

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chippewa National Forest to Host Youth Conservation Corp Program

The Chippewa National Forest will hire 7 youth in a Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) non-residential program this summer.

YCC is a summer employment program established by Public Law 93-408 for young men and women, ages 15-18, who work, learn, and earn together by doing projects that further the development and observation of the natural resources of the United States. The three objectives of the program are: 1) To accomplish needed conservation work on public lands; 2) To provide gainful employment for 15 to 18 year old males and females of all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds; 3) To develop in participating youths an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage.

7 youths will be employed for a period of eight weeks. Work is planned, directed and executed in such a way to give enrollee an understanding of their tasks, its part in the overall agency management plan and environmental consideration.

In order to be eligible for the program, a young person must:

- Have attained the age of 15 by June 1, but not have attained age 19 by August 30
- Be a permanent resident of the United States
- Not have participated as a YCC enrollee for more than three years in the past
- Have a Social Security number upon arrival at the Ranger District
- Have a desire to work in the outdoors and become involved in the development and maintenance of the Nation's natural resources

- Have no history of serious criminal or other anti-social behavior that might create safety problems
- Be able to participate in the various work and training programs of the YCC program
- Handicapped youth, who with reasonable accommodations can perform the essential functions of the YCC program, are also eligible
- Be able to obtain parental or legal guardian consent to enroll in the program
- Be able to provide a medical history signed by parent or legal guardian
- Be able to provide the proper work clothing (long sleeve shirts, jeans, work boots, etc.)

In a non-residential program, enrollee resides at home and commutes to work daily to the Deer River Ranger District office. Enrollees are transported daily by district employees to the work site.

Length of employment will be eight weeks with employment beginning on June 14th and will continue through August 6th.

Enrollees will be paid for 40 hours of work each week, at the minimum wage rate.

Application information can be obtained from the Deer River Ranger District office (218-246-2123) or from a High School Counselor.

The deadline for application is April 9, 2004. All applicants will be notified of selection or non-selection.

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