



**VYCC Q&A Session- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

**Breck Knauft, Executive Director, reiterated our recent announcements about our summer programming:**

- We have significantly fewer positions than in previous years.
- Food and Farm has a team of 8 Leaders plus 8 staff from our ShiftMeals partnership working on the farm.
- Later this month, we will welcome 18 Leaders in the Conservation program to start working on projects in small teams.
- We are unable to hire any Crew Members, youth or young adult, this summer.

**Breck went into greater detail about why we had to reduce positions this year:**

- **Safety:** Even with our newly designed and implemented safety protocols we cannot run camping crews. Crew Members come from all over the country, live in close quarters, and unable to follow social distancing guidelines. VYCC also does not have the capacity to quarantine a Crew Member should they become sick.
- **Training:** Current state safety guidelines limit the size of group gatherings and significantly limit how we run Crew Leader training. Following these guidelines, we have significantly reduced the scope and scale of our Crew Leader training and having fewer Crew Leaders means having fewer crews and projects.
- **Funding:** Our funding has been cut in several ways. We have fewer projects and therefore less revenue. Along with economic declines, philanthropic contributions have declined. This all results in an inability to pay Corps Members. We've reduced our budget by 40%.

**Daniel Schmidt, Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of next potential opportunities with VYCC:**

**Volunteering**

- We are creating opportunities for people to engage with VYCC.
- We are still exploring what this will look like, including the potential for helping our community complete their own projects.
- We will reach out to our 2020 applicants and families as we roll out about these opportunities.

**Fall**

- We are unsure what positions we will be able to offer for the fall, but we are hoping to be able to run crews.
- Fall season would include a Crew Leader Training in August.
- These may be Camping or Day Crews.
- Anyone who applied for this summer will be considered for a fall position and we will reach out to summer applicants once positions have been finalized.

**How would you handle someone feeling unwell on the Crew, whether or not their symptoms were COVID related?**

Crews are doing daily health check ins, including taking their temperature. We are very flexible and want to be overly safe. We are encouraging members take time away from work and stay home if they are feeling ill.

**Are there social distancing guidelines on the trail and farm?**

Yes. We are following state guidelines for social distancing at all times during the work day. This includes indoor and outdoor work. PPE includes masks, gloves, frequent handwashing, daily health checks, and frequent disinfecting of commonly used equipment.

**Are you doing Camping Crews this summer?**

No, all crews this summer are day crews. We will evaluate the feasibility of Camping Crews in the fall in the next few months.

**Are crews smaller than usual?**

Yes. Each Conservation Crew is four people. Farm Members typically work in small groups as well (one to six people).

**If you applied this season and did not get a position, will you need to reapply for Fall? What about 2021?**

We will reach out to 2020 applicants once we know more about our Fall positions – you will not need to reapply. You will need to reapply for any 2021 position.

**For the Fall, might you have crews that work only on weekends so High Schoolers can participate?**

Maybe! It is one idea of many we are playing with.

**Who should I talk to if I have a great idea for a Conservation project for a VYCC Crew or Volunteer group?**

[Recruitment@VYCC.org](mailto:Recruitment@VYCC.org) – Aimee will help you connect with the right VYCC staff member.

**Breck closed the Q&A with this reminder:**

While we are excited to be running crews at all this year, we share your disappointment in not being able to hire many of those who applied. We will continue to work to find opportunities for young people to engage with VYCC. The VYCC experience is unique and powerful, and our goal is to make that experience available to as many as we safely can.