

# NEWS FROM THE CREW

## CONSERVATION CREW FALL 2025

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### FROM THE TRAILHEAD

A record 59 middle schools in Minnesota launched Conservation Crews this fall, up from 44 schools last year. From Bemidji to Rochester and St. Paul to Starbuck, students across Minnesota are launching conservation projects with their classmates and discovering how they can make a difference for the environment.

Students in New Ulm have plans to revitalize their school forest. In Woodbury, the Crew is working on reintroducing native plants to a prairie. There are pollinator gardens on the way in Rochester and Brooklyn Park, and a growing clothing swap in Minneapolis.

Each year we're more inspired by the creativity, tenacity, and leadership of these young Minnesotans. Watch for updates during the school year as we follow their innovative, impactful projects.

### STUDENT LED

Conservation Crew is a student-led extracurricular school program for middle schoolers. Rooted in service learning, students develop leadership skills by designing and implementing conservation projects to impact their schools and communities. The program provides the support and resources students need to succeed.

Using a student-led model ensures participants learn about conservation issues that affect their daily lives and feel empowered to find solutions. Each Crew decides on its own interests and is given the resources to create a plan that fits its needs. The hands-on learning model encourages students to research, understand, and ultimately take action to improve conservation initiatives in their communities.



## CREW VIEWS

This past summer, 12 schools piloted summer Conservation Crew programs, including **Marshall Middle School** in southwest Minnesota, where students tested water from the Redwood River and a pond in a nearby park for nitrates and salt. They also learned how to Geocache and picked up trash along a walking path and in city parks.

## CREWS IN THE NEWS

The Crew at **Prairie Winds Middle School** in Mankato was recently featured on their local news. What began four years ago with just four students has grown to a Crew of than 60! Club advisor Lynell Senden calls her students “the leaders of tomorrow.” Their size allows them to split into teams and work on multiple projects, like recycling and prairie restoration.

Watch the news segment on **KeyC News Now**. →



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CONSERVATION MINNESOTA