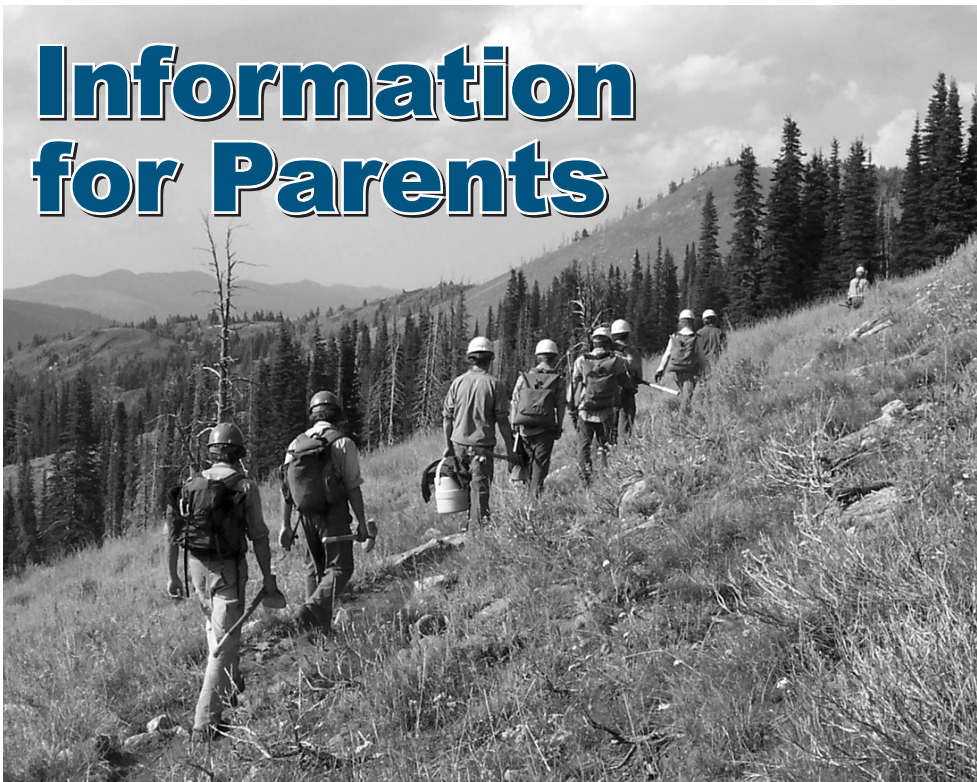


# Information for Parents



## Start the Journey

### Encourage Success

Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) is a team-based outdoor experience that challenges every participant to discover new abilities. NYC is no summer camp, and is certainly not life as usual. After a hard day on a project site, most teenagers find it an eye opening experience to return to camp and discover their team still has to make dinner and do camp chores.

*You* play a critical role in your teen's success. At some point, every corpsmember thinks about leaving the program. You might hear about it in a letter, a phone call, or during a weekend visit. Encourage your teen to rise to the challenge and honor their commitment. You might share some of your own experiences of overcoming challenges. Talk to them about how they might feel in the future, looking back on their decision. And certainly, ask if there is anything their team could do to help them succeed? Finally, if they truly have determined that NYC is not the right experience for them, please help them understand how to leave the program in a respectful and considerate manner.

### A Rewarding Experience

The NYC experience is about personal growth. It is about meeting a challenge and finishing what you start—even when it's not easy. This experience is about mastering the ability to work in a team, communicate, and resolve conflicts in a mature and positive manner. And, it is about responsibility and the pride that comes with success won in the face of adversity.

We recognize participant success through a stipend (not hourly wages) and bonuses that reward youth for achieving underlying program objectives—working safely, being dependable, and honoring their commitment to their team and NYC. Program participants:

- Work 35–40 hours per week (32 hours/week for TnT).
- Earn a \$200/week stipend (\$168.75/week for TnT) with \$50/week deducted for food.
- May earn bonuses of up to \$50 per week.
- Must graduate with their team to be eligible for any part of any bonus.

