

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Serve Idaho

To inspire and recognize volunteers and empower communities through service and AmeriCorps to address Idaho's unmet needs.



# ALUMNI FEATURE

## Amanda Gardner

Amanda Gardner embarked on her AmeriCorps journey as a member of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Maine, where she creatively connected communities to the trail through programs like Hike and Harmonize. After managing a National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team to build trails and contributing to various community events, Amanda moved to Idaho and assumed the role of AmeriCorps VISTA Lead at the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force. In this position, she honed her skills in program and member management, propelling her professional growth. Amanda, now the Executive Director at the White Clouds Preserve, leads conservation efforts, hosts AmeriCorps teams and collaborates with Serve Idaho on developing a conservation-focused AmeriCorps program, showcasing her dedication to community service.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

- Muhammad Ali

## AmeriCorps impact across Idaho

- 95 AmeriCorps host sites.
- 326 AmeriCorps members served.

# MEMBER FEATURE



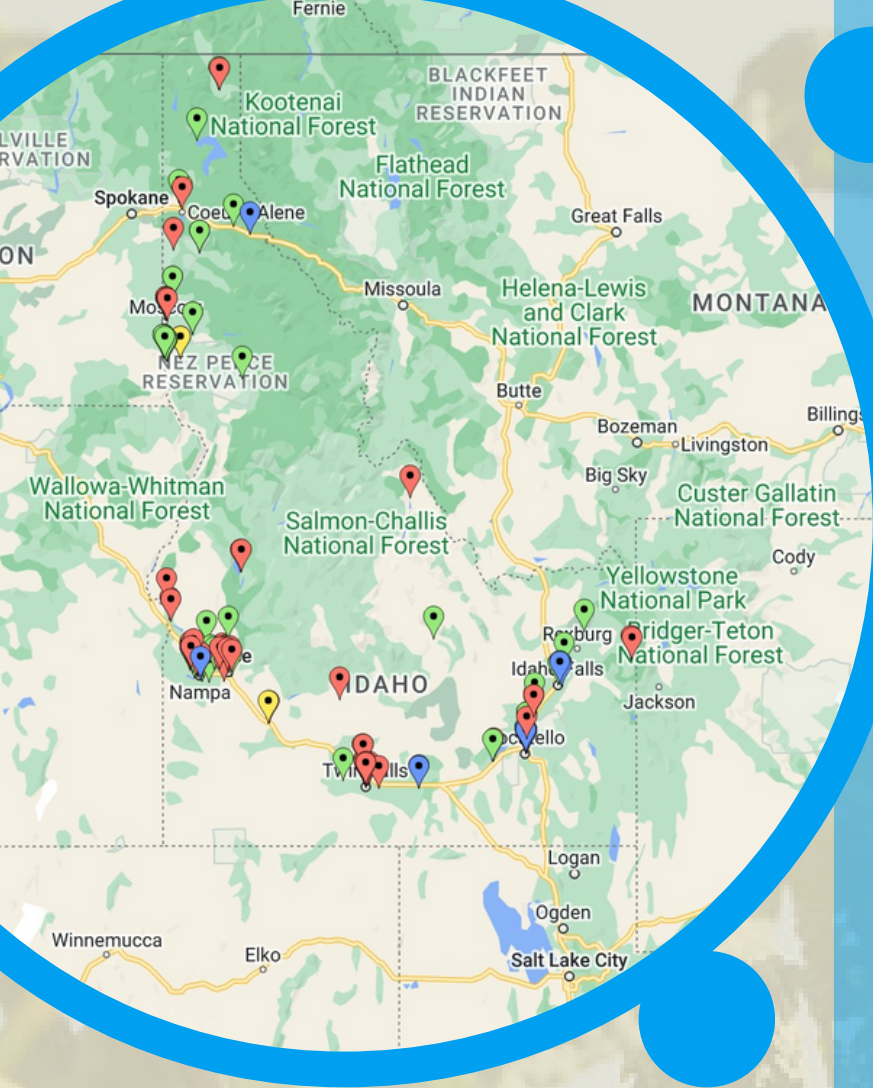
## Paul Verhage

Paul, a retired high school teacher, embarked on his AmeriCorps journey seeking meaningful opportunities to utilize his knowledge and skills. In his first year of service, working as a Youth Development AmeriCorps member, he educated students in STEM, for science, technology, engineering and math, at the 4-H Extension Office in the University of Idaho Water Center. Now in his second year, at the Idaho Out-of-School Network, Paul is dedicated to creating high-quality education for kids outside the classroom, providing hands-on STEM activities, and training adults to do the same. His joy in interacting with students and expanding his impact to teach and train adults reflects the enduring fulfillment of his service.

## AmeriCorps impact across Idaho

- 3,942 youth received STEM after-school education.
- 2,943 individuals received health education.
- 11,797 youth received environmental education.
- 293 individuals became Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) certified.





Serve Idaho, in partnership with Governor Brad Little, recognized individuals for their volunteer service as part of Idaho Capital for a Day events hosted across the state.

**Recognized volunteers:**

- Amy Clements of St. Anthony.
- Larry Vila of Montpelier.
- Patti and Mark Jones of Malad.
- Mary Eileen Twombly of Salmon.

AmeriCorps alumni, members and Serve Idaho staff participated in National Days of Service; 9/11 Day of Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and AmeriCorps Week.

**Service projects:**

- Spray-paint a sensory walk at Morley Nelson Elementary School.
- Organize a coat drive.
- Volunteer at Moscow Humane Society.
- Make food boxes for low-income seniors.

