

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps



Corps Member Job Description





The VYCC Experience

Thank you for your interest in the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. Enclosed is information about working on our Park, Roving, Wilderness, and Community Crews. We are currently seeking over 200 Corps Members to manage parks and restore trails, streams, historic sites, and natural areas.

Joining the VYCC is an experience that can change your life. Our crews complete meaningful, high priority projects that require hard work and cooperation. Working for the VYCC gives you a chance to make a lasting contribution to Vermont. This is work you can be proud of.

Your crew will consist of individuals between the ages of 16 and 24. Corps Members come from a variety of backgrounds, and each brings different skills and experiences to your crew. Despite these differences, your crew will learn to work as a team. We have project sites all across Vermont that include backcountry trails, local streams and rivers, and Vermont State Parks. If you join a Community, Wilderness, or

Roving Crew, you will build hiking bridges and shelters, construct and restore trails, improve fish and wildlife habitat, or restore historic sites. You will learn to move huge rocks, fell trees, and stabilize streambanks.

No matter what kind of crew you join, being part of the VYCC involves more than just building trails and managing parks. Being part of the VYCC includes forming a tight-knit community with your crew, respecting the environment, and upholding the standards of the organization. The VYCC is an intense and challenging experience, full of long days and lots of hard work. It is also a rich experience with lots of room for growth and education. Be prepared to work hard and learn more than you could possibly imagine about your surroundings and yourself.

In addition, the VYCC also strives to continually expose you to new people and ideas. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the WoRD (Writing, Reading, and Discussion) program. Each day your crew will read a thought-provoking article on an environmental, social, or political issue, discuss different viewpoints about what you read, and then write about the subject in a journal. Each crew will also complete a leadership education project as a team

Whichever crew you choose, if selected you can be assured of a meaningful project, new friends, educational activities, and high quality leaders. We look forward to receiving your application. Feel free to either complete the enclosed application or visit our website at www.vycc.org to complete an application on-line.

"My VYCC summer was an amazing experience. I thought that by the end of the four weeks I would be ready to go home... I'm not! I really learned so much about myself here. It's a spectacular program. Thank you so much."

- Sara Armstrong, Corps Member

Note: Hiring will take place on a rolling basis. Apply Now!

Four Crew Options

Below you will find a description of the four types of crews. You will notice that all four options are unique. Please read each carefully and rate your preferences on the application. If you have questions, call 1-800-434-3969 or email us at info@vycc.org.

Park Crews:

Park Corps Members live away from home in park housing at one of the VYCC operated Vermont State Parks. The crews manage all park operations, such as handling camping reservations, greeting campers, maintaining the buildings and grounds, and leading guided hikes, group games, naturalist programs, and Saturday night campfires for park guests. Through these duties, Corps Members gain experience in parks and recreation management, customer service, environmental education, sales and reservations, and maintenance. Corps Members also learn valuable life lessons from the intensity of living and working together within a diverse group.

Community Crews:

Community Crews live at home and work weekdays on local conservation projects. Community Crews work on a variety of projects, including watershed restoration, carpentry, landscaping, and trail maintenance. Potential worksites include local public lands, streams or rivers near urban areas, historic sites, and rail trails or bike paths. Community Crews are based in certain towns throughout Vermont (please refer to the enclosed program dates sheet for specific sites), and Corps Members need to commute to the worksite each day.

Roving Crews:

Roving Crews are the VYCC's most mobile crews and travel throughout the state to tackle a variety of work projects. Possible projects include backcountry bridge construction, trail maintenance, and wetland boardwalk construction. Corps Members and Crew Leaders share all the responsibilities associated with living and working outdoors for weeks at a time. On weekends crews explore their local surroundings and may participate in educational or recreational activities, such as canoeing, hiking, or swimming.

Wilderness Crews:

Wilderness Crews live and work in the backcountry and learn how to enjoy life in the woods. The lack of running water, electricity, and showers make this a particularly challenging experience. Crew Leaders and Corps Members share all living responsibilities such as filtering water, cooking meals, and collecting firewood. Corps Members and Crew Leaders work together to make the woods feel like home. Under excellent leadership, Corps Members learn new skills, including wilderness living, trail construction, tree felling, and carpentry skills.

Corps Member Details

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Responsibilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work hard as part of a team• Participate in all VYCC activities, including WoRD, conservation leadership projects, group training exercises, and community activities• Respect fellow crew members and the natural environment• Share all cooking and cleaning duties• Complete safe, high quality work on all projects• Abide by all VYCC rules and policies |
| Qualifications: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 - 24 years of age (minimum age of 17 for Park Crews)• Strong desire to join the VYCC and work with others• Willingness to learn, receive feedback, and work hard |
| Salary: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$290 per week |

VYCC Crew Leader Profiles

"My Crew Leaders were two of the best role models I've ever had. They were each following their dreams and eager to share their knowledge with us. They took time to answer my questions and were genuine and honest in everything they did."

