



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

August 27, 2010

This week it was announced that the Corps has been named “Organization of the Year” by the California Invasive Plant Council and will be honored at their annual symposium on October 13-16 in Ventura!

Celebrating 25 Years!

As September quickly approaches, our corpsmembers are preparing for the start of a new school year. For some, this will be their first semester in college and a new phase of their journey towards a successful future. Cornell Gardner participated in the Clean & Green program working on projects in LA City Council District 14 such as removing graffiti, cleaning alleys, litter abatement, gardening, recycling, and weed removal. He also participated in financial literacy and drug prevention workshops. “I enjoyed working for Clean & Green this summer – meeting new friends and making a difference in my community. I’m starting college in September and the money I earned will help me with school expenses,” said Cornell, who will be attending Cal State LA in the Fall. Let’s wish all of our LA Conservation Corps family good luck with the upcoming school year!



Clean & Green member Cornell Gardner

Corpsmember Development

This week, 20 Corpsmembers completed the Los Angeles City College work readiness training. Corpsmembers earned certificates in both work readiness and customer service, after completing 32 hours of training in workplace behavior, resume building and interview skills, and the ins and outs of customer service. Corpsmembers also completed a group project developing a collage that illustrated many of the themes that were discussed during the week.



Corpsmembers completing their work readiness training



Corpsmembers receive their work readiness certificates

Young Adult Corps

The Obregon Park Photovoltaic installation is moving along at a smooth pace, despite a complex and very technical attachment method that is required. Our corpsmembers have been drilling into the concrete roofs of the Gymnasium and Pool buildings with precision and skill. Now that the toughest part of the install is complete, the rack system and PV modules have been going in quickly. A public Grand Opening will be held in mid-September, so look out for more details to come in the next couple of weeks!



Corpsmembers install photovoltaic panels at Obregon Park

The Corps has been selected to receive an EDD Green Innovation Challenge grant for a new water conservation job training program. The LA Water Efficiency Workforce Development Program is a collaboration with four other nonprofit organizations and the SEIU Training Center. This 2 year program will allow the Corps to train approximately 75 participants in smart irrigation, native landscaping, rainwater capture systems, and ground water recharge with an anticipated start date of January 2011.

This week the East LA crews have been busy:

- Pulling out invasive plants (Spanish Broom) in the Angeles National Forest – some of which had roots up to 1-2 feet in width!
- Completing the installation of the main irrigation line for the CalTrans project in blistering hot Diamond Bar
- Cutting and removing 4500 square feet of asphalt at Westminster Elementary to expand its community garden, which will be completed by early next week (pictured below)

