



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

January 14th, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Virginia State Parks is pleased to announce that **the 2025 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program is now accepting applications for Crew Members**. Please continue reading to learn more about what YCC can offer your students.

YCC crews consist of 10 youth, ages 14-17, from diverse backgrounds and 3-4 adult crew leaders. This team of young people will live in a Virginia state park for a two-week session in a structured program of work and learning. On weekdays, the crews carry out park conservation, development, and maintenance projects. After hours, they take part in planned environmental education and recreational activities. Weekends include outdoor adventures such as caving, canoeing, nature hikes, or visiting neighboring state parks.

The Virginia State Parks YCC mission is to connect Virginia's youth with the natural world through a structured program of meaningful service projects on public lands. Youth build trails, friendships, environmental literacy, and self-confidence as they work to preserve access to the outdoors for generations to come.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in promoting the program to any interested youth. To expand the horizons of participants and introduce them to Virginia's environmental diversity, we strive for geographic distance between the youth's home and the park they serve. We provide meals, housing, and a program completion stipend of \$750 for the participants. The youth must realize that, although no prior experience is necessary, the program is outdoors and service-based and will be physically demanding. It is not summer camp!

We hope you will join us in letting others know about this very exciting opportunity for adolescents from different backgrounds throughout the Commonwealth to gain lifelong skills while serving their communities. Please feel free to replicate the accompanying flyer for distribution. **Applications will be accepted online only at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/youth-conservation-corps>. The application deadline is March 15, 2025.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kalee Shahayda
Youth Engagement Coordinator
vspycc@dc.virginia.gov

Enclosure: Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps Crew Member Application Flyer

Become a Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps Crew Member in 2025

Spend two weeks in a Virginia State Park, working eight hours each weekday, learning about conservation in the evenings and adventuring on the weekends.

It is NOT a summer camp!

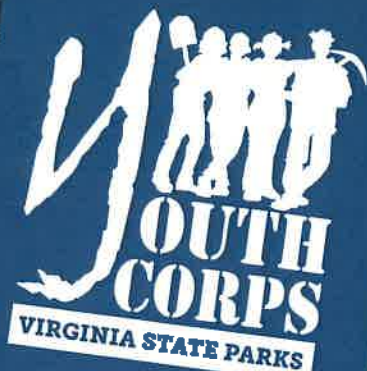
A \$750 stipend will be well earned through dedicated community service and hard work preserving access to the outdoors.



**\$750 stipend
upon completion
of a session.**

**First Session:
June 15 — 28, 2025**

**Second Session:
July 6 — 19, 2025**



Details & application available at www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/youth-conservation-corps
You must include two references in your application. Applications close in mid-March of 2025.