

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Youth Conservation Corps 2023 Information

READ THIS PAGE CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING

Dear YCC Candidate:

We thank you for your interest in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The YCC is a federally funded “work-learn-earn” program aimed at developing an appreciation and understanding of the Nation’s natural heritage. **Please read this sheet carefully before applying for the YCC program. Keep the upper portion of this page for your information.**

General Program Information

- The 2023 YCC program will run from June 20 through August 11 (8 weeks).
- The refuge will employ up to four (4) young people during the program. We usually receive over 20 applications for these positions.
- YCC recruits work 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (there is a 30 minute lunch break at 11:30). Recruits are expected to arrive for work promptly at 7:00 am every day.
- YCC recruits are paid minimum wage, currently \$13.25 per hour.
- There will be a paid holiday on Tuesday, July 4.
- Recruits are expected to work every day. Absences and appointments must be cleared with the supervisor, and lengthy vacation absences are discouraged.
- You will be provided with uniform T-shirts, hats, boots, gloves, and other safety apparel.
- **You must provide your own transportation to and from work, and bring a lunch.**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please cut on dotted line, sign, and return this portion with your application.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions of this job as outlined on this page. Parents/Guardians, to insure that your child has a good experience in this program, please **make absolutely sure** that he/she wants this job.

Applicant (Student) Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

YCC Work

- **YCC work involves a great deal of physical labor, most of which will be performed outdoors.**
- Examples of YCC projects include installing and painting signs and gates, posting refuge boundary signs, working in the refuge's butterfly garden, maintaining trails, washing cars and farm equipment, and cleaning buildings.
- Working in the hot summer sun and around insects is common.
- You will learn a variety of skills, make new friends, engage in teamwork, and accomplish goals while helping to protect the environment.
- Each week, you will spend several paid hours learning about the environment at the refuge or taking field trips to local museums or natural areas. You are expected to fully participate in this aspect of the program.

Application Requirements

- Complete the attached YCC application form **neatly**, and make sure that it is signed by both you and your parent or guardian.
- **Email or mail the application by May 1.** Mail your application to the address below (to the attention of "Tom Miller" or "YCC Program").
- You must be a permanent resident of the U.S., or its territories or possessions.
- You must be at least 15 years old before the beginning of the program (June 20) and may not turn 19 before the end of the program (August 11).
- **YCC recruits need a social security card and a bank account (or use a family member's account) for direct deposit. This is not an option.**
- **Applicants under the age of 18 need a Maryland Work Permit, which can be obtained at the Maryland Dept. of Labor web site:**
<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/wages/empm.shtml>
- YCC recruits will be **randomly** selected from applicants, as is required by government regulation (i.e. "drawn from a hat").
- Selected applicants and their guardians are required to meet with refuge staff prior to the start of the program to receive information and fill out paperwork.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 410-221-8156 or email Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov.

Thomas J. Miller
Ranger, Blackwater NWR

Return applications by email to: Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov

Or by regular mail to:

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
Attn: YCC Program