



YouthWorks Parent Information Sheet

Cultivating Personal Growth

YouthWorks allows youth a unique opportunity to achieve success in a positive and supportive environment. The educational curriculum is designed to promote maturity, self-reliance, self-esteem, and acceptance of personal responsibility while gaining practical skills that prepare youth for a balanced and productive life. Service work projects teach participants how to work as a team, set goals, and work hard. Exciting day trips introduce participants to a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities like hiking, camping, and rafting.

Each day presents challenges and big rewards. Participants make new friends, learn important job skills, give back to their local community, and have lots of fun. During a typical week, each crew will work on two community service work projects, spend two days on recreation trips, and work one day on the Laurel Valley Organic Farm. Crews will travel as far as the Oregon Coast and up the McKenzie River. Throughout the three-week journey, participants will learn about themselves, the environment, how to meet challenges head on, how to succeed and have fun adventures!

The Basics

Each YouthWorks session is three weeks long. Participants must arrive at the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) campus by 8:45 a.m. The day ends at 3:15 p.m.

On the first day of YouthWorks, each participant will receive a schedule showing what activities they will be doing throughout the program. Participants need to show up prepared for the day ahead. Please help ensure they come each day with the proper attire. If they do not have the appropriate attire, they will be unable to participate in the day's activities. Each participant needs to bring a sack lunch every day and keep a positive attitude regarding the day's activities.

Service Project and Farm Gear Requirements

- Blue jeans
- Work gloves
- Sturdy shoes, work boots highly recommended
- Long-sleeved blue work shirt
- Sunscreen

Recreation Trip Gear Requirements

- Sturdy shoes for hiking
- Sneakers for swimming (no open-toed shoes please)
- Brimmed hat
- Swim trunks or swimsuit
- Sunscreen
- Warm sweatshirt or jacket

Camping Trip Gear (last week of program)

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Flashlight
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Warm sweatshirt or coat
- Change of clothes
- Warm hat
- Mosquito repellent
- Cup or mug

Tuition and Tuition Assistance

The educational and recreation components of YouthWorks are supported by the \$395 tuition for each participant for the three week sessions (YW1&YW2), and \$265 for the two week session (YW3). Northwest Youth Corps has developed a modest financial aid program to assist youth in cases where tuition costs create barriers to participation. Please fill out the tuition assistance form and provide NYC with proof of income, and we will contact you with further information.

Northwest Youth Corps strives to offer the YouthWorks experience to as many Lane County youth as possible. In the event that your plans change, we have the following refund policy:

29 days notice	100% refund
22 days notice	85% refund
15 days notice	65% refund
Less than 15 days notice	No refund

Refunds are not given for voluntary withdrawals after the refund deadline, no-shows, or dismissals.

Safety

Safety is number one at Northwest Youth Corps. Each activity, trip, and job begins with a safety discussion and thorough instruction. We are proud of our 25-year history of safe working crews, and we share that pride with the youth in our programs. However, we have found that youth at this age do acquire their share of minor scrapes, bruises, and sore muscles. Parents are financially responsible for any costs associated with treatment of their child for accidents and injuries while youth are engaged in program activities. If something should happen during the program, the Emergency Information form you have filled out will be used to contact you or a designated friend or relative. Please be sure you have provided at least three contacts on this form.

Earning a Stipend

Youth will work on service projects up to 5 hours a day, 2 or 3 days each week, for the three-week program. Participants will receive their stipend during the program closing ceremony. Taxes are not withheld because youth participants earn a non-taxable “education stipend.” Therefore, youth will not receive a W-2.

Stipend: Earning a stipend is based on the participant’s effort and performance at the service project. We encourage participants to work to their full potential. If a participant does not show up for work, or sits out during the day, his or her stipend will be adjusted for the time missed. Success of the program requires that each YouthWorks participant takes an active part in the program.

- YW 1 & YW 2 Ages 11–13 will have the potential to earn a stipend of \$50.
- YW 1& YW 2 Ages 14–15 will have the potential to earn a stipend of \$75.
- YW 3 Stipends will be \$ 25 for ages 11-13 and \$38 for ages 14-15

End of Session and Closing Ceremony

At the end of the program, parents and friends are invited to attend a closing ceremony to celebrate the success and accomplishments of each participant. This ceremony will be held at the NYC campus on the last day of the program at 2:45 p.m. This ceremony lasts about an hour. You are highly encouraged to attend this ceremony. If you are unable to attend, you will need to make arrangements for your son’s or daughter’s return home.

Lost and Found

All articles of clothing and other personal belongings should be marked with the participant’s name. All “found” articles will be placed in a “lost and found” bin at the end of the session. Articles not claimed will be held one week and then disposed of; our storage space is extremely limited.

Supporting YouthWorks

YouthWorks is supported through local community funding and project sponsors for the service work portion of the program. YouthWorks tuition helps support the cost of the educational and recreational components of the program, which create a rewarding mix of activities each week. Without tuition and strong community support, YouthWorks would not be able to provide these enriching opportunities for Lane County youth.

Northwest Youth Corps is committed to continuing to improve the experience we provide as well as expanding the program in order to offer the NYC experience to as many youth as possible. Your financial support can help us achieve this objective. Call Natalie Whitson, Development Director, at (541) 349-5055 ext. 205 if you would like to make a donation.