



Community Bulletin



Chris Taylor, Education YCC, directs a group of Jr. NYLC students

Youth Conservation Corps Members Contribute to Park

This summer 18 students from West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and New York were chosen to work for Harpers Ferry Park's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), assisting the in Living History, Education, Visitor Services and Maintenance Divisions.

This year's YCC group includes **Living History Division:** Sara Blauer, Lovettsville, VA; Alexander Feeser, Shepherdstown, WV; Giovanni "Jack" Fleri, Shepherdstown, WV; Megan Sullivan, Purcellville, VA; Caitlin Summers, Purcellville, VA; Ross Whitford, Eaton, NY; Vincent Wise, Martinsburg, WV; **Education Division:** Maggie Pierce, Charles Town, WV; John Rickards, Summit Point, WV; Christopher Taylor, Lovettsville, VA; Caitlin Wolfe, Boonsboro, MD; **Visitor Service Division:** Cierra Branham, Kearneysville, WV; Shakara Ellis, Charles Town, WV; **Maintenance Division:** Allen Milbourne, Harpers Ferry; Bill Jenkins, Charles Town, WV; Sam Wilson, Harpers Ferry, WV; Ashley Engle, Harpers Ferry, WV; Kitty Lademan, Charles Town, WV.

Those assigned to Maintenance have, perhaps, enjoyed the widest variety of job experiences this summer. The group has spread grass seed, laid stone,



YCC Maintenance Crew (L to R) Sam Wilson, Kitty Lademan, Bill Jenkins, and Ashley Engle

washed buses, painted and assisted with garbage collection, cleared river lots, swept the shop, loaded wood, scrubbed floors, cleaned and organized closets, dusted and waxed tables, raked, weeded, filed papers, and swept out garages. Bill Jenkins said, "This has been a positive experience. I'd like to come back next summer." When asked what he's learned so far, Sam Wilson responded, "The biggest thing is to always use gloves and safety glasses and to always keep working until the job is finished." Pausing, he added, "We take breaks if needed." Ashley Engle has learned how to be a better painter and how to use different kinds of equipment. Ashley said of her experience, "I've enjoyed everyone I've met and I love working with them."

Kitty Lademan said, "I have learned patience, how to get along with many different kinds of people, and the value of hard work. I enjoy working outside and I love the instant gratification that comes with completing a difficult job." When asked if she has had any negative experiences, Kitty added, "a bad case of poison ivy, some sunburn and a little bit of culture shock. It's a good growing experience though."

Working at the main Visitor Center desk, Cierra Branham and Shakara Ellis meet and greet visitors to the park, answer their questions and orient them to park programs, museums and other resources the park has to offer. According to Shakara, "This job is pretty cool. I get to meet different people



Visitor Services YCC: (L to R) Shakara Ellis and Cierra Branham

and learn new things.” Cierra said, “I learned to run a cash register and new information about history I hadn’t learned in school.”

The Education YCC team has been participating in several school programs, including the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference (Jr. NYLC) programs every Monday through Wednesday. Caitlin Wolfe said, “I applied for this job so I could do something different. I’ve learned a lot and enjoyed

volunteered with other history groups which sparked his interest to work at Harpers Ferry this summer. “I like Civil War history and wanted to work here. The NYLC program is what I enjoy the most.”

The Living History YCC participants dress in period clothing and work in exhibits like the Dry Goods Store and Provost Marshal Office. Sara Blauer said, “I love dressing up and answering questions that people have.” Vincent Wise listed the things he’s done, “I got to fire a cannon, made new friends, talked to new people, learned about history and got paid!” Caitlin Summers reported, “I love this job. I love sharing the park’s rich history and meeting



Education YCC: (L to R) Caitlin Wolfe, Chris Taylor, John Rickards and Maggie Pierce

working with NYLC program the most.” John Rickards needed a summer job and thought this one sounded interesting and fun. He said, “I like this a lot, especially helping with the NYLC programs and meeting so many new people.” When asked about this job Maggie Pierce said, “So far it’s

people from around the country and the world.” Jack Fleri said, “This has been a great learning experience. I love history and watching the faces of the visitors light up as when they learn something new. I hope to get another job like this in the future.” Ross



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation’s history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-525-6881 or 800-821-5206

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Living History YCC: (L to R) Sara Blauer, Caitlin Summers, Vincent Wise, Jack Fleri, and Ross Whitford

been a wonderful experience. I’ve met so many nice people and made new friends. The best part is the afternoon NYLC program.” Chris Taylor has

Whitford said, “I enjoy working here. I want to share my love of history with visitors. I love this interaction. It’s what brought me to Harpers Ferry.”