



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**Linn County Residents Benefit from Northwest Youth Corps' Grant**  
*Linn County Youth Sought for Scholarships*

April 26, 2006 – Eugene, OR – Northwest Youth Corps (NYC), the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit adventure education organization, was recently awarded a grant of \$149,870 from the Linn County Board of Commissioners\*. The grant was given to Northwest Youth Corps to fund their Linn County Youth Empowerment Program.

The Northwest Youth Corps' Linn County Youth Empowerment Program provides forest-based employment opportunity for local youth ages 14 - 19. For 15 weeks this summer (April - October 2006), Northwest Youth Corps' participants will carry out conservation work in Linn County Parks, the Willamette National Forest, Oregon State Parks, and Salem Bureau of Land Management sites.

Included in the Linn County Youth Empowerment Program is a 5 week base camp stay at River Bend Park in Linn County. Between July 29<sup>th</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>, more than 40 Northwest Youth Corps will inhabit the park and work with land management agencies on a variety of projects. Projects include campsite construction, trail building, and natural habitat restoration.

The diversity of Northwest Youth Corps' participants is reflected in why they chose to participate. Some want to learn about the outdoors, others want to improve their local community, and others want to have an outdoor career. Regardless of what brought them to the program, each youth are given the opportunity to realize the potential they have inside.

"This experience at NYC has taught me self motivation, the value of hard work and certainly helped me practice my communication and cooperation skills. These are all things I can use in real life." – Laura A., 2005 Northwest Youth Corps crewmember, River Bend project participant

As part of the Northwest Youth Corps funding, Linn County Board of Commissioners allocated 60 scholarships for local Linn county youth to participate in Northwest Youth Corps programs. The outdoor programs provide youth ages 14 – 19 the opportunity to learn about natural resource management. Youth will spend 4 – 6 weeks in the outdoors completing a variety of conservation projects.

"[At Northwest Youth Corps I] learned how a pond turns into a meadow using sediments, about the succession of the forest, and how to identify trees such as the Douglas fir and the Big Leaf maple." – Skye R., 2005 Northwest Youth Corps crewmember, River Bend project participant

Last year, 40 Northwest Youth Corps participants completed more than 1,500 hours of service at River Bend Park. During those hours they constructed more than a half mile of new trail, and maintained more than 1 mile of existing trail.

River Bend Park is open to the public and offers a mixture of outdoor recreational activities within a highly accessible forest setting. Visitors can enjoy scenic hiking trails, the South Santiam River, 45 public campsites, restroom and shower facilities, and day-use sites including a large group picnic shelter.

For more information about how Linn County youth can participate in a Northwest Youth Corps program, or to apply for a Linn County scholarship, please call (541) 349-5058.

Northwest Youth Corps would like to thank the Linn County Board of Commissioners for their generous support. Their generous support allows us to help young people make a difference in their lives and community.

### **About Northwest Youth Corps**

Northwest Youth Corps programs operate in partnership with project sponsors including United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Northwest Youth Corps programs are made possible with generous Title II and III funding from the Secure Rural Schools Act of 2000, the Recreation Trails Program (RTP), and various Regional Advisory Committees (RAC).

Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit conservation organization modeled after the historic Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's. Programs develop community leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor experiences. Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps offers youth an education based, work experience regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic background. Northwest Youth Corps has served more than 10,000 developing leaders throughout the Pacific Northwest. Please contact Northwest Youth Corps at 2621 Augusta Street, Eugene, OR 97403, phone (541) 349-5058, or visit [www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org).

*\* Funding for the Northwest Youth Corps' Linn County Youth Empowerment Program is provided by the Linn County Board of Commissioners through Title III funding as part of the Secure Rural Schools Act of 2000.*

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### **Resources**

Linn County Parks and Recreation Department  
3010 SW Ferry  
Albany, OR 97322  
Phone: 541-967-3917  
Fax: 541-924-6915  
<http://www.co.linn.or.us/parks/riverbend.htm>

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