

Forest Service News



Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou

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Rogue River Corridor Hikers, Horse Campers to Benefit from 19 miles of Trail Improvements

MEDFORD, OR – July 2, 2009 – Beginning the week of June 29th, for two weeks, a hard-working crew of 10 teens ranging in ages from 14 -15 years old, and two crew leaders will be improving the Rogue River Corridor located within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, High Cascade Ranger District.

Northwest Youth Corps crews plan to rid the trail of fallen wood, excess vegetation that hampers the way of hikers and horsemen, and also improve trail structures and surfaces. Work, which will be tackled by two separate crews, and takes place along 19.5 miles of the Upper Rogue River Trail from Hamaker Campground to the Crater Rim Viewpoint. Northwest Youth Corps was especially picked for this challenging project because of NYC's experience with hand and power tools in outdoor conservation settings, and reputation for high quality, productive crews.

More than 300 Douglas County youth have participated in Northwest Youth Corps, the region's largest and oldest outdoor conservation and youth education program, since 1984. Each crewmember will have the opportunity to earn a non-taxable education stipend of \$755 for their four weeks of work, plus the chance to travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit, while living and working in some of the most beautiful parts of the Pacific Northwest. For some, it is their first paycheck. For others, it is a chance to spend time in the wilderness with outdoor professionals to learn a new career.

This year, additional Douglas County teens will have an opportunity to benefit from education and service learning opportunities, courtesy of the *Douglas Community Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation*, which awarded a \$5,000 grant to Northwest Youth Corps to support disadvantaged County teens through scholarships, work boots, shirts and sleeping bags. In addition to Douglas County, there are additional grant opportunities available for youth located in various counties throughout southern Oregon.

Douglas County teens and other teens from the southern Oregon ages 16-19 wanting the NYC experience are encouraged to apply for NYC's fall program, beginning on September 12. To enroll, teens should fill out an application as soon as possible at <http://www.nwyouthcorps.org> or call: (541) 349-5055.

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. NYC has served more than 13,000 youth from all backgrounds. For additional information, contact Northwest Youth Corps at phone (541) 349-5055, or visit www.northwestyouthcorps.org.

BACKGROUND TO EDITORS: Located in southwestern Oregon and extending into California, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest covers almost 1.8 million acres.

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