



YCC Members (L to R) Sam Winters, Ryan Callahan, and Ashley Ford staff the Lifeways milking simulation program.

This summer 16 students from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were chosen to participate in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program, working in the Facility Management, Education, Living History and Visitor Services areas.

This year's YCC members included Facility Management Division: Mikhayla Combs, Jefferson High School; Shykeyia Grantham, Jefferson High School; John Bryant, Jefferson High School; and Mateo Peduzzi, Washington High School; Education Division: Ryan Callahan, Hedgesville High School; Ashley Ford, Jefferson High School; Zoe Poindexter, Jefferson High School; and Sam Winters, Jefferson High School; Living History Division: Sarah Fedorchak, Saint Maria Goretti

High School; Anna Stafford, Jefferson High School; Gabriel Davis, Washington High School; Dante Price, Jefferson High School; Elizabeth Conant, Shepherd University; and Zachary Fisher, Washington High School; Visitor Services Division: Rebecca Dunning, Washington County Technical High School; and Patrick Hill, Simon Gratz High School.

The Facility Management YCC members worked on a wide variety of projects, including shoveling and spreading mulch and decorative stone, maintaining park buses, laying weed block, and cleaning bathrooms.

Mateo Peduzzi said that he took away some important lessons from the experience. He observed, "If you want to have a job and get

money, you need to sacrifice some of the things you like to do. Also, you need to wake up early!" He also added, "Don't buy food out everyday."

John Bryant said the environment and the atmosphere of a friendly, clean, and well run park attracted him to apply to the YCC program at Harpers Ferry. He said having good coworkers and supervisors was his favorite part of the experience.

Mikhayla Combs learned to always work hard and to do pretty work. Combs also commented that being out in the heat was a challenge, but said that she got used to it after a while. Shykeyia Grantham said the biggest challenge for her was doing the trail walk, but that she was able to adjust.

For YCC member Sarah Fedorchak, it was family ties that attracted her to apply for the position. Her father currently works for the NPS and her mother used to. She thought it would be fun to try it out. Fedorchak has learned a lot about the Civil War as well as good interpreting skills. Her favorite part of the job was dressing up in period clothing and interpreting to the public.

Gabriel Davis' favorite part of his job with YCC was talking to the friendly people. Davis commented that the heat was a challenge, but he soon got used to it. He said that he has developed social skills during his time at the park.

Dante Price was attracted to apply for YCC by the Harpers Ferry Middle School Vodcast Project. The most interesting part of his time this summer was speaking to people from foreign countries. He stayed busy doing a wide variety of things, including firing cannons and shooting guns. He said his social skills have vastly improved.

Elizabeth "Beth" Conant, who is studying at Shepherd University this fall, said, "I have always been interested in history, and this was a unique opportunity to dress in period clothing." She most enjoyed the period cooking. Conant hopes to be a history teacher some day, and sees her work learning how to relate history to the public as immensely helpful in her attaining this goal.

Ryan Callahan, who served as the work leader for the Education branch YCCs this summer, said that his favorite part of YCC was doing something he loves to do. He said he has learned a lot about Civil

War medicine and numerous other programs.

Ashley Ford, who also worked with the Education branch on family and youth programs, said, "I learned a lot more about the history of Harpers Ferry." Her biggest challenge was speaking to the visitors that came to the programs, but said that she improved more each day. She also sees the people skills part of the job as directly related to her future career skills.

Zoe Poindexter enjoyed meeting new people, learning different things, and being outdoors during her work with YCC. She also assisted with the Park's Family and Youth programs this summer. Her biggest challenge was actually having the knowledge and being able to confidently interpret to visitors. She commented that her people skills have improved and hopes that her new knowledge will help her ace her AP History class.

Education YCC Samuel Winters also said that talking to people on a daily basis was a challenge, but that he had great support from his Su-



YCC Member Zoe Poindexter wrings out wash during a program in lower town.

pervisor, Park Ranger Polly Root. Winters said that he hopes to come back next summer.

The artillery weekend was a highlight of the YCC experience for Zachary Fisher. He said he has learned how to interest visitors as well as what is expected of him. Fisher added, "I love Harpers Ferry and all the beauty and history in it."



Living History YCC Members (L to R) Gabriel Davis, Zachary Fisher, and Dante Price



Visitor Services YCC Members (L to R) Rebecca Dunning and Patrick Hill orient visitors at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center.



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The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than on event, one date, or one individual. It is multilayered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-535-6881

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

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Anna Stafford was attracted to apply for YCC because she thought it would be fun and the good pay and good hours were also attractive. She has most enjoyed her time working in the period garden this summer. She said one of the challenges she faced was learning lots of information in a short amount of time. She said she learned a lot over the course of the summer, including military drills, how to talk to visitors, and how to set up and take down exterior exhibits.

Patrick Hill, hailing from Philadelphia, PA, spent his summer working with the park Visitor Services branch. Hill said that the opportunity to meet so many people and work in a National Park attracted him to the program. Hill added, "I really enjoyed working here for the summer, so thank you. It was my pleasure."

Rebecca Dunning greeted and oriented park visitors this summer, "So they could enjoy the park to its fullest potential," as she put it. She said that the YCC program was recommended to her by a friend who worked for YCC a previous summer. Dunning's favorite part of

the experience was working with other YCC members and park staff members. While Dunning said that she found her biggest challenge to be coming out of her shell and talking to people. She said she was eventually able to open up and 'Turn it on,' as she said Park Ranger David Fox calls it.

Interested YCC candidates should check the park's website for an application and further details, beginning in late March, 2012.



YCC Members (L to R) Anna Stafford and Sarah Fedorchak present a period plant at the National Capital Region Youth Expo at the Anacostia Park Skating Pavilion in Washington, D.C.