

JULY 2020



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WISCORPS

In Memory of Anthony Fimple



Anthony Fimple was "as golden as they come." That's what one of our coworkers said when he told us the devastating news of Anthony's passing. Anthony's experience at WisCorps included being a Mayor's Crew member, a Mayor's Crew leader, and a facility event person. He enjoyed talking to all his coworkers, and he was always respectful and smiling. Other coworkers said "Anthony was always kind and open and willing to learn. He was funny and always willing to be flexible. He inspired us to work harder and be better!"

Anthony truly embodied the spirit of WisCorps. He worked to develop leadership and self-confidence. While at WisCorps, he helped our communities and protected our natural resources. Anthony was in a great place and full of potential, so yes he was "golden." His golden spirit was also evident in the fact that he had joined the US Navy to serve his country. His final gift as an organ donor will enable others to reach their full potential which also demonstrates how truly a good person he was.

We, at WisCorps, are full of sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anthony's family and friends during this sad time.



In this Issue:

- Myrick Park Center Update
- 2020 Environmental Education Summer Camps Update
- Thank You for Your Support
- The Mayors Crew
- WisCorps Demonstration Garden



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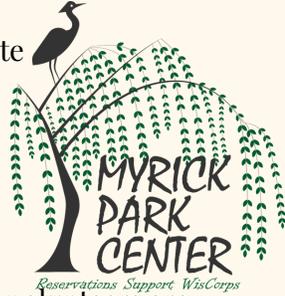
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Myrick Park Center Update

We are currently in Phase II of our reopening. Myrick Park Center is open for scheduled reservations with additional safety policies and protocol in place.

We continue to offer scheduled on-site or virtual tours of the facility for weddings and events. Environmental Education programming is determining whether or not programs will be held on-site each week, based on current COVID-19 updates in La Crosse County. Garden volunteers are working hard outside to keep the landscape healthy and beautiful and AmeriCorps members are growing produce in the WisCorps demonstration garden. WisCorps offices and Myrick Park Center remain closed to the public while headquarters staff continue to work a mix of both on-site and remotely. Front Desk, Events, and Cleaning staff remain impacted by our limited on-site operation.



WisCorps continues to closely monitor the changing situation of COVID-19 and our prevention and response plans are evolving accordingly. For full details on Myrick Park Center updates due to COVID-19, visit myrickparkcenter.org. We are committed to doing our part to combat this and promote the health and wellbeing of our community. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support to WisCorps through your Myrick Park Center reservation, participation in our programs, or any connection that you may have with us, especially during this challenging moment in history. We are truly grateful for you.

WisCorps Demonstration Garden Flourishing!

The hot, humid weather might be undesirable for people, but our summer fruits and veggies are thriving in it! Last week, the potato plants were attacked by potato beetle larvae. AmeriCorps members, Dave and Erika, with help from the Mayor's crew members, used a few organic methods to battle the infestation. They hand-picked the beetles off and then dusted the plants with diatomaceous earth, a naturally occurring, soft, siliceous sedimentary rock that works by causing insects to dry out and die by absorbing the oils and fats from the cuticle of the insect's exoskeleton. If you haven't stopped by the garden in a while, come by and check out what's growing, it's amazing to see what changes in just a few days!



2020 Environmental Education Summer Camps

WisCorps' Environmental Education Team was able to offer summer day camps again for the week of July 20 - 24. Paws and Claws, for ages 3 - 5, offered campers a chance to learn about many different animals and have fun outdoors. WisCorps has added some safety measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 based on the guidelines from the CDC, the state of WI and La Crosse County Health Dept. Check in and pick up for the camp will happen at the front door/south side of the building so that only the small group of campers and nature teachers will be in the building. Also, we are providing fun face coverings for the children that they will decorate and make their own on the first day and then wear for the week of the camp when they are at camp. Unfortunately, due to the fact that La Crosse County Health Dept has stated as of this Wed July 22 that there is a severe risk of spread of Covid-19 we are cancelling the camp for the week of July 29. We hope to continue camps in August. We will make decisions about the continuation of our summer day camp programs on the Wednesday of the week before the following week.



The Mayors Crew

The Mayor's Crew concentrates on conducting projects in the La Crosse community. For many of the members between the ages of 16 and 18, this is their first paid job. They learn a variety of job and life skills that prepare them for their future employment.

Our Mayor's Crew has been busy this summer. They have completed many projects including installing a bio-retention basin, trail maintenance, invasive species removal with Friends of the Blufflands, weeding and trash removal in local La Crosse community parks, constructing container gardens and insect hotels, and providing support to local food and community programs like the Kane Street Garden and GROW La Crosse. Crew members are also gardening, installing pathways, repairing fences, and painting for senior homeowners and for those with disabilities.

The 2020 Mayor's Crew members include: Crew leaders Rachel Ellis, Dane DeVetter, Ashley Nowack, and crew members Nick Duncanson, Will Cambio, Ocean Cereda-Reyes, Thomas Flottmeyer, Rebecca Ickes, Montgomery Jacobs, Derek Lenser, Rudy Mattie, Trent Prew, Joseph Savoldelli, Sterling Solberg, and Ashanti Southall.



Thank You!

Thank you for supporting WisCorps!

We want to extend a sincere thank you to our donors who have made donations to us the past four months. Your support during this trying time means the world to us and we want you to know how much we appreciate your gifts. In addition to individual gifts, we have received grant support from funders who have pivoted to provide support for expenses related to providing programs during the pandemic.

Normally, people need to itemize their tax deductions, as opposed to taking the standard deduction, to be able to deduct charitable donations from their income.

The CARES Act changes that by giving taxpayers the opportunity to deduct up to \$300 in charitable donations from their 2020 income even if they don't itemize deductions. That makes this a great time to support WisCorps by sending us a cash donation.

"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known." - Carl Sagan



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