

# Youth Employment in Conservation Careers

## *Northeast Region*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is a federal agency, working to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the benefit of the American people. To help achieve this important mission, we want to include young people of all ages and backgrounds: engaging, educating and employing them to be the next generation of conservation heroes.

The Service offers paid, unique and meaningful work experiences, introducing students to a variety of careers in natural resource conservation. Career opportunities (more than 30) include, park rangers, engineers, biologists, communicators, law enforcement officers, administrative and human resource specialists, and accountants.

Whether still enrolled in school or a recent graduate, the Service provides a variety of training and employment opportunities for youth. Examples include Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Pathways Program, and student internship programs, such as Americorps, State Conservation Corps, and many non-government organizations.

**Youth Conservation Corps (ages 15-18)**  
YCC is a summer employment program for young people. Students work and learn as a team while engaged in environmental stewardship experiences. The YCC focuses on:



youth development, natural resource stewardship and conservation, creating positive community involvement and career exploration. Programs are typically 8 weeks long from June through August. Participants gain a variety of experiences from biological monitoring to facilities maintenance and visitor services. (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/youth/ycc.html>)

### **General Internship Positions in USFWS**

These jobs provide young people with a rich experience from which to continue further education and launch professional careers. Many of the jobs involve work in wildlife or visitor service related fields that include: monitoring and assessing threatened/endangered species and habitats, conducting visitor service programs, general maintenance and management, or cultural/historical resource management. These positions are hired by applying through USAjobs.gov or the YouthGO.gov websites. (<http://youthgo.gov/>)

### **Associated Partner Internship Hires (Targeted for College Students)**

These positions are similar to General Internship, but interns are recruited and hired by Service partners. Job opportunities are posted on specific partner websites. The Service partners with many state conservation and non-government organizations.

### **Career Discovery Internship Program (Targeted for College Freshman and Sophomores)**

Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP) is coordinated with SCA, and is designed to 1) introduce culturally and ethnically diverse college students to conservation careers in the Service, 2) give Service staff the experience of working with culturally and ethnically diverse employees, and 3) increase the diversity of applicant pools for conservation jobs. These internships provide a diverse group of youth with the opportunity to gain hands-on



experience in the field of conservation. (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/youth/cip.html>).

### **Pathways Program**

The Pathways Program is comprised of three separate components: The Internship Program (must be enrolled in high school, or college or technical school, at least half time), The Recent Graduates Program (graduated within two years to qualify [This is extended for veterans]), and The Presidential Management Fellows Program. Collectively these programs are geared to give current students and recent graduates (including those who have Veteran Status), practical and hands-on job experiences that can eventually lead to established careers within government service. This program is scheduled to launch summer 2012. More information will be provided at that time.

### **Northeast Region Youth Programs**

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/youth/index.html>

February 2012



