

#### Appalachian Forest Discovery Center – AFHA Museum

Located in downtown Elkins, this facility encourages visitors to explore sites all across our area. The *Discover AFHA* exhibit showcases Nature, History, Culture, and Forestry. The 2018 exhibit showcased natural habitats across our area, and encouraged families to get outside to explore.

### **Partnerships**

AFHA is working actively with over 25 non-profits, agencies, and local governments across our area, and has received support letters from over 200.

### **National Recognition**

Designation as a National Heritage Area will bring national recognition, partnership with the National Park Service, and more capacity to help local communities.







Supporting rural community development through heritage tourism and forest conservation



APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA celebrates the central Appalachian forest: its history, culture, natural history, forest management and products. This grassroots partnership works in West Virginia and western Maryland to explore the relationship between the Appalachian highlands forest and the people who live there.

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## APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA AMERICORPS



# Enhancing Assets to Benefit West Virginia Communities

**DURING 2018,** the AFHA AmeriCorps 40-member team served 66,167 hours with 35 organizations to improve our environment and communities.

**Conservation:** Members improved over 1550 acres of public lands and raised environmental awareness through environmental programs, children's activities, events and festivals, and social media.

### **Community Development and Heritage Tourism:**

Members served over 35,000 visitors and community members through exhibits they developed, tours they led, events and projects they supported.

**Historic Preservation:** AFHA Hands On Team assisted with 15 rehabilitation projects for historic properties, from repairing windows in a

New Deal period community building to restoring a landmark area fire tower.

### Volunteer Capacity:

Members recruited and managed over 800 volunteers to further support and build capacity for rural communities.





Members provide one year service to their sites. They gain professional experience and an Education Award. AmeriCorps instills volunteer ethics in our members, which they then take with them and share with others throughout their lives.