## ORIENTATION



## Today's Program

Morning/Afternoon

10:00/1:00

**Welcome!**

10:20/1:20

**Parents—questions**

**Participant—on their own**

- Registration paperwork
- Forget something?
- You and your tent
- Got questions?

11:45/2:45

**Parents—departure**

**Participant—eliminating barriers, building friendships**

12:45/3:45

**Lunch or break**

1:15/4:00

**Life at NYC**

- More about tents
- Traveling with trailers
- Staying healthy
- Camp safety

2:30/5:00

**Move into your tent**

3:00/5:30

**More life at NYC**

- Picks and Pulaskis
- Cooking NYC style
- Your crew inventory
- Vehicle safety

5:00/6:30

**Dinner—prep and cleanup**

7:00/8:00

**Setting the stage—a group process**

10:00/10:00

**Lights out—yes really**

## Quick Guide

### Contact NYC

For emergencies or information call during regular office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday: (541) 349-5055

### Crew Locations

For crew updates or the location of weekend campsites, visit the NYC web site at:

[www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org)

Click on *Parent Page*, select *Field News*, select the name of your teen's session (i.e. WA1).

Or call our Parent Hotline: (541) 349-5058

### Mail

- Mail must arrive by **5:00 p.m.** on Thursday.
- Packages should be no larger than a **standard shoebox**.
- **Minimize** packing material.
- Include the **session name** (i.e. OR2).

### Send all mail to:

Corpsmember's Name  
Session Name (i.e. OR2)  
Northwest Youth Corps  
2621 Augusta Street  
Eugene, OR 97403

### Parent Visit

#### Saturday

- 4:00 p.m. Crews return to camp and parents arrive
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner started by hosting crew
- 8:30 p.m. Corpsmember circle

#### Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Pack up/resupply begins
- 10:45 a.m. Project assignments/award meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Crews depart

**When planning a visit, please check our web site or call (541) 349-5058** to verify weekend information and crew availability. Crews may spend some weekends in the backcountry and not make it to the weekend rendezvous.

## Session Details

### Crew Assignments

Today, during orientation, teens will change teams several times to help everyone get to know each other. Tomorrow morning, right after breakfast, each participant will be awarded a colored hard hat symbolizing the team they will live and work with for the weeks to come. You will soon be hearing your son or daughter talking in colors and expecting you to naturally understand why red, yellow, blue and orange are suddenly so important. Crew assignments will be posted on the Parent Page of our web site, usually by Monday afternoon. For confidentiality, listings will indicate only participant initials.

### Mail

Mail is a big thing for NYC crewmembers! For most teens, their NYC experience will be the longest they have been away from home. Your weekly note, letter, or care package can provide the support and encouragement that helps your teen get through a day when things just aren't going right. Experience tells us that after a long week in the field, there's nothing like a care package from home. We suggest that you be creative with what you send. Simple games and novelty toys are often appreciated long after candy bars and junk food are gone. Keep in mind that there is no garbage service in the wilderness, so please, keep packing material to a minimum. Packages should be no larger than a standard shoebox.

### Spending Money

Crews generally arrive back in "civilization" once a week and have the opportunity to do laundry, shower, and stop at the mini mart. Usually, \$10 per week is adequate. Many parents choose to provide a mid-session "resupply," rather than give a lump sum for the entire session. Theft is rare, but corpsmembers are responsible for their own money, valuables, and possessions.

### Personal Property

Your son or daughter is responsible for their possessions. We do not encourage participants to bring large amounts of cash or expensive personal items. The outdoor environment is hard on personal possessions—cameras fall in the creek, musical instruments get rained on and fishing poles break.

### Welcoming Environment

Northwest Youth Corps strives to serve a broad spectrum of youth and is committed to diversity. NYC programs are for youth with the interest, ability, and maturity to work with others in a team-based environment. Our programs stress friendship and we work hard to promote a warm, welcoming, and supportive team environment. We do not allow clothing or other materials with racist, sexist, alcohol, drug, tobacco, obscene, or profane messages.

