

## What are the Corps' Projects?

- Alverna Heights Franciscan Nature Center: Working with the Franciscan Sisters, the Corps is creating a Franciscan Nature Center, sustainable forest, and organic farm near Green Lakes. The Corps does management planning, reforestation, wildlife habitat and grasslands restoration, organic gardening and environmental education.
- Environmental Education: Working with students from Catholic schools, the Corps develops and teaches holistic environmental education that integrates a spirituality component.
- Training Workshops & retreats: The Corps offers workshops in various topics relating to eco-spirituality, environmental justice, environmental ethics, teaching environmental education, leadership, conservation skills, and local ecoregional issues.



Send forth your spirit, Lord  
and renew the face of the earth.

### How do I get involved with the Franciscan Earth Corps?

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Franciscan  
Ecology Center



**St Thomas More Campus Ministry**  
John G. Alibrandi Catholic Center  
Syracuse University- SUNY ESF



# Franciscan Earth Corps



*Integrating spirituality  
and the environment  
to prepare new leaders  
for a 21st Century planet*



## What is the Franciscan Earth Corps?

The Franciscan Earth Corps is an environmental leadership program of the Franciscan Ecology Center and St. Thomas More Campus Ministry that prepares college students and young adults for the responsibilities of Caring for Creation. The Corps is a community of visionary young people that offers education, skills training, spiritual growth, and opportunities for leadership, environmental service, and teaching environmental education.



## What does the Corps do?

Corps members learn about ecology and sustainable management, study environmental issues and ethics, engage in environmental service projects in the local ecoregion, participate in outdoor recreation, field trips and environmental activities, teach environmental education to youth, and integrate their faith and spirituality into the rest of their work to advance environmental justice and sustainability.

## How is the Corps "Franciscan"?

The Franciscan Earth Corps takes its inspiration from the lives and spirituality of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi, who lived simple, sustainable lives that minimized their ecological footprint. They developed and lived an environmental ethic and spirituality that recognized the intrinsic dignity of all living and nonliving things, and the interconnectedness of humans, nature, and the divine. Their experiences of nature brought them into "right relationships" of peace, love and justice with the natural world, the human family, and ultimately with the Divine. The Franciscan Earth Corps is rooted in this Franciscan Christian ecospirituality and Catholic Social Teaching on Care for Creation and environmental justice.



***"Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith."***

***- Pope John Paul II***

## What will I get out of the Corps?

- Better understanding of regional ecology, environmental issues, environmental justice and ethics
- Spiritual growth and exploration of an "environmental vocation"
- Opportunities to work outdoors in nature on environmental service projects
- Leadership opportunities
- Fun outdoor recreational activities & trips
- Develop friendships with others who value the environment and ecospirituality
- Opportunities to develop professional skills and experience that will help in career development
- Opportunities to invest your time and life into something worthwhile and meaningful that will really make a difference

## Who should get involved?

The Corps is open to any young adults and undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in integrating Christian ecospirituality and faith with their concern and work for environmental justice and ecological sustainability.