



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Office of the Mayor**

632 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

WI

[Home](#) | [Departments](#) | [Mayor](#) | [Assembly](#) | [Employee Directory](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Find](#)

You are here : [Home](#) > [Mayor's Office](#) > [Municipality of Anchorage, Office of the Mayor News Releases](#)  
spacer spacer spacer

### News Release

**For Immediate Release  
March 15, 2007**

**Contact:** J

10/10/06 New Program Provides After School Care in West Fairview

## **CITY LAUNCHES YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS (YEP!)**

Up to 20 Anchorage youth ages 16-18 will be hired to work in city parks this summer in an innovative program in which they'll also receive education relevant to their work. The new Youth Employment (YEP) program was launched today by Mayor Mark Begich at the Spenard Recreation Center.

Under the program, each work week will have a theme. Mondays will be education days, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be spent working in parks, and Fridays will be outdoor recreation days. The program is a partnership with Anchorage Parks & Recreation and the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action program, with support from the National Wildlife Federation.

"This is a win-win-win program. Significant projects get completed in parks. Youth get employed in a first job situation. Youth receive education on issues of importance to Anchorage that are directly related to their work projects and high school credit," said Mayor Begich. "And as we invest in these youth, we are providing them a positive outlet for their time, we are taking proactive steps to curb youth violence."

"Too often we hear about all of the negative things teens are doing. Anchorage needs more opportunities for young people to positively engage with our community, and Youth Employment in Parks is one of those opportunities," said Polly Carr, Program Manager for Alaska Youth for Environmental Action.

"We are going to work with all of the community organizations we can to create useful and meaningful projects for the kids. We have already formed partnerships with many community organizations: Trails will give trail maintenance training and work with youth on a trail improvement project. Fun Cruises and Cruise West have committed to provide coach transport one day a week," said Beth Development Director for the Anchorage Park Foundation. "The possibilities for partnering with park user groups and businesses in Anchorage are endless."

According to Anchorage Parks and Rec Commission Chair Victor Molozzi: "Getting these youth out of the parks in a visible way will improve park safety and will give these youth ownership in our incredible parks and trails."

Kalyn Brewer, 19 and an East High student and AYE staff at National Wildlife Federation said: "

leadership skills, gaining valuable experience and having a job has not always been that accessible for teens. Now it can be. While not all youth choose the right path every time, Youth Employment Initiative offers a good choice to those who need it most.”

Applications for the 20 youth crew positions are available online at [www.ayea.org](http://www.ayea.org), and are due by May 31. Orientation is scheduled for May 30-31, with jobs ending in mid August.

Three crew leaders will also be hired to supervise the youth crew members. Applications will be available at [www.ayea.org](http://www.ayea.org). Jobs start in May.

###

Contact the Mayor's Office  
632 W. 6th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
PO Box 196650 Anchorage, Alaska 99519

[Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Site Help](#) | (c)2004 MOA IT e-Gov