



## The positive impact

of the Sequoia Community Corps (SCC) is evident at many levels. Results are as wide ranging as a healthier, cleaner environment, assisting the state in reaching its recycling goals, to helping young people succeed in a critical stage in their lives - can all be directly credited to the SCC.

The SCC is a project of Community Services & Employment Training, Inc., a private nonprofit corporation, serving Tulare County for over 30 years. The SCC has been successfully operating in Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties for the past 21 years and has provided over 4,000 young adults with valuable job training and educational opportunities. In addition, the SCC assists local agencies and businesses in meeting critical needs of the community such as park development, construction of low-income family housing, electronic waste collection and collection of cans, plastics and bottles in local recreation areas.

Environmental Awareness Conservation and environmental stewardship are key components of the SCC. Corpsmembers learn



essential career skills, develop leadership qualities, and become environmental stewards. These young women and men:

- ◆ Maintain and service recycling containers throughout Tulare County and surrounding recreation areas including Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.
- ◆ Provide classroom-based recycling education to K-12 students.
- ◆ Learn public speaking, marketing, and teaching skills.
- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs, install irrigation systems, and learn all phases of park construction.
- ◆ Gain valuable work experience in recycling, construction, home weatherization and conservation related work projects.

## Corpsmember Benefits

- ◆ Paid job training
- ◆ Opportunity to earn high school diploma
- ◆ Leadership development
- ◆ Support services including food, shelter, and utility assistance
- ◆ Character development
- ◆ Scholarships for higher education
- ◆ Life skills including personal finance, healthy lifestyles, and career preparation
- ◆ Access to technology including use of computers, a global positioning system, and energy-efficient electric vehicles



## Customer Benefits

In partnership with county, cities and private organizations, the SCC contributes to the vitality of the community and its economy. At the same time, corpsmembers gain valuable skills and work experiences through a variety of projects.

### Recycling Activities

With funding through the Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling, the SCC has built an infrastructure that promotes and provides convenient recycling of beverage containers throughout Tulare County and surrounding mountain recreation areas including Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The SCC has placed over 650 collection receptacles at local schools, hospitals, bars and restaurants, in city and county parks, and at gas stations and convenience stores.

Our corpsmembers are responsible for servicing all containers in a timely and efficient manner, operating a full-time Goshen Recycling Center, three buyback centers and educating thousands of K-12 students about recycling in schools and at SCICON, an outdoor science and conservation camp.

### Construction Trades

Prepare for good jobs in the construction industry through programs such as YouthBuild and the Construction Trades Training Partnership. Gain hands-on training in public works projects, industrial work, and residential housing construction. Corpsmembers are trained in cement, framing, electrical, plumbing, finish carpentry, and other skills.

Partners include Self-Help Enterprises, Tulare County Redevelopment, Home Builders Association and Woodard Homes. Corpsmembers earn equipment **certifications** for bobcat, boomlift, backhoe and forklift. Many graduates

go on to work in construction related jobs.

### Weatherization and Energy-Efficient Programs

These programs provide free weatherization services to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in Tulare County. Weatherization services may include the installation of air conditioner vent covers, attic venting, floor and ceiling insulation, low-flow showerheads, weather stripping, water heater blankets, caulking, filter replacements, pipe wrap, and shade screens.

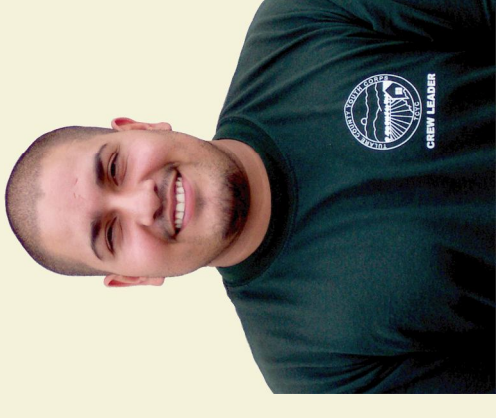


SCC corpsmembers attend specialized training that prepares them to provide quality services. A SCC certified supervisor works with corpsmembers, who are responsible for improving over 2,500 homes. These services reduce monthly energy bills, ensure safe carbon monoxide levels, and make homes more comfortable and energy efficient.

### E-Recycling Solutions

E-Recycling Solutions is a social enterprise of CSET. We provide an environmentally safe and convenient solution to dispose of obsolete and unwanted electronics.

## Daniel Garudiola



22 years old  
SCC Charter School Alumnus

Meet Daniel Garudiola, SCC team leader. Daniel didn't come to the corps as a leader. He came as a gang member, drug abuser, and a young man on his way to nowhere.

Daniel came to SCC's Junior Corps program at age 16. Instead of languishing in bed until 11:00 every morning, he was expected to rise at 6:00 and be at work by 7:00 - and he did it. He was expected to work toward his high school diploma - and he earned it. He was expected to give up on gangs - he now has friends who used to be rival gang members. He was expected to make something of himself. Today, Daniel is an employee with D. L. Walton Construction and Engineering.

*"The Corps helped me discover things about myself that I didn't even know I had. I began to respect myself as a person, which helped me become a leader. Other corpsmembers followed the example I set."*