

PRESS RELEASE

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SONOMA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARES MAY 14TH CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY DAY

Less than a year after Conservation Corps North Bay's expansion into Sonoma County from its successful operation in Marin, the Sonoma Board of Supervisors have declared May 14th as Conservation Corps North Bay Day.

The CCNB program is based on the highly effective corps model, which has provided promising futures for more than nine million young people nationwide with conservation jobs, education, training and a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves.

Ever since gang activity in the county started rising a few years ago, Sonoma County leaders have sought CCNB's advice and expertise on how to build a successful youth corps like the one they pioneered in Marin.

It took years to find the resources, but a grant from the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling, to expand their program provided the perfect opportunity to start up CCNB's Community Recycling and Natural Resource Management program in Sonoma. The program has already changed the lives of dozens of local at risk youth.

Celebrating the very first Conservation Corps North Bay Day, CCNB will be co-sponsoring "Taking Root: Celebrating Community at Bayer Farm." Everyone is invited to help out in an organic, community garden. There will also be snacks, activities and a

live performance by the Imaginists. The event will be from 2:00 – 5:00pm on Friday, May 14 at Bayer Farm at 1550 West Avenue in Santa Rosa.

A few key facts about CCNB:

Conservation Corps North Bay was established in 1982 as America's first local conservation corps and is a national leader in the local corps movement. The mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a strong, sustainable community.

For the past 28 years, CCNB has helped thousands of young people break the cycle of poverty, while improving local parklands and communities, cultivating strong environmental leaders, and promoting environmental sustainability

Since its inception, CCNB organization has improved the lives of more than 5,000 youth while performing more than three million hours of work on 150,000 acres of public lands.

CCNB corpsmembers help reduce fire/flood hazards, construct/maintain trails, restore riparian/wildlife habitat, and collect more than 145 tons of recyclable materials annually.

To learn more about CCNB, visit www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org.