Valley Forge National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406

YOUTH JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – Stewards of Native Diversity Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program

What is the YCC?

The purpose of the YCC is to further the development and maintenance of the natural resources of the United States by America's youth and, in so doing, to prepare you for the ultimate responsibility of maintaining and managing these resources for the American people. The program objectives are to: (1) Accomplish needed conservation work in Valley Forge National Historical Park; (2) Provide youth with gainful employment; and (3) Develop youth understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage. You will learn work ethics, how to relate to peers and supervisors, and how to build lasting cultural bridges with youth from other backgrounds.

2010 Youth Conservation Corps at Valley Forge

Typical Duties: The YCC Program at Valley Forge National Historical Park centers on the control of non-native, invasive plants and animals within the park. These species represent one of the primary threats to the natural diversity of the park ecosystem. Approximately 40% of work time will be spent in fields and forest removing non-native plants such as mile-a-minute weed and oriental bittersweet vines. The remaining 40% of work time will be spent in the stream catching and removing the rusty crayfish—a species capable of eliminating ALL other crayfish from Valley Creek. One day per week (20% of work time) will be dedicated to environmental education and include field trips to other local areas of interest (e.g. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site) as well as presentations by NPS staff. Periodically, the YCC will also help park partners on a variety of other conservation projects (e.g. trails, tree planting, etc.).

Eligibility and Selection: The YCC Program is open to young adults, 15-18 years old. No previous experience is required. Selection is by random drawing and will target a ratio of 50% female to 50% male participants. ***To be selected participants must be available to work the full eight weeks and be capable of performing the work described above.***

Work Location, Schedule, Salary, and Leave: YCC Crew Members will report each morning to a central location at the park. Work days are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (40 hours per week). Participants are required to provide their own transportation to and from the park. The park is served by SEPTA bus routes 125 and 139. Transportation during work hours is provided by the NPS. Participants will earn the prevailing minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. YCC participants DO NOT EARN LEAVE. Under certain circumstances, the NPS can grant leave without pay to accommodate sickness and/or occasional vacation days.

Program Dates: The YCC Program at Valley Forge National Historical Park will begin on Monday, June 25, 2012, and end on Friday, August 17, 2012.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by May 1, 2012 to be considered. Application is available online at http://www.nps.gov/vafo/parkmgmt/jobs.htm.

YCC Program Expectations: By submitting an application to join YCC, you agree to comply with the following expectations of employment. Failure to do so will be grounds for termination. YCC Crew members:

- Are REQUIRED to wear the provided uniform and safety equipment at all times as directed by the supervisor;
- Will be to work on time and ready for daily assignments;
- Will follow instructions given by supervisors;
- Will work with other YCC Crew Members and care for their safety;
- Will participate in all aspects of the program, including work activities and environmental education;
- Will contribute their best to the success of the program.

Physical Demands and Environmental Hazards: YCC Crew Members perform hard work in an outdoor setting—rain or shine. Physical demands and environmental hazards may include:

- Use of hand tools such as shovels, hand saws, and pruning shears
- Lifting up to 50 pounds of weight
- Dragging vegetation and debris such as branches to a central location
- Digging, pulling, and chopping
- Working in the sun and summer heat
- Hiking or working on rough terrain, steep slopes and in creeks
- Possible exposure to insects (e.g. bee stings), ticks, Lyme Disease, poison ivy, and periodically encounter wildlife such as snakes

Mail completed application to:

Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19518
ATTN: Kris Heister

Questions?

Contact Kris Heister
Kristina_heister@nps.gov
610-783-0252 (office)
610-487-4677 (cell)

2010 YCC crew members Alex Tornetta, Katie Leva, and Wes Michelette

In the words of 2010 YCC crew member, Erin Clark: *"At the beginning of my 8 weeks, I told my parents I was almost like a glorified weed puller, but as I learned about the different invasive species we were controlling I started to take pride in my work. Every rusty crayfish that we caught and every strand of mile-a-minute weed that we pulled saved a native crayfish or another native plant from being overrun or killed. Our work this summer made a difference… Overall, this summer was one I will never forget. Our work was balanced with enjoyment and new things to see, explore, and we left our ignorance long enough to try to understand. I loved the people I worked with and am thankful for this opportunity. So next time you look on the side of the road and see a group of teenagers pulling weeds and think 'glorified weed puller' - take another look and really see we are preserving the beauty of nature and history – we are preserving us.*