



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a youth summit?

It's a chance for parks and young neighbors to share experiences, ideas, and problem-solving. In the centennial year of the National Park Service, 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 juniors and seniors from its local area. The cohorts travel and meet at different park sites each weekend. Each overnight site visit includes a campout, service project, educational programming, and site-specific question.

Having examined 21st century issues and challenges of national parks in their neighboring communities, participants will participate in a facilitated dialogue with park and local government officials to recommend steps to take for the next 100 years.

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 August 10th. 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 getting in on the ground floor of a first-of-its-kind program through the National Park Service 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
- T-shirts, water bottles, the usual fun freebies.

How do I get to each site? When will I be away from home?

The National Park Service will be providing all transportation to national park sites. Pickup and dropoff times will vary somewhat depending on how distant the site is from your home community, but expect to be ready to leave by 7am on Saturday, back by 5pm on Sunday.

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.



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 one of the trips?

Work with your local National Park Service 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 August 10th and again to the Graduation Celebration on October 22nd.

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 August 10th 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 one of the weekend trips, they can communicate with park staff to pass along any messages that might be urgent.

When will I find out if I got in?

June 10th.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

Pima County
Saguaro National Park
Bella_Furr@nps.gov
520-733-5184

Santa Cruz County
Tumacácori National
Historical Park
Melanie_Rawlins@nps.gov
520-377-5064

Cochise County
Coronado National Memorial
Christopher_Bentley@nps.gov
520-366-5515



Sample Itinerary

Saturday (Tumacácori National Historical Park from the inside)

Site question: "How can preserving and interpreting the past help us understand our present? How can it just as easily go wrong?"

7:00 a.m. Pickup at home, travel to Tumacácori National Historical Park

9:00 a.m. Orientation and travel to preservation project at Guevavi mission site.

9:30 a.m. Service project at Guevavi mission site.

1:00 p.m. Lunch and swim at Santa Fe Ranch.

3:00 p.m. Travel back to Tumacácori mission site.

3:30 p.m. Debrief, discussion, and snacks with park leadership team

4:30 p.m. Games and personal time

5:00 p.m. Living history, the National Park Service in 1917

6:00 p.m. Dinner with Cultural Demonstrator

7:00 p.m. Set up camp in the church or museum patio

8:00 p.m. Lantern walk, campfire, s'mores, cowboy singer, ghost stories

10:00 p.m. Lights out

Sunday (Tumacácori National Historical Park from the visitor's perspective)

Site question: "How can preserving and interpreting the past help us understand our present? How can it just as easily go wrong?"

6:30 a.m. Breakfast in the picnic area

7:30 a.m. Explore the mission grounds, Visitor Center, Museum

10:00 a.m. Hike the Anza Trail from Tumacácori to Tubac

12:00 p.m. Picnic lunch at Tubac Presidio State Historic Park

12:30 p.m. Tour Tubac

1:30 p.m. Final debrief and reflection

2:30 p.m. Travel home



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 camping gear 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
- Comfy layers like shirts, pants, shorts, etc
- 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
- Lightweight eating gear – cup, bowl, spoon. Tupperware works well.
- 2 one-liter sized water bottles and/or hydration bladder
- Flashlight
- 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 for swimming (when available)
- Shampoo, soap, comb, etc. for showers (when available)

Optional gear

- Camera
- Pocket knife or multitool
- Small lightweight book
- Deck of cards
- Hacky sack, Frisbee, or other small toy

What to NOT bring:

- Extra food or beverages
- Alcohol
- Illegal/unprescribed drugs
- Weapons
- Personal snacks/beverages (unless required by dietary restriction)