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?
Each park (Saguaro, Tumacácori, and Coronado) recruits and assembles a small cohort of high school students from its local area. The cohorts meet locally on the first day, then travel with their cohort leader to the first park site where the whole group will assemble. The full group will spend the week traveling, camping, and working together at different park sites in southern Arizona. Each site visit includes 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 and local officials to recommend steps to take for the future.

Who else will be in my group?
Each local cohort will have 3-5 participants. You may know other members of your cohort or you may meet them for the first time on Family Night on September 27th. 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
- 60 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 your local dropoff site by 7am on Sunday, travel with the group throughout the week, and pickup by your family in Tucson 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 local National Park Service cohort lead 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 27th and again to the Graduation Celebration on October 14th.

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 27th 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 local 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 8.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

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<tr>
<th>Pima County</th>
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<th>Cochise County</th>
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<td>Coronado National Memorial</td>
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<td>520-733-5106</td>
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Sample Itinerary

**Sunday:** All cohorts meet at their respective local dropoff sites. (Bye, families! See you in a week!) Travel to Chiricahua National Monument.  
*Question of the Day: What is a well-functioning group?*

**Monday:** Hike Chiricahua. Visit Faraway Ranch.  
*Question of the Day: What roles do personal responsibility, safety, and awareness play in national parks?*

**Tuesday:** Travel to Coronado National Memorial. Cave remediation service project. Travel to Tumacácori.  
*Question of the Day: What rules of access should be in place for sensitive areas in national parks?*

**Wednesday:** Hike Anza Trail from Tumacácori to Tubac. Pollinator service project.  
*Question of the Day: How do trails, travel corridors, and modern political boundaries affect wildlife in national parks?*

**Thursday:** Travel to Saguaro National Park (Visit San Xavier and Desert Museum along the way)  
*Question of the Day: What part (if any) should reconstructed buildings or other replica experiences have in public lands?*

**Friday:** Trails project at Saguaro. Visit Madrona Pools.  
*Question of the Day: What is “wilderness” and what is its role in public lands?*

**Saturday:** Swimming in Tucson. Prepare for graduation. 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)
- 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)