

Aaron Lowden (He/Him/His) is traditional farmer, land-based skills instructor, and seed caretaker from the Pueblo of Acoma (Big Bear and Little Yellow Corn Clans).

In 2010, Aaron began working with the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Fellowship leading trail feasibility studies and youth outreach with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and the Zuni Mountain Trails Partnership. Aaron later joined the Acoma Ancestral Lands Program where he served as a Crew Leader, Program Coordinator, and most recently, a Program Manager. During his time with Ancestral Lands he recruited, managed, and mentored crews to collaboratively complete land-based service-learning projects including tribal historic preservation, environmental restoration, and public recreation infrastructure development. He also developed and initiated the Acoma Hiking Club to support the reconnection of Acoma's youth to their ancestral homelands, land-based knowledge and cultural history. In 2012, Aaron established the Acoma Ancestral Land Office's flagship program: the Acoma Farm Corps. As a lifelong student of the Tribe's traditional ecological and agricultural knowledge systems, he has led, developed, and instructed the program's agricultural initiatives to restore Acoma's traditional food systems. Through Acoma Farm Corps, Aaron has taught local youth skills central to Acoma traditional food practices including cultivation preparation and design; dryland, irrigated, and drip irrigation techniques; seed selection, saving, and banking; and traditional food preparation. With a strong passion for this work, he has created and facilitated the Acoma Ancestral Lands Seed Bank as well as food sovereignty gatherings and workshops for the Acoma community and tribal partners.