### School Credit

All NYC programs follow a carefully developed curriculum with segments on ecology, resource management, work experience, job skills, and leadership. Each year, many youth earn high school credit for their NYC experience. If your teen is interested in earning high school credit, they can contact a member of our Youth Services Team at (541) 349-5055 ext. 236 and request we release program information, including hours worked and assessment test results, to their high school counselor.

### Insurance

NYC makes thorough preparations to ensure the safety and health of each participant, but accidents can occur. NYC has worker's compensation coverage with SAIF Corporation. Parents and/or corpsmembers are financially responsible for all nonwork injuries or illnesses.

### Departures

We are extremely proud that, despite the program's rigors, roughly 90% of participants successfully complete their NYC experience. However, if your teen does choose to leave, the emergency contact information you have provided will be used to reach you or a designated person. Be sure you have listed your home and work phone numbers, and the names and phone numbers of at least three emergency contacts available throughout the program.

## Parent Weekend Visits

Your visit to a weekend rendezvous is an opportunity for you to better understand the amazing challenges your teen is tackling every day. Weekend visits are a time for you to meet their new friends, participate in camp activities, and share a few minutes of this life-changing experience. Consider staying for dinner. We ask that you join the activities and do not separate your son or daughter from their NYC experience. Please do not plan visits for the first and last weekends of the session. These weekends are dedicated to teambuilding activities. Crews may spend some weekends in the backcountry and not make it to the weekend rendezvous. Be sure and check the Parent Hotline, (541) 349-5058, or the Parent Page on our web site, before you plan a visit.

## Graduation Ceremony

We feel that recognizing the achievements of every youth in our program is an important part of their experience. At the end of each session, we hold a graduation ceremony to recognize individuals and teams for challenges met and accomplishments achieved. The graduation ceremony lasts about an hour. Staff supervision will conclude at the end of the ceremony. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements for your son's or daughter's return home. **Your presence at the graduation ceremony is very important to your son or daughter!**

## The NYC Experience

### Safety is Number One

Every Northwest Youth Corps activity begins and ends with safety in mind. A large part of today will be spent learning how to safely use the hand tools that will become fast friends in the weeks ahead. At the start of each job, crewmembers will complete a rigorous written safety analysis that identifies the safest way to complete each step of the project. Each day, crews will stop, evaluate progress, and make sure that everyone is working in the safest manner possible.

All staff are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR, and receive comprehensive training in tool safety, hazard mitigation, vehicle safety, wilderness camping, and treatment of severe allergic reactions.

### Team Spirit

Northwest Youth Corps promotes teamwork and the development of interpersonal skills while introducing young adults to the power of service and the responsibility of holding a job. Northwest Youth Corps provides a caring and supportive environment where every participant is challenged to learn how to work with others, make decisions, overcome obstacles, and achieve success.

### Real Work

Northwest Youth Corps staff engage youth in challenging, team-based work that builds pride and provides opportunities for personal development. The teamwork required to accomplish a difficult project, or complete an intimidating task, means that participants must think, plan, and communicate. NYC is an environment where youth quickly learn to resolve conflicts and appreciate the unique skills and abilities of each member of their team.

### Learning

At NYC, in addition to personal growth and the development of job skills, youth learn about the natural environment that surrounds them. Staff present the objective and rationale of each project from the perspective of the resource manager and lead youth in the exploration of environmental issues associated with their work. Discussion and debate are integral aspects of the education process as staff encourage youth to develop their own opinions and become critical thinkers.



## Mission

Northwest Youth Corps offers a challenging education and job-training experience that helps youth and young adults develop the skills they need to lead full and productive lives.

## Philosophy

Holding a job is a vital part of growing up. A job teaches discipline and responsibility. It gives young adults a sense of purpose and a role in society. It builds pride, broadens horizons, and promotes personal growth.

The underlying theme of all Northwest Youth Corps programs is one of empowerment—giving youth the skills and confidence they need to face life's challenges. NYC programs emphasize teamwork and leadership while promoting education, personal growth, and individual achievement. Youth complete NYC programs knowing that they can overcome obstacles, solve problems, make friends, and attain their life goals.

