NYC—How It Works

This year, NYC will pay nearly $1,000,000 in youth stipends, more than $400,000 to their field staff, and our bill to run our fleet of 40 crew and staff rigs will top $20,000. 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 invest in our next generation, is what really makes NYC possible. Our professional staff spend the winter, fall, and spring developing a schedule of paid projects for upcoming seasons. 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 require us to raise a portion 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 the past years, companies have donated everything from plywood and crew cooking equipment to hand tools and first aid kits. Grants and donations represent a significant portion of the YouthCorps budget.

Years ago, when NYC was just getting started, we realized that we could not support the NYC concept without the help from parents. These fees help support the non-work 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

Each year, NYC awards scholarships to more and more young people but we are 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 adventure. You can make a donation by mail or by credit card through a secure link at our web site at www.northwestyouthcorps.org.

Help NYC Grow

It is our vision to ensure 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, help ensure 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 or you can e-mail Northwest Youth Corps at NYC@northwestyouthcorps.org.

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

Information for Parents

Gear Up with NYC Gear

Save on NYC Gear Packages: It’s packed with cool stuff that can really be used in the field. We sold it with invaluable items like a green t-shirt, a cap, a rope, and a knife that one being last but not least, an all-purpose bandana, or the ever popular NYC warm bootie. For current details visit the Parent Page on our website. All it takes is a little extra cash to get an NYC Gear Package and 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.

Promo shirts to water bottles, all proceeds from the sale of NYC gear go to our Tuition Assistance Endowment.

News Online-NYC

Get the latest news, events, and information about NYC conveniently delivered to your e-mail inbox throughout the year.
To register, visit the NYC eNews informational page at our web site at www.northwestyouthcorps.org

Start the Journey

Encourage Success

Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) is a team-based outdoor experience that encourages every participant to discover new skills and abilities. NYC is no summer camp, and is certainly not life as usual. After a hard day on a project site, NYC teens return to camp and discover that their team still has to make dinner and do camp chores. Following dinner each night are education sessions, team building games, and plenty of laughter. We get up early and we go to bed tired from a full day.

You play a critical role in your teen's success. At some point, some corps members think about leaving the program. You might hear about it in a letter, a phone call, or during a weekend visit. If this happens, it is helpful if you can encourage your teen to stick with their commitment. You might share some of your own experiences of overcoming challenges. Talk to them about how good they will feel when they complete the program. 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, we ask for your patience and support in helping us get them home.

A Rewarding Experience

The NYC experience is about personal growth and adventure. 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 positive manner. And, it is about responsibility and the pride that comes with success won through perseverance.

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:

• Complete 35-40 hours per week of conservation projects.
• Receive educational stipend with food cost deducted each week.
• May earn bonuses per week.
• Must graduate with their team to be eligible for any part of any bonus.
• Earn the opportunity to get school credit (varies from school to school).
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 hardhat symbolizing the team which 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 so important. Crew assignments will be posted on the Parent Page of our website, usually by Monday afternoon. For confidentiality, listing 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 support and encouragement that helps your teen get through a day when things just aren’t going right. Expect to receive mail 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 return 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 corps members 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—nice watches can be broken, expensive keepsakes get lost, and important paperwork can be destroyed. At NYC we also do not allow any cell phones or personal electronic music players out in the field. Please leave these items at home.

Welcoming Environment
Northwest Youth Corps strives to serve a broad spectrum of youth and is committed to diversity. All NYC programs are for youth with the interest, ability, and maturity to work with others in a team-based environment. Our programs emphasize 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, alcoholic, drug, tobacco, obscene, homophobic 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; they can contact a member of our Community Relations Team at (541) 349-5055 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 which covers project site related injuries. Parents and/or corps members are financially responsible for all non-project site situations.

Departures
We are extremely proud that despite the program's rigor, more than 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. If you have listed your home and work phone numbers, 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 adventure your teen is involved in. Weekend visits are a time for you to meet your new friends, participate in camp activities, and share 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 their session. These weekends are dedicated to teambuilding activities. Corps members may spend some weekends in the backcountry and not make it to the weekend rendezvous. Be sure and check the Parent Page on our website, before you plan a visit or call our office (541) 349-5055.

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 their tremendous accomplishments. The graduation ceremony lasts about an hour. Your presence at the graduation ceremony is very important to your son or daughter! Staff supervision will conclude at the end of the ceremony. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements with our office for your son's or daughter’s return home. Help make this ceremony memorable.

The NYC Experience

Safety is Number One
Every Northwest Youth Corps activity begins and ends with safety in mind. A large part of orientation will be spent learning how to safely use hand tools that will become fast friends in the weeks ahead. At the start of each job, crew members complete a rigorous written safety analysis that identifies the safest way to complete each step of the project. Each day, crews 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 encouraged to learn how to win with others, make decisions, overcome obstacles, and achieve success.

Real Experience
Northwest Youth Corps staff engage youth in challenging, team-based projects that build pride and provide 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 work together 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 encourages youth to develop their own opinions and become critical thinkers.

Mission
Northwest Youth Corps’ mission is to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success.

Core Values

Education:
Providing academic and life skill education to youth and young adults with the goal of creating lifelong learners and community leaders.

Leadership:
Helping youth and young adults successfully meet personal and social challenges of the future.

Community:
Delivering programming that fosters a team based approach to solving challenges, to help each member experience much greater impact than they could on their own.

Empowerment:
Helping youth recognize that they possess the ability to make a significant difference in their own lives and the lives of others.

Challenge:
Providing opportunities for youth and young adults to develop confidence, pride, and the sense of accomplishment that comes from doing difficult job well.

History
In 1984, NYC launched its first program with 12,000 $1 in grants from four Oregon foundations and projects provided by members of the state’s forest product 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 these first years was decidedly not glamorous—crews worked almost exclusively in clearcuts piling logging slash. This summer, NYC will have a lot more crews in the field and offer programs in five states with that span the spectrum of resource management.