United States Department of Agriculture

Youth Conservation Corps
Fact Sheet

The United States Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a summer youth employment program for young people, ages 15 to 18. YCC crew members serve in teams on national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges on projects that promote awareness and appreciation of the public lands' legacy and the nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources. YCC projects include building and repairing trails, facility and campground maintenance, restoration and reforestation, wildlife monitoring, and more. Crew members are exposed to hard work and team building and learn about environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. YCC is a legislatively authorized program of the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.

Structure

- Crew based
- 3 to 10 weeks in duration
- 8-hour work day, 40-hour work week
- Earn federal minimum wage or the state minimum wage, if higher
- Local jobs mostly; residential programs available at select Forest Service units
- 20% of work week focused on educational, career exploration, and service-learning activities

Eligibility Requirements

- At least 15 years of age at the start of enrollment; must not reach the age of 19 before completion of the program
- A U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident
- Work permit required
- Valid U.S. Social Security number or proof of application
- Able to fulfill the essential functions of assigned work with or without a reasonable accommodation

How to Apply

For more information about Forest Service YCC programs and jobs near you, please visit Forest Service YCC at https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/youth-conservation-corps-opportunities.
Applicants may also contact the nearest Forest, Grassland or Prairie at https://www.fs.usda.gov/.