

Now Hiring Youth Conservation Corps Crew Members



Wild Arizona, in partnership with the Coronado National Forest's Douglas Ranger District, is announcing its six-week summer residential Youth Conservation Corps program for 2025.

We are seeking high school students who enjoy the outdoors, are interested in conservation and are curious in learning about careers in the Forest Service. Additionally, students should apply if they would like to get paid to live and work with their peers, live in a remote mountainous area in southeast Arizona and learn hands-on skills such as how to maintain hiking trails.

Dates, Age Requirements and Location

The program will run from June 8th to July 20th, 2025. To be eligible to participate, you must be available for the entire duration of the program.

Applicants must be 15 years old or older at the start of the program (June 8th) and younger than 18 years at the end of the program (July 20th).

Crew members will spend the majority of the summer living in Rucker Canyon in the southwest corner of the **Chiricahua Mountains** in southeast Arizona. Students will split their time between living in a forest administration site in Rucker Canyon and camping throughout the Chiricahuas and nearby wild areas. The nearest major town is Douglas, AZ.

Compensation and Costs

Crew members will be compensated at the current Arizona state minimum wage rate at the start of the program, which is \$14.70 an hour. Crew members will work forty hours a week. Payroll is provided via direct deposit twice monthly. Food and housing costs while in the program are provided at no cost.

All travel expenses to and from the Douglas Ranger Station or Tucson International Airport at the start and beginning of the program will be the responsibility of the crew member and their family. All other travel during the 6-week program will be provided.

Crew members are responsible for providing their own gear, including work clothing and camping equipment. For a full gear list, please visit <https://www.wildarizona.org/ycc> and click on “download the required gear list.”

If, because of financial hardship, the cost of transportation or gear would prevent you from participating in the program, reach out to Wild Arizona and we will work hard to ensure you can still be a part of the program.

What We are Looking For

Wild Arizona wants crew members who will work hard to achieve excellence in work tasks and take pride in what they accomplish. We are an organization which is known for doing things well and we want crew members who will join us in maintaining that high standard of excellence.

We desire people who value honesty, fairness and kindness in all their interactions with other people, whether it is crew members, crew leads or members of the public. We will ask that you actively seek to care for and understand the people around you. We are not looking for perfect people. Instead, we do want you to be honest with yourselves and others.

We are looking for candidates who both enjoy being outside and are curious about the natural world. Those who are actively seeking to learn more about the abundant flora and fauna in the Chiricahuas will reap the most benefits from this summer. In addition, there will be parts of the program that will be physically difficult. You must be ready to be challenged.

Requirements

- Must be able to hike up to eight miles a day carrying a 50 pound backpack and heavy tools
- Must be able to be away from AC power for up to 5 days at a time in a backcountry environment
- Must be able to be away from medical professionals and therapists for up to 5 days at a time
- Must be able to be away from running water/showers/toilets for up to 5 days at a time
- Must be willing to only have access to a cell phone and cell service for an hour a week

Job Duties

- learn about the proper and safe handling of hand tools
- become proficient in maintaining hiking trails
- participate in an assortment of work activities led by local/regional Forest Service staff
- become well versed in the variety of career options available in the Forest Service
- live in close proximity to other crew members in a Forest Service facility during the weekends and in tents during some or all of the work weeks
- take turns meal planning and preparing meals for thirteen or more people
- perform daily chore tasks including the cleaning of facilities
- develop teamwork and leadership skills
- become adept at conflict resolution
- hone practical outdoor and camping skills
- become more knowledgeable about local plant and animal species
- read about the local history of the local area
- learn about the indigenous peoples who once inhabited the land
- participate in guided discussions about the role of humans in stewarding public lands
- write daily in journals in response to journal prompts

How to Apply

Visit <https://www.wildarizona.org/ycc> (QR Code Below), navigate to the heading titled “Crew Members” and click on “Submit Your Application” to fill out the electronic application.



All applications must be submitted by Friday, March 14th at 5:00 PM. No applications will be accepted after that time. Those selected to move on in the application process will be invited to have an interview. Final hiring decisions will be communicated no later than Wednesday, April 30th at 5:00 PM. If you are not selected, then you will have the option to be put on a waitlist in case of crew member vacancies before or during the program.

If you have any questions, reach out to Samuel Baggenstos at sam@wildarizona.org

