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## **Youth Combine Frogs, Forests, and New Friends for Summer Fun**

### *Eugene Youth Contribute to Summer Conservation Projects*

June 20, 2006 (Eugene, OR) – YouthWorks, an outdoor conservation and education program, is sending over 200 Eugene youths ages 11 -15 throughout Lane County. These youth have signed up to participate in a variety of outdoor recreation and conservation adventures for three weeks this summer.

YouthWorks participants work side by side as a team to improve community resources such as Hendrick's Park, West Eugene Wetlands, Mt. Pisgah, and Laurel Valley Educational Farm. The outdoor program includes time for guided learning, stemming from the philosophy that nature nurtures the potential inside us all.

"I love it here, we get to meet friends, and be outside. At [YouthWorks] we are able to learn about other people, and about our environment." – Cassi C., 2005 YouthWorks participant

Whether restoring wildlife habitats, whitewater rafting down the Willamette, or exploring coastal tide pools, teams explore the unique geology of the Northwest. They may find local creatures such as starfish, sea anemones, and the endangered Fender's Blue Butterfly. The joy of achieving project goals and the excitement that comes from discovering new creatures and wonderful places, fosters new friendships.

"I made a lot of new friends and work[ed] really hard". – James R., 2005 YouthWorks participant

At the end of their three week adventure youth celebrate the completion of their program with an overnight camping and recreation trip.

*YouthWorks was started in 1999 and is part of the Northwest Youth Corps organization. Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit youth development organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. For additional information contact Northwest Youth Corps at 2621 Augusta Street, Eugene, OR 97403, phone (541) 349-5055, or visit [www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org).*

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