

THE EARTH TEAM PROGRAM

The Earth Team Volunteer Program needs people who are willing to commit their time and talent to conserving and protecting soil, water, and wildlife for their community and everyone in it.



The program offers an opportunity to explore various occupations within the agency as well as enrich your future career. You can join professional conservationists as they work directly with local farmers and ranchers in putting conservation practices on the land.

As an Earth Team volunteer on your way to becoming a caretaker of natural resources, you may find yourself helping landowners prevent wind erosion, conserving and cleaning water, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing flooding, or helping citizens of all ages learn about the environment and conservation through exciting educational activities.

The Earth Team offers outstanding and exciting opportunities for those who need professional work experience or academic credit. After serving on the Earth Team, you may decide to pursue a career in conservation.

ELIGIBILITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

You must be 14 years of age or older and interested in conserving natural resources. You can work part time or full time, outdoors or in a local NRCS office. You can volunteer as an individual or as a group.

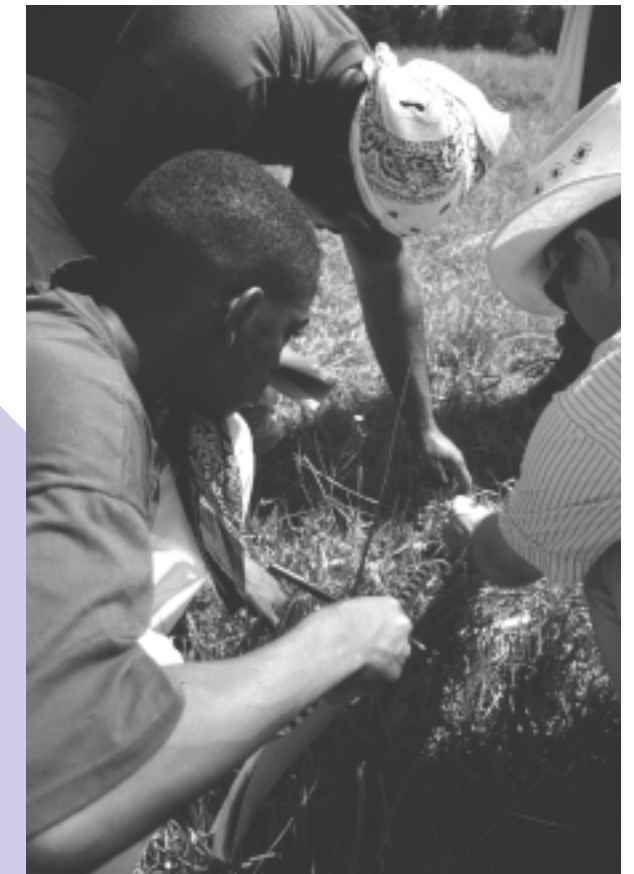
How Can You Apply For This Program?

If you are interested in becoming an Earth Team Volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, contact your local USDA NRCS office. You can also call

1-888-LANDCARE and leave your name, address, and phone number.

**Human Resources
USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service
100 USDA, Suite 206
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655
(405) 742-1209
<http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov>**

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employs students from high schools, colleges, and universities from around the country, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities institutions, and Native American Colleges and Universities.

Students work in all areas of the Natural Resources Conservation Service: natural resources, agronomy, soil science, biology, wildlife, cultural resources, recreation, information resources, engineering and administration.

STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SCEP)

SCEP is a planned and progressive educational program that targets students from high school through graduate study. The program is designed to be a partnership between you, your school, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. SCEP combines academic classroom learning with practical, on-the-job experience that provides you with a paid work experience in your field of study.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to half-time high school, undergraduate, and graduate college students (or students who have been accepted for enrollment) in accredited educational institutions. Students must be at least 16 years of age, maintain good academic standing, and be a U.S. citizen (or a permanent resident, provided that U.S. citizenship is achieved by the time of graduation).



As a SCEP student, you will receive benefits right from the start. The benefits you are automatically eligible for are:

- ◆ Paid vacation days, holidays, and sick leave;
- ◆ Health and life insurance; and
- ◆ Retirement/investment plans

You may also be eligible for training and tuition assistance.

CONVERSION TO PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

Upon successful completion of all your work study and degree requirements, you will be eligible to be converted noncompetitively to a permanent position within the competitive service within 120 calendar days of graduation.

How Can You Apply For This Program?

Students may apply through their school's cooperative education placement office or directly to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Human Resources office listed. All applicants must include a transcript of grades along with an OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment, or a resume.

STUDENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

STEP provides temporary Federal employment to qualified students. Student positions are covered by one-year renewable appointments. The duties do not have to relate to your academic career goals.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for a STEP appointment if you are:

- Enrolled as a half-time student (or have been accepted for enrollment) in an accredited high school; vocational school; or associate degree, baccalaureate, or graduate program
- Working toward a diploma, certificate, or degree



How Can You Apply For This Program?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service recruits candidates directly from schools or through local State Employment or Job Service Offices. You can contact your school or the offices mentioned above and they will assist you in getting started.

You may also send your completed Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612) or a resume directly to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Human Resources office listed.

- Maintaining a satisfactory academic record
- At least 16 years of age at the time of appointment; and
- A U.S. citizen

PAY AND BENEFITS

As a STEP participant, your rate of pay will depend upon your current education, work experience, and other position requirements. As you advance, you will be eligible for promotions, awards, and other pay increases. You will also be entitled to other benefits, including paid vacation days, holidays, and sick leave.

WORK PERIODS

There are many ways to work in the career experience program. Some schedules may alternate full-time semesters or quarters of study. Others may provide for part-time work with parallel periods of study. The Natural Resources Conservation Service offices, schools, and students design schedules that work best for them.

PAY AND BENEFITS

As a SCEP student, you start earning a salary from the first day. Your initial rate of pay will depend upon your education and work experience. As you advance in responsibility, your pay will reflect your talents and contributions.

