellison

Rianna speaks at a press conference urging the Baltimore City Council to pass comprehensive water affordability legislation at the release of the NAACP LDF's report, 'Water/Color'—highlighting the disproportionate water burden on Black and Brown communities.

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## SUMMER REPORT 2021

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## MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2021



### NOAH OFFENKRANTZ



Noah Offenkrantz graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, where he majored in global health and the environment.

As a Goldman Fellow, Noah studied civic, not-for-profit and government engagement in the St. Louis area. He participated in a small business initiative in Madagascar and did a study abroad program in Jaipur, India, studying opportunities for a sustainable global future. Noah was also an executive team intern with Rare, conducting an in-depth investment analysis of 28 companies that utilize behavior change tactics to lower greenhouse gas emissions.



### SONIA KLEIN



Sonia Klein attended Colorado College, where she studied environmental science. Sonia served as a Climate Reality Project chair

member, working to shut down a city coal power plant, and worked with the Fountain Valley Water Project, studying PFAS and environmental justice issues. She also worked as a monitor at the climbing gym on campus, a food access consultant with the Quad Innovation Partnership, coordinator of urban school gardens with the Green Village Initiative, and was a Solarize the Springs campaign intern with Environment Colorado.



### THOMAS PETERSON



Thomas Peterson graduated from Harvard University in 2018, where he studied history & literature and theater, dance & media. In college,

Thomas was a board member, director and actor with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, after which he spent a year on the Harvard Williams-Lodge Scholarship studying theatrical representations of the climate crisis at the Sorbonne in Paris. Thomas also worked as an artistic associate with the Arctic Cycle and Climate Change Theatre Action, a global art activism initiative commissioning short plays for hundreds of productions around the world.