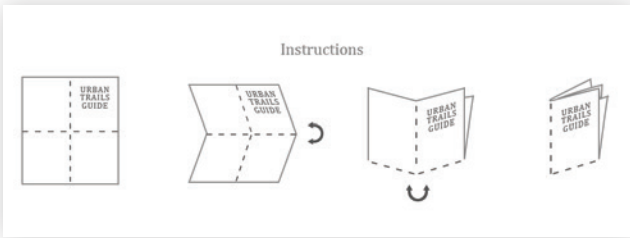


**SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.**

**It's Our Job, Every Day**

Every day SCA unites young people with hands-on environmental challenges. Every day we create future stewards of our land, healthier environments and—ultimately—a better world.

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**NEW YORK, NY**  
**Old Croton Aqueduct Trail,**  
**Van Cortlandt Park**



Photos: Kristine Paulus



[www.nycgovparks.org/parks/VanCortlandtPark](http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/VanCortlandtPark)

**EXPLORE!**

Samara Vasquez, a 17-year-old Bronx resident, notes how SCA impacted her. "This program has impacted me in such a way, that I've gained a different perspective on parks and their meanings to people and life. One quote that will always remain with me from this experience is 'Think Smarter. Not Harder' ... This quote reminds me that yes, working hard is good and noticeable but thinking smarter pushes you that extra mile to reach your full potential."



The 22-mile Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park follows the aqueduct that transported water during 1842 to 1955 from the New Croton Dam in northern Westchester County to Yonkers, just north of New York City. This trail is enjoyed by walkers, bikers, hikers, joggers, and cross-country skiers. In 2017, Student Conservation Association members repaired drainage features along the 1.1-mile section of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail located in Van Cortlandt Park. Members removed debris from the existing gully and added natural stones to create a rock retaining wall and paved gully. Crew members also rebuilt the steps that connect the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail to another trail within the park.

**INTRODUCTION**