



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
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YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS GROUP LEADER GS-186-5

It is that time of the year again for Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge to begin recruiting for the summer 2008 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a well balanced, work-learn program that helps youth develop an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's environment and heritage.

Group leaders are an invaluable part of the YCC program! As a Group Leader, you will be responsible for a team of five to ten members between the ages of 15 – 18. Group leaders will help plan logistics, evaluate team members, and assist enrollees in their conservation learning process. For this same reason, it is essential that Group Leaders have a background in education, conservation, or youth work.

Group Leader Major Duties:

- Supervise and work with up to ten enrollees on projects related to fish and wildlife habitat improvement, natural resource conservation, habitat management, and maintenance at a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Ensure that YCC assignments include training in sound environmental practices.
- Supervises YCC crew in work projects designed to meet refuge needs and illustrates conservation practices.
- Works alongside enrollees on projects and ensures safety of enrollees.
- Ensure assignments are completed in a timely manner.
- Assist in the environmental education portion of the program by making presentations and demonstrating environmentally sound work methods.
- Report daily on the status of work, progress, and supply needs.
- Complete reports and forms as assigned.
- This is a temporary position no to exceed 9 weeks.

This position will be filled through the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP), a program designed to provide opportunities for students to combine academic experience with on-the-job work experience; the purpose of this position is to provide educational experience to enrollees while accomplishing the conservation objectives of the Service. The work directly affects the enrollees' education and safety, and the overall efficiency of the refuge. The work requires close coordination and cooperation with other station employees and enrollees in order to integrate work activities.

Qualifications Required:

- One year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-4 level **OR** A successful **completion** of a full 4-year course of study leading to a **bachelor's degree** that
 - (a) included at least 24 semester hours in any combination of subjects directly related to the work of the position **OR**;
 - (b) included a major in social behavior, human behavior, or health care.
- Applicants must be enrolled in at least half-time course load and will be required to provide proof of enrollment.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing and maintain GPA school requirements.
- Applicants must provide transcripts of all completed course work.
- Education and/or experience must demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities to guide and assist enrollees through the program.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Average degree of manual skill is required for using various hand tools such as shovels, picks, axes, handsaws, and other hand tools; otherwise, no special skill or previous training is required.
- Understanding of basic environmental principles and practices.
- Knowledge of practical methods and techniques of training and counseling, such as that gained through experience as a monitor, leader, supervisor, or instructor in organized work, recreational, educational, or residential situations in order to guide and assist enrollees.
- Ability to instruct others in proper work methods, relay work instructions, check work in progress, communicate with supervisor, complete required paperwork, and ensure that safe work procedures are followed by enrollees.
- Skill in basic first aid, especially for heat-related problems.
- Skill in operating motor vehicles and the ability to drive four-wheel drive vehicles on rough, sandy roads which are not maintained.

Pay, benefits and Work Schedule:

This is a temporary full-time position not to exceed 9 weeks. Incumbent will be covered by Social Security (FICA) and be eligible to earn sick leave. The salary for this position is \$13.83 per hour. Housing at Santa Ana NWR is available.

Conditions of Employment:

Incumbent must be able to operate a government-owned motor vehicle. A valid state driver's license is required. The person selected for this position will be required to submit an SF-78, Certificate of Medical Examination, and is responsible for the cost of the medical examination if the form is not already on file. Work requires moderate to heavy physical effort when lifting and carrying objects weighing up to 50 pounds/moving heavy objects; digging trenches and holes; and moving and mixing concrete. The work is performed outdoors, often under humid, hot conditions. There is potential for serious injuries such as severe cuts, broken bones and strained back. Incumbent is subject to noise, dirt, dust and standing for long periods of time. Use of special safety equipment such as hard hats, goggles, and steel toed safety boots is required.

For more information about Santa Ana NWR visit <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/santana.html>