



MEDIA RELEASE

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE FOR TEENS
Foundation & City Offer Teens Opportunity to Work in Parks, Develop Job Skills

In partnership with the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation is proud to announce the kick-off of summer hiring for 2010 Youth Employment in Parks positions.

The Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program is a program of the Anchorage Park Foundation, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a program of the National Wildlife Federation. YEP positively engages a new generation of diverse youth leaders with the environment and the Anchorage community through meaningful training, employment, and outdoor recreation.

With generous support and partnership from more than 100 community organizations and public lands agencies, the APF and the Parks & Recreation Department will hire 31 youth and 7 adults for summer 2010 YEP positions.

“Participating in YEP over the last two summers has been a fantastic opportunity for my friends and me,” said YEP alumna Susan Bick. “I’ve developed great natural resource management skills, gotten stronger and more confident, and learned a lot about our parks and the ecological systems within them. I look forward to applying to be a crew leader this summer!”

YEP is a great first job opportunity for Anchorage youth. Crew members participate in job skills training, environmental education, civic engagement and leadership training, all intended to assist youth in connecting to the outdoors and public lands. At the beginning of the summer, teens are assigned to either a parks or recreation crew. Parks crews complete park improvement projects focused on YEP’s four themes: trails, watersheds, forests & neighborhood parks. Recreation crews offer free play programs to children in neighborhood parks throughout the summer.

“The YEP program is a core focus for the Anchorage Park Foundation because it achieves our core goals: engaging the community in their public lands, improving parks, creating stewards of natural resources and providing recreation opportunities for children in their neighborhoods,” said Anchorage Park Foundation Board Member Eleanor Andrews. “We know that we are promoting ‘Healthy Parks and Healthy People’ when we see teens working hard, developing job skills and taking better care of our parks.”

In consultation with the YEP Advisory Committee, the APF and Parks & Recreation Department undertake a strong recruitment and outreach program to ensure that the YEP program comprises a diverse cross-section of the Anchorage community. Adult mentors can assist youth in apply for YEP by completing the YEP applicant reference form.

YEP is made possible by generous support from more than 100 community partners. Major funders include the Rasmuson Foundation, Anchorage Community Land Trust, the Municipality of Anchorage, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Atwood Foundation, the Alaska State Legislature and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

For more information, or to apply, please visit the Anchorage Park Foundation website at www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org.

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