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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Citizens Conservation Corps announces approved projects for The Initiative**  
*WV's Arrow to the Summit Community Service Initiative will impact 45 counties in West Virginia*

**Beckley, W.Va. – July 18, 2017** – The Citizens Conservation Corps (CCC), in oversight and coordination of West Virginia's Arrow to the Summit Community Service Initiative (The Initiative), today announced the selection of more than 220 projects to be performed in conjunction with the Days of Service as part of the 2017 National Scout Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Fayette County, West Virginia.

The total number of service projects will be completed through volunteer labor throughout West Virginia. For the past 18 months, the CCC has worked to engage and educate community leaders and citizens throughout West Virginia about the importance of volunteerism and to ensure that everyone interested in submitting a project has had an opportunity to do so.

"Our efforts had a tremendous impact in 2013, and the response to this statewide opportunity in 2017 has been incredible," said Robert A. Martin, CEO, CCC. "We are grateful to Governor Justice for his support and we have enjoyed the response from citizens throughout the state as they have nominated projects and worked to see those projects happen."

Prior to the National Scout Jamboree, Scouts traveling through West Virginia have embraced the opportunity to complete service projects as part of their journey. All told, 45 of West Virginia's 55 counties will see impact of this volunteer effort.

"The opportunity to foster and produce economic benefits throughout the state of West Virginia with the sheer volume of labor we have at our fingertips is mind boggling," Martin said. "There are small towns, rural communities, counties, and many more with critical work that we plan to address, including flood recovery projects from last June's floods."

Under the guidance and oversight of the CCC, The Initiative identifies and develops meaningful community service projects to be completed by myriad volunteers, including members of the Boy Scouts of America, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Volunteer WV, and other volunteers from across the nation during the National Scout Jamboree scheduled for July 19-28 in southern West Virginia.

The core service region, those counties adjacent to or easily accessed from the Summit include 10 counties in Southern West Virginia. The core service region includes Fayette County,

Greenbrier County, Kanawha County, McDowell County, Mercer County, Monroe County, Nicholas County, Raleigh County, Summers County, and Wyoming County. The Initiative will also include a series of projects at the New River Gorge National River for the National Park Service during the days of service.

“The opportunity to host a community service event of this magnitude a second time is unprecedented,” Martin said. “That said, this would not be possible without the partnerships with the Boy Scouts of America, Corporation for National and Community Service, West Virginia Army National Guard, and the countless volunteers throughout our great state.”

As it did four years ago, these unique partnerships led by the CCC, will again bring together more than 40,000 local, state, and national volunteers, with a projected 500,000 hours of service yielding an estimated \$8 million economic impact for West Virginia.

In 2013, The Initiative was the largest community service project of its kind in U.S. history. The Initiative in 2017 will build upon the success of the 2013 Initiative by servicing counties throughout the state with additional pre-Jamboree projects.

For more information, log onto <http://www.wvccc.com>

#### **ABOUT THE CCC**

The Citizens Conservation Corps operates some of the most innovative, unique, and successful workforce development and service and conservation programs in the country. The CCC serves as the clearinghouse for the West Virginia’s Arrow to the Summit Community Service Initiative because of its proven record of accomplishment, capacity and consensus building ability; and familiarity with West Virginia’s culture. CCC is poised and seasoned with project start up techniques, possesses the “know how” to enter rural communities; and has a clear vision on what must happen to effectively manage, navigate, tackle and problem solve to truly effect change.

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