



**Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corp  
Summer 2009  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

---

**How many young people are involved?**

There are 250 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 working in the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps this summer. The Youth Ecology Corps is part of the County's Summer Jobs Program, which will employ a total of 325 youth this summer.

**What is the program timeline?**

This is a six week summer program beginning the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> and ending the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>. Youth participants will work 28 hours per week.

**How are youth selected and placed?**

Youth ages 14 to 24 years old completed an application process and met program eligibility requirements. Youth providers interviewed, selected, and placed eligible youth on crews of 6-8 youth, or at individual worksites, depending on interest, skill, and availability.

**How much are youth paid?**

Participants earn \$8 per hour.

**Where does the money to operate this program come from?**

Sonoma County received \$1.2 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to create jobs for teens and young adults. The Youth Ecology Corps grew out of a community desire to use those funds for critical ecosystem work and to provide education and job skills training to participants.

**Where are the projects located?**

Crews will be working throughout the county, from Cloverdale to Petaluma and from the coast to Sonoma.

**What types of projects are crews working on?**

Many of the participants will be doing stream restoration work – removing invasive species and planting native shrubs and trees. Others will be building trails or restoring wetlands and open space areas.

**Is this an ongoing program?**

Economic stimulus funding only pays for this summer's program. Program coordinators are hopeful that as the benefits to the youth and to the community become apparent, a long-term funding source can be developed so the program can be repeated in future summers.

**Who are the youth providers (the organizations that train, educate and coordinate the crews)?**

- Petaluma People Services Center (PPSC) – South County
- West County Community Services (WCCS) – West County
- Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development (SCAYD) – Cotati/Rohnert Park
- Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) – Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley
- Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship (CSES) – North County



Supported by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



## ***Summer Youth Ecology Corps Summer 2009***

---

### **What is the role of the Sonoma County Water Agency?**

The Sonoma County Water Agency is providing resources and leadership to the Summer Youth Ecology Corps effort, as well as creating work and learning opportunities for several crews. Agency staff are also assisting with logistics, providing meeting space, and supporting the educational enhancements. SCWA is also working with the partners to identify resources for continuation of the SYEC beyond the summer months. Resources provided by SCWA are supporting overall project planning and implementation, transportation, crew coordinators in each region, tools, documentation, and educational enhancements to the SYEC.

### **What is the role of the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council?**

The SCWIB and Youth Council are managing the Sonoma County Summer Jobs Program, of which the Summer Youth Ecology Corps is a component. Resources through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the economic stimulus package) are being provided through the Workforce Investment Act to support SJP activities, including youth provider contracts and youth wages. The SCWIB is providing leadership on all aspects of the SYEC and is working with the partners to identify resources for continuation of the program beyond the summer months.

### **What is the role of the Sonoma County Office of Education?**

SCOE is providing materials and staff support to the Work-Ready Assessment component of the SYEC (part of SCOE's Work-Ready Certification). SCOE staff are also working to help streamline the work-permit process and support educational enhancements to the SYEC.

### **What is the role of New Ways to Work?**

New Ways is assisting the partners in the overall project design, and helping to broker relationships between selected youth providers and the identified projects, as well as being responsible for the purchase and distribution of tools for the program. New Ways will work closely with regional coordinators and project hosts to encourage and support program elements and educational enhancements that improve the quality of the summer program experience for Sonoma County's youth and young adults. New Ways will also serve as the facilitating partner for the SYEC effort, ensuring that all program components are successfully implemented. New Ways is also working with the partners to identify resources for continuation of the SYEC beyond the summer months.

### **If you have questions:**

Please contact **Kellie Noe**, Project Coordinator, New Ways to Work, [knoe@newwaystowork.org](mailto:knoe@newwaystowork.org) or at 824-4000 ext 33.

