

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
TEL: 410-228-2677
FAX: 410-221-7738
email: Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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INFORMATION: Thomas Miller, Ranger, 410-228-2677

BLACKWATER NWR TO OFFER SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTHS

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is offering five Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) positions for young people ages 15 to 18 during the summer months in 2008. This year's YCC program will last 8 weeks, starting on June 23 and continuing until August 15. YCC recruits generally work 40 hours a week, 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day, and are paid minimum wage.

The Youth Conservation Corps offers students the chance to learn a variety of skills in the great outdoors, get plenty of exercise, engage in teamwork, meet new friends, accomplish goals, and learn about the natural world. YCC recruits will spend several paid hours each week participating in environmental education programs, getting to know the many different aspects of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Working trips to other refuges are also a possibility for Blackwater's YCC team. Recruits will be provided with all necessary safety and work equipment, and will be under constant supervision of a YCC Leader and other refuge staff.

Youths interested in the YCC program can obtain an application from Refuge Ranger Tom Miller by calling 410-228-2677, or email Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov. Applications can also be picked up and dropped off at the Blackwater Visitor Center or Headquarters building on Key Wallace Drive. **Applications must be returned by April 30th, 2008.** YCC recruits will be randomly selected from applicants in early May. If more applications are received than positions available, students who did not get selected will become "alternates" in the event a selected applicant cannot work. After selections are made, there will be an evening orientation at the refuge prior to June 23.

Blackwater NWR is also recruiting for a GS-5 "YCC Group Leader" position for the duration of the program. The Leader position is perfect for outdoor-oriented educators who are looking for summer work. People interested in this position can also contact Ranger Miller at the above number.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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