-Ariana DeToro-Forlenza, Corps Member



Carrie Anderson and **Pete Scherer** have co-lead two Roving Crews for the VYCC. Prior to joining the VYCC, **Carrie** spent a year working as a Team Leader for the Maine Conservation Corps. She also worked for World Horizons International, where she led American youth on a cross-cultural volunteer experience in the West Indies. Carrie believes that Corps Members learn many things throughout their VYCC summer. Most importantly, "Corps Members learn the importance of always challenging themselves. That it isn't always fun or easy but that it's necessary for growth." **Pete** has worked as an Actor/Educator at Minnesota's Climb Theater, where he facilitated interactive skits and activities with local youth. In addition, Pete graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and

was a camp counselor for Newton Parks and Recreation in Pennsylvania. Pete's VYCC experience taught him "how to balance the different hats a Crew Leader must wear and how to transform them all into one Crew Leader hard hat."



VYCC Crew Leader **Lucy Richardson**, pictured at the right with her crew, most recently served as the Silver Lake State Park Manager in Barnard, Vermont. **Lucy** came to Vermont from England. Before venturing to the Green Mountain State, Lucy worked for the Dorset Wildlife Trust in the fields of conservation management and environmental education. Lucy has been trained as an Advice Worker for young people and has spent a year

volunteering for the Children's Society. She has led young people on alpine walking trips in Switzerland, has completed conservation work in Lapland, and has participated in a cultural exchange program in Latvia and Russia. On the topic of today's youth, Lucy says, "Young people are a highly capable, smart, gutsy bunch who deserve more credit and responsibility - you just have to show that you believe in them."



1949 East Main Street, Richmond VT 05477

1-800-639-8922

Visit us at www.vycc.org

The VYCC is an equal opportunity employer and offers all persons the benefit of participation regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, and/or other non-merit factors.



VERMONT YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

www.vycc.org

1949 E. Main Street, Richmond, VT 05477 (802) 434-3969

For Office Use Only

Please Leave Blank

- Application
- Interview
- W-4
- I-9
- WIA Eligible
- Verif. WIA
- Med. Release
- Contract

Last Name, First Name

Corps Member Application

Please fill out both sides completely.

If you have questions, please call us at 1-800-639-8922 or e-mail us at info@vycc.org

Name: _____

Soc. Sec. #: _____

Permanent Address:

Temporary Address (if different):

Street (include apt., box, etc.) County

City State Zip

Street (include apt., box, etc.) County

City State Zip

Permanent Phone: (____) _____

Temp. Phone: (____) _____

Name of Parent/Guardian:

E-mail: _____

Male **Female**

Parent's Phone: (h) (____) _____
(w) (____) _____

Shirt Size: XS S M L XL XXL

Are you a past Corps Member? Yes No

Did you apply last year? Yes No

Age on June 15: _____

Birthdate: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

Are you in school now? Yes No

Name of school: _____

Grade level completed by June 15
(circle one): 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17+

Are you attending college next fall?
 Yes No

Where did you hear about the Corps?

School Guidance Office Radio Parent Corps Recruiter www.vycc.org

Newspaper Teacher Other: _____ Past Corps Member

Each year the Department of Employment and Training asks the Corps to provide statistics on our applicants. Please check the appropriate box (optional):

- African American
- Caucasian
- Asian American or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Other: _____

"VYCC will change your life completely, your view of the world, and everything inside of you. The people I've met are so awesome and incredible, as well as strong, motivating, and inspiring."

-Mira Stanchak, Corps Member

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. The VYCC relies on small groups to complete work projects. What experiences have you had working with others? What would you contribute to your crew?
2. Why do you want to work for the VYCC? Please include at least three things you would like to learn from your VYCC experience in your response to this question.
3. What do you anticipate being your biggest challenge while working on a VYCC crew?
4. Our best Corps Members have a positive attitude and are dedicated to completing a full term of employment. Do you feel that you are able to commit to the VYCC for the specified crew time? Why?
5. Tell us about your greatest accomplishment. Why are you proud of it?

Crew Preference:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please refer to the program dates sheet when making your choices.• Rate by preference with 1 as your first choice and 4 as your last choice.		
Earliest date available: _____	Latest date available: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Park Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Roving Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Crew

Required Confidential Information

The VYCC is supported with various donations and grants from foundations and governments who are interested in the background of our applicants. Please answer completely the following questions. This information will not affect your application status.

- Number of family members living with you: _____
- Annual family income in thousands of dollars (circle one):
under 8 8 to 11 12 to 15 16 to 19 20 to 23 24 to 27 28 to 35 36 to 50 over 50
- In the last six months has your family received any of the following?
Food stamps/ANFC/AFDC Yes No
- Are you a ward of the state or foster child? Yes No
- Are you on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan at school? Yes No

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, please briefly explain on a separate sheet of paper. (Positive responses will not necessarily bar an applicant from employment.)

- Do you have any dietary limitations or food allergies? Yes No
- Have you ever been involved in the criminal justice system? Yes No
- Do you have any physical limitations that will restrict your ability to perform manual labor? Yes No

I have read the VYCC Corps Member job description and understand that this job will require me to maintain a positive attitude, work hard and live in the outdoors, participate in daily educational activities, and work as part of a team. If offered a job with the VYCC, I will follow all of the crew rules and refrain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs during my employment. I certify that all of the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature

Signature of Legal Guardian

(If under 18 years old)

Send to:

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
Attn: Corps Member Application
1949 E. Main Street, Richmond VT 05477