## History

In 1984, NYC launched its first program with \$12,000 in grants from four Oregon foundations and projects promised by members of the state's forest products industry. That year, NYC moved into a rented gas station, leased three vans, topped them with plywood roof racks, and sent three, eight-member crews into the field. Work those first years was decidedly not glamorous—crews worked almost exclusively in clearcuts piling logging slash. This summer, NYC will have thirty crews in the field and offer programs in three states with projects that span the spectrum of resource management.

## NYC—How It Works

This year, NYC will pay nearly \$1,000,000 in stipends to students, just over \$400,000 to their crewleaders, and our bill to run our fleet of 40 crew and staff rigs will top \$200,000. And that doesn't start to include the cost of crew tools and equipment, facility expenses, program staff payroll, or any of the other countless costs included in running a successful non-profit business. Where does all this money come from?

The hard work of youth, along with the willingness of our project partners to “give youth a chance,” are what really make NYC possible. Our professional staff spend the winter, fall, and spring developing a schedule of paid projects for upcoming programs. Often these projects are extremely significant—reconstruction of bridges on ten miles of the Rogue River National Scenic Trail for the US Forest Service or reconstruction of the Lewis and Clark Fort to the Sea Trail for Oregon State Parks. Sponsors entrust us with such important jobs because with every project we accept the challenge of proving how much top quality work a crew of determined teenagers can turn out!

NYC's agreements with resource agencies typically require us to raise 25% of project costs. Your donation and donations from other parents, grandparents, members of the public, and alumni play a key role in helping fill this void. Please join the ranks of those who support our efforts to offer the NYC experience to youth.

Grants from foundations allow us to offer new programs and improve existing ones. Corporate donations, and the donation of corporate products, play a key role in helping stretch tight budgets. In past years, companies have donated everything from plywood and crew cooking equipment to hand tools and first aid kits. Grants and donations represent about 12% of the YouthCorps budget.

Years ago, when NYC was just getting started, we realized that we could not support the NYC concept without help from parents. Today, fees paid by parents represent about 4% of the YouthCorps budget. These fees help support the nonwork activities that are so much a part of the NYC experience, weekend field trips and staffing, as well as our education and recreation programs.

## Help NYC Help Youth

Last year, NYC awarded scholarships to more than 200 young people but we were still forced to decline many requests for financial assistance. Your purchase of NYC gear and your donation to NYC's Tuition Assistance Endowment will help teens from low-income families experience the NYC challenge. You can make a donation by mail or by credit card through a secure link at our web site at [www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org).

## Help NYC Grow

It is our vision that we will be able to assure that the NYC experience is within the reach of any interested teen. To achieve that goal, we need help from parents and business who understand the challenges that confront today's youth and who share our commitment to helping youth achieve success. Your donation, or that of your employer, will help assure that NYC will be able to grow to meet the needs of all youth. If you have questions or suggestions please call our development office at (541) 349-5055 ext. 205, or you can e-mail Natalie Whitson at [giving@northwestyouthcorps.org](mailto:giving@northwestyouthcorps.org).

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For more information about Northwest Youth Corps:  
Call (541) 349-5055 or visit us on the Web at

[www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org)

## Gear Up! with NYC Gear

**Send an NYC Survival Box!** It's packed with cool stuff that can really be used in the field. We load it with invaluable items like a clean t-shirt, a cup to replace that one long lost or broken, an all-purpose bandana, and that ever-present part of the NYC uniform—a water bottle. For current details visit the Parent Page on our web site. All it takes is a phone call and a credit card to get an NYC Survival Box on the way to your son or daughter. Call by Thursday noon and it will go out with the weekend mail.

Call (541) 349-5055 to place your order.

From t-shirts to water bottles, all proceeds from the sale of NYC gear go to our Tuition Assistance Endowment. The endowment is managed by the Oregon Community Foundation.

## News Online— NYC eNews

Get the latest news, events, and information about NYC conveniently delivered to your e-mail in-box each month. To register, visit the NYC eNews information page on our web site at [www.northwestyouthcorps.org/enews\\_info.html](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org/enews_info.html).

