Grand Teton National Park contains the majestic mountains of Teton Range, incredible wildlife, and a cultural history dating back more than 10,000 years ago when paleo-Indians visited the location. Inside the park are the 13 buildings of White Grass Dude Ranch that commenced operations in 1919 and are now home to the Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP).

In 2005, 13 buildings of Grand Teton’s White Grass Dude Ranch were vacant or underutilized and severely deteriorated due to abandonment and deferred maintenance. Four HOPE Crew projects led by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps of Colorado in partnership with NPS and NTHP were organized to help restore the early 20th century cabins and convert them into a larger historic preservation training and residential facility for the National Park Service. Today, WCHP helps build maintenance skills and preservation expertise in western park units to ensure the careful stewardship of historic resources and to address the deferred maintenance backlog. The HOPE Crew team also worked to rehabilitate the Jenny Lake Visitor Center—listed on the National Register of Historic Places—on an indoor ceiling project to rejuvenate and secure over 2,000 ceiling latillas, a distinctive feature of this former artist studio.

**By the Numbers**

**In Just Four Projects:**

- **$57,000** Achieved in cost savings
- **1,440** Logged project hours
- **18** Employed crew members
About HOPE Crew
Empowering a new generation of preservationists through Hands-On Preservation Experience, HOPE Crew trains young adults and veterans to perform preservation work for historic structures within the National Park Service (NPS) system and our communities. In just four years, HOPE Crews have logged 120,000 hours in over 150 projects, helping to support $18 million in historic preservation work, as well as engaging 3,000 volunteers and 700 youth and veterans. Projects like these provide job skills and education for the next generation of stewards of America’s most important historic sites while helping to address the deferred maintenance backlog of the NPS.

I was honored to feel like I was doing my part in learning these incredible skills. I can’t wait to come back in 10 years, or 25, or 50. I can’t wait to look up at the ceiling and see the work that I did... That moment will be one of the proudest of my life.

Kaleigh Choi,
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps of Colorado

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America’s historic places. Visit us at SavingPlaces.org.

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