**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is a youth summit?**

It’s a chance for parks and young neighbors to share experiences, ideas, and problem-solving. Participants will examine real-world issues at stake in public lands across southern Arizona.

**How it does it work?**

Coronado National Memorial will be recruiting a group of high school students from Cochise County. The group will meet at the visitor center on the first day, then travel with their leader to Chiricahua National Monument where they will be camping all week. The group will spend the week traveling, camping, and working together at different park sites in southern Arizona. Each site visit may include a service project, educational programming, and site-specific question.

Having examined 21st century issues and challenges of national parks in their neighboring communities, participants will share their experiences with park officials to recommend steps to take for the future.

**Who else will be in my group?**

The group will have a total of 6-8 participants. You may know other members of your group or you may meet them for the first time on Family Night on September 26th. Selection is based on enthusiasm and leadership qualities, not academic performance.

**How much does it cost?**

Nothing! The only cost to you is your time.

**What’s in it for me?**

Besides fond memories, great friendships, adventure, and lots of great bragging rights to put on a college application, graduates of the program will also receive:

* An annual pass for free entrance to all national parks and federal fee areas
* 30 hours of volunteer/community service credit
* An opportunity to network with professionals in many different career fields

**How do I get there? When will I be away from home?**

The National Park Service will be providing all transportation to national park sites. Expect to be ready to leave the drop-off point at Coronado NMem Visitor Center by 9am on Wednesday, travel with the group throughout the week, and pickup by your family at Coronado NMem for Saturday afternoon’s graduation ceremony. You will likely be home by 6pm that day.

**What are we eating?**

Food is important! Expect hot dinners, basic lunches and snacks, and energy-sustaining breakfasts. We aim for tasty, nutritious, and travel-appropriate meals. If you have dietary restrictions, please note them on your application.

**What about my phone?**

We all live in the 21st century where phones are part of life. However, you may not always have a signal or opportunity to use your device as you are accustomed. Consult the sample itinerary and you’ll get a sense of how much of the day will be available for plugging in.

**What if something comes up and I realize I can’t make the trip?**

Contact your National Park Service leader to figure out if and how you should remain in the program or yield your spot to another participant.

**Can I invite friends and family?**

Parents, family members, and friends are invited to Family Night on September 26th and again to the Graduation Celebration on October 13th.

**Is it dangerous? What if I get hurt?**

Signing the Agreement for Individual Voluntary Services entitles you to medical coverage under the Office of Workers Compensation. Any illness or injury you receive *while working within the bounds of your volunteer agreement* would be fully covered. Your emergency contacts will be called and you will be taken to the nearest medical care facility.

**My parents seem nervous about this. What should I tell them?**

Family members will join you to meet your teammates and National Park Service leader at Family Night on September 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It’ll be a great opportunity for them to get their questions answered before the first campout. Of course, your leader is available by phone or email during the application process as well. If your parents need to get a message to you during the trip, they can communicate with park staff to pass along any messages that might be urgent.

**When will I find out if I got in?**By September 14.

**Who should I talk to if I have more questions?**

Kim Wentland Park Ranger, Coronado National Memorial (520) 366-5515, ext 2321 kimberly\_wentland@nps.gov

**Sample Itinerary**

**Wednesday**: All group members meet at Coronado NMem Visitor Center. (Bye, families! See you Saturday!)
Travel to Chiricahua National Monument. Visit Faraway Ranch.
*Question of the Day: What is a well-functioning group?*

**Thursday**: Travel to Fort Bowie National Historic Site. Service Project. *Question of the Day: What is the significance and importance of restoration/preservation of historic ruins?*

**Friday**: Hike Chiricahua National Monument. *Question of the Day: What roles do personal responsibility, safety, and awareness play in national parks?*

**Saturday**: Travel to Coronado National Memorial. Graduation Preparation. Reunite with families for graduation (Bye, new friends! See you soon!)
*Question of the Day: How can young people be ambassadors for national parks and public lands in their communities?*

**What to Bring**

Youth Summit will provide all group gear (such as tents, cookware, stoves, food, etc.) as well as camping gear like sleeping bags. If you have your own sleeping bag that you would like to bring, you are welcome to do so. However, all students are responsible for the following items:

* Sleeping bag (optional)

o Pillow

* Rain jacket with hood or poncho
* Long layers (long pants, long-sleeved shirt)
* Short layers (shorts, T-shirts)
* Something comfy to sleep in
* Closed-toe shoes or boots for hike and work
* Lightweight camp shoes or sandals for hanging out in camp
* Sunglasses
* Broad-brimmed hat or baseball cap
* 2 one-liter sized water bottles and/or hydration bladder
* Flashlight or headlamp
* Your usual toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, etc.)
* Any prescribed or over-the-counter medications (in a ziplock bag labeled with your name and dosage)
* (For women) Feminine hygiene products
* Swimsuit and towel
* Shampoo, soap, comb, etc. for showers (when available)

 **What to NOT bring:**

* Alcohol
* Illegal/unprescribed drugs
* Weapons
* Personal snacks/beverages (unless required by dietary restriction)