



The Dalles Chronicle

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Youths spruce up at Dam

The Dalles Dam received an extensive makeover during September thanks to a group of 11 teens, ages 16 to 19, from Northwest Youth Corps.

The teens took on the dam — one of an extensive system of dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers — as part of their five-week fall Conservation Corps program.

The teens carried out a variety of improvements at the Seufert Park Trail and Spearfish Park. Tasks included removal of old fence, installation of safety railing, installation of gravel on a trail overlook, litter pickup, clearing of excess vegetation, trail maintenance and other tasks. Their work was designed to enhance the safety and experiences of the public at the Dalles Dam Visitor Center at Seufert Park.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers entered into a cooperative agreement with Northwest Youth Corps, where the teens help complete recreation and natural resource-related work at Corps projects throughout Oregon.

“Their work is outstanding,” said Scott Moore, the Corps’ partnership coordinator. “They have a great training program that fosters excellent work skills and ethics for their youth — and we can offer good experiences to them, too.”

Some of the projects the youth corps has undertaken include wildlife habitat enhancement, building maintenance and litter clean up, Moore added.

Crew members involved in this project will also have the opportunity to earn a non-taxable education stipend of \$1,225 for their five weeks of work, plus the chance to live in some of the most beautiful parts of the Pacific Northwest, travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit.

More than 13,000 youth have participated in Northwest Youth Corps since 1984.

The organization’s nonprofit mission is to “create leaders through teamwork, education and outdoor conservation work experiences.”

For information about the organization, visit www.nwyouthcorps.org or call (541) 349-5055.