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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Natalie Whitson  
Northwest Youth Corps  
Phone: (541) 349-5055 x205  
2621 Augusta Street, Eugene, OR 97403

## **End of Program is Time to Celebrate Youth Accomplishments**

### *Eugene Youth Graduate from Summer Conservation Program September 1st*

August 31, 2006 (Eugene, OR) – YouthWorks, an outdoor conservation and education program, is wrapping up their nine week summer program with a graduation ceremony for youth on Friday, September 1st.

More than 200 Eugene/Springfield area youths, ages 11 -15 participated in a variety of outdoor recreation and conservation adventures this summer. YouthWorks participants work side by side as a team to improve community resources. Summer projects included removing invasive species at West Eugene Wetlands, farming fresh vegetables at Laurel Valley Educational Farm, and restoring trails at Whittaker Creek Recreation Area.

"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., YouthWorks participant

Youth spend equal time working on conservation projects and recreating. Whether they are 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 wonderous places, fosters new friendships. 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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