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Northwest Youth Corps Crews give Mt. Adams Trails a Facelift

The millions of annual visitors to Gifford Pinchot National Forest will have more to be thankful for, thanks to two crews of 10 teens each from Northwest Youth Corps, who are finishing the last two weeks of their five week residential conservation program in the Mt. Adams area.

Starting the week of Aug 3rd until August 28th, a total of twenty NYC participants ages 16 to 19, and four crew leaders will have tackled miles of trail maintenance. The youth crew will be out in full force with loppers, handsaws, and cross cut saws to get rid of excess vegetation and maintain and improve trail surfaces. This project will improve safety and enhance the hiking experience of travelers who come to enjoy the beautiful scenic areas that encompass the Mt. Adams area.

The U.S Forest Service chose Northwest Youth Corps to work on the trail project because a primary goal of the Forest Service is to get more youth in the woods to experience public lands. The U.S Forest Service hopes that through their work, corps members will develop a life long appreciation and relationship with National Forest Lands and develop a greater understanding of the unique values learned from the wilderness.

Crewmembers involved in this project will also have the opportunity to earn a non-taxable education stipend of \$1,225 for their five weeks of work, plus the chance to live in some of the most beautiful parts of the Pacific Northwest, travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit.

More than 13,000 youth have participated in Northwest Youth Corps since 1984. Teens ages 16-19 wanting the NYC experience are encouraged to apply for NYC's fall program which lasts five weeks, and begins September 12. To enroll, teens should fill out an application as soon as possible at <http://www.nwyouthcorps.org> or call: (541) 349-5055.

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. NYC is the region's largest and oldest outdoor conservation and youth education program, and serves youth from all backgrounds. For additional information, contact Northwest Youth Corps at phone (541) 349-5055, or visit www.northwestyouthcorps.org. # # #

BACKGROUND: The Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. Adams Ranger District, located in southwest Washington State, is one of the oldest National Forests in the United States. The Forest is 1,368,300 acres in size and includes the 110,300-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument established in 1982.