



# High Rocks

educate. empower. inspire.



• Celebrating •  
**24 Years!**

Transforming lives of young people and their impact on our communities

**4,000**  
Youth Served



**75** Young People Employed



**\$159,415**  
College Scholarships Given  
Since 1996



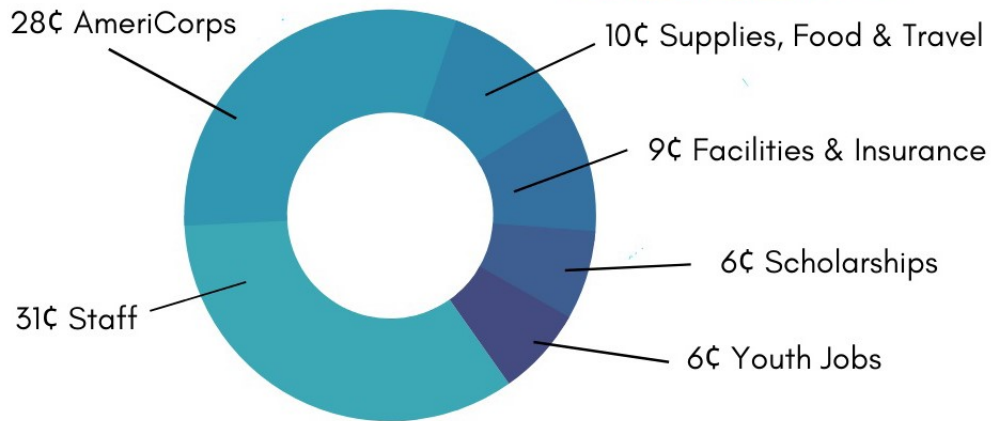
*1,000 volunteers*

**55,000**  
Student Contact Hours



Portion of each dollar spent directly on programs:

**90¢**



*Of our programs...*  
Data in this report is from Sept 1, 2018-Aug 31, 2019

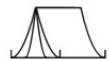
**30%**  
AmeriCorps



**16%**  
First2 Network



**21%**  
Camps and College



**25%**  
The Hub



**200%** growth from 2018-2020

**23,000 lbs**  
Food Grown



**4424**  
Healthy Meals Served

Cost to Students:  
**\$0**

[www.HighRocks.org](http://www.HighRocks.org)

# Alumna Spotlight: Kayla Reed



When I talk to other alums about High Rocks and how it has impacted our lives, we tend to use a symbol to represent how High Rocks influenced our teenage years and early adulthood. For other alums, that symbol is often a shield, or a mama bear or something of that nature: protecting, nurturing, and empowering them to face their futures and to be their best selves.

## **Mine looks a little different.**

When I look back, I feel that while High Rocks gave me tools necessary for my education and my life, I see her more as a lighthouse, a large, beaming beacon of light standing in the middle of nowhere, refusing to go out or give up, always calling me home.

I had, at times, a rough and frantic childhood. Growing up (like most of us I'm sure), I never felt like I fit in except when I was at High Rocks, standing on a picnic table with my spoon microphone singing "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Tammi Terrell and Marvin Gaye, boosting the morale of the newest camp members.

I went away to college right after high school, determined to make High Rocks and my family proud, but once I got to college I felt like I was all alone on a little island. During this time, High Rocks staff would call me just to check in or send me care packages, even employing me one summer as an intern; like that beaming lighthouse, she was always beckoning me to come on home when I was done, that my High Rocks sisters would be waiting.

I've struggled with drug addiction off and on for most of my life, and when I got to college it was a free for all. Once my addiction spun out of control, I avoided High Rocks. I flunked out of college and ended up homeless.

I got clean and sober January 25, 2012, and have since learned a lot about myself and the person I want to be. I recently graduated college with my AS and AA in Human Services/ Addiction Studies and am up for review to be an International Addictions Counselor. Who would have thought the thing that seemed to rip my life apart would give me a whole new one?

About a year before I graduated, that lighthouse once again started shining in my direction, and I started to get really fired up about home again. I started to wonder: how can I make it better, why did I have to leave to get help? I thought about the the devastating affect that addiction has had on High Rocks girls and their families, what addiction is doing to my community -- and High Rocks, my lighthouse, said, "We've been thinking about this too; come home and let's fix it together." High Rocks' light, its blinding faith in me, is what has always drawn me back home, and no matter how far away I drift she has always been there, waiting patiently for me to come home, shining a light of hope and faith in me that I've never felt anywhere else.

**I'm so glad and so proud of my sobriety, but I'm also so glad and proud to be a sister of the High Rocks, for she has been my guiding light, my signal of hope and redemption in the darkest of times, my home; and I'm so glad to finally be home.**

Kayla Reed is proudly serving as an AmeriCorps member for the 2019-2020 year, focused on education, prevention, and recovery programs for teens at the Hub and at summer camps.

