

Senator Evans' Address, Dear Neighbors,

June / July -2011

Sonoma County Summer Youth Ecology Corps Kick-Off Event SCYEC

Taken from The Press Democrat printed on July 25, 2011.

<http://forum.pressdemocrat.com/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=7300>

On Thursday, June 16th members of Senator Evans' staff participated in a community work day and kick-off event for the 2011 Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (SCYEC). The staff members worked with a group of High School students to prune overgrown trees and clear trails in Spring Lake Regional Park in Santa Rosa.

SCYEC was founded in 2009 and employs approximately 200 youth between the ages of 14 and 21 to restore critical creeks and streams, restore and maintain trails, plant native species and vegetables, clean beaches and more. The 2011 program will be funded by Workforce Investment Act dollars with matching funds contributed by the Sonoma County Water Agency.

In addition to contributing to ecosystem restoration projects, youth involved in SCYEC also engage in an environmental education program, receive job-readiness training and have access to a lifelong online career assessment program. The majority of youth choose to return to work for SCYEC more than once, saying that the program helped them to build job skills, was a valuable experience, and, most importantly, that they were proud of the work that they had done.