



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2025

AmeriCorps Termination Affecting Multiple Organizations in the Chippewa Valley

At 10:00 AM on Monday, April 28, 2025, Beaver Creek Reserve received an email from Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) AmeriCorps that the Community Corps and Recovery Corps programs were terminated as of Friday, April 25. It began:

“Marshfield Clinic received word this morning (4/28/25) that our AmeriCorps programs: Community Corps and Recovery Corps have been terminated effective Friday, April 25th per 2 CFR 200.340 (a)(4). It has been determined that our awards no longer support governmental agencies’ priorities. You must immediately cease all member and host site activities. This is a final agency action and is not administratively appealable.”

The message went on to say that all members must turn in all host site equipment and return home.

Beaver Creek Reserve is one of five MCHS AmeriCorps host sites in the Chippewa Valley to receive this notification. The Chippewa Valley Museum, both a valuable community partner and Triple Play Membership partner of Beaver Creek Reserve, also had a full-time AmeriCorps Program Assistant. The Museum’s Program Assistant helped recruit and train new volunteers and assisted with programs. The Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes (GSNWGL) lost seven members, two who serve in Eau Claire. Beaver Creek Reserve has partnered with the MCHS AmeriCorps program since 2015 and currently hosts six full-time AmeriCorps Community Corps members: four Environmental Educators, one Volunteer Coordinator, and one Avian Field Technician. These six members account for 33% of the organization’s staff of 18. All MCHS AmeriCorps host sites paid \$6,000 for each full-time AmeriCorps member. For Beaver Creek Reserve, this meant \$36,000 was paid to MCHS in the fall of 2024 for the 2024-2025 service term. By terminating this contract seven months into the term, host sites will be without their members and out the cost to host them with no proration.

The impact of this termination is significant. Over the next four months of their scheduled term, Beaver Creek Reserve’s AmeriCorps members were expected to support:

- More than 13,600 walk-in visitors annually
- 33 Summer Camps and 1,173 campers
- 40 Spring Field Trips and 1,904 students
- 10 Summer Field Trips
- An anticipated 30 Fall Field Trips
- 65 Educational Programs (public programs and Earth Talks)
- Butterfly Fest with 500-600 attendees
- Native Plant Sale, Beaver Creek’s largest fundraiser and volunteer-supported event
- Butterfly House which welcomes 8,000 visitors between July 5-August 31



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- Over 780 volunteers and 29 volunteer projects annually
- 10 state and nation-wide Citizen Science research projects

Beaver Creek Reserve's Executive Director, Erik Keisler says, "AmeriCorps has seen increases in funding in every administration including President Trump's first term. AmeriCorps has a high return on investment in all areas of programming, so we saw this as a safe program to invest in that would help Beaver Creek expand our mission while keeping costs fixed as the organization grew. AmeriCorps has been a highly efficient program for real world skill development and training, and it has had wide support as a bipartisan program. That makes these cuts even more shocking, and they will have far-reaching and long-term consequences. Communication between the federal government, the MCHS AmeriCorps program, and their host sites is still unclear at this time. Our members served all day on Saturday, and reported to their host site on Monday and were then informed that their service was terminated on Friday after a full day of serving their community."

Terminating the MCHS AmeriCorps Community Corps program will require significant private, local, and state resources to continue programs and services once supported by AmeriCorps. For Beaver Creek Reserve, this means fundraising an additional \$75,000 to pay the wages, insurance and remaining educational awards so its six former AmeriCorps members can finish out their 12-month terms begun in September 2024. Chippewa Valley Museum will need an unbudgeted \$11,000 if it is to hire its AmeriCorps member for the remainder of the 2024-2025 year. Next year, Beaver Creek Reserve will need to raise an additional \$195,000 if it is to offer the same level of services and programs as this year. School field trips, Butterfly House, Citizen Science research projects, and summer camps will all be greatly reduced and/or eliminated if the six former AmeriCorps positions are not filled.

Beaver Creek Reserve is seeking financial support from their visitors, members, and community partners to cover these unexpected costs at this time, as well as future costs as they plan to hire internally for the next contracted term without AmeriCorps. Please donate to Beaver Creek Reserve's Annual Mission Fund on their website:

<https://beavercreekreserve.doubleknot.com/donate/annual-mission-fund/2877978>

For more information about the impact of AmeriCorps in Wisconsin, please visit:

<https://americorps.gov/national-service-report/wi>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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