



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CRAB ORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
8588 ILLINOIS ROUTE 148
MARION, ILLINOIS 62959

23 March 2026

Dear Friends,

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is pleased to invite students from across Southern Illinois to apply for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) summer employment program. The YCC program provides young people with meaningful, paid opportunities to engage in natural resource stewardship, conservation projects, and community service on public lands.

The YCC is an eight-week summer employment experience scheduled to run this year from 1 June 2026 to 24 July 2026. Participants work together on a variety of conservation-related projects, which may include habitat restoration, trail maintenance, visitor services support, and other hands-on stewardship activities. These experiences help build teamwork, leadership, and career exploration opportunities for youth interested in conservation or public service.

Per YCC program guidelines, applicants must:

- Be at least 15 years old by the first day of work and must not turn 19 before the program ends.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Possess a Social Security card and meet any state-required work permit rules.

Students may apply using the official YCC application form which is available by stopping by the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center located at 6987 Headquarters Road in Marion during normal operating hours or requesting an electronic version by contacting William Hogsett at william_hogsett@fws.gov.

Completed applications can be dropped off at the Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center or returned via U.S. mail to:

William Hogsett
Crab Orchard NWR
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959

The deadline for submitting applications is 22 April 2026. All applications must be received by that date, so please factor in mail-delivery/processing times. The selected candidates will be notified by the first week of May and provided with a date to attend a mandatory in-processing in mid-May 2026

Please contact William Hogsett at 618-998-5947 or william_hogsett@fws.gov with any questions.