



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grant Awarded to YouthWorks Program Benefits Lane County

July 21, 2006 (Eugene, OR) – YouthWorks, a summer outdoor conservation and youth education program was recently awarded a grant of \$74,147 from the Lane County Board of Commissioners*. Grant funding provides YouthWorks the capital needed to complete conservation projects in Lane County.

Conservation projects are carried out by 11- to 14-year-olds from the Eugene/Springfield area. Donning bright red, yellow, orange, green, or blue hardhats, youth 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.

Three days a week from 9am – 3pm, YouthWorks participants remove noxious weeds, perform trail maintenance, and restore wildlife habitats. Two days a week, Youthworks participants recreate, splash, and play at local scenic areas. Recreation trips include hiking through an old growth forest, exploring coastal tide pools, and rafting down the McKenzie River.

Whether restoring wildlife habitats or exploring coastal tide pools, teams discover the unique geology of the Northwest. Through work and play, youth encounter local creatures such as starfish, sea anemones, and the endangered Fender's Blue Butterfly. Teams foster new friendships as youth take pride in achieving project goals and discovering new creatures and wondrous places.

"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

After the three weeks of participating in the YouthWorks program, youth celebrate their endeavors with an end-of-program overnight camping trip.

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

YouthWorks 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.

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