

Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps Summer Program

TEAM LEADER POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) is a summer experiential education and community service program for young people to learn the principles of natural resource stewardship and the importance of sustaining Hawaii's unique natural environment. Participants will spend six weeks "in the field" with natural resource managers, educators, scientists and community leaders learning about Hawaiian plants and animals, native ecosystems, watersheds, historic sites, aquaculture, and the current demands being placed on Hawaii's natural resources.

Availability: There will be two to six team leader positions available on each of the following islands: Kauai, Molokai, Maui, and Hawaii Island.

Application Deadline: FEBRUARY 28 (RECEIVED)

Compensation: Team leaders will receive a \$3,000 stipend plus an option of receiving three botany college credits awarded by the University of Hawaii, and the opportunity for a \$1,000 AmeriCorps educational award. All program related expenses such as training and travel is paid for by HYCC.

Duties: As a team leader (TL), your primary responsibility is to maximize the learning experience of team members in a safe environment while minimizing the impact of the team on the natural resources. The TL position is a very important position in the HYCC program. TLs are responsible for their team and for helping to develop an environment that is supportive and conducive to learning. TLs are the authoritative figures that travel with the team during this six-week period. They are responsible for motivating, developing, disciplining, and looking out for the well being of each of the members. TLs will also be responsible for driving the students to field sites (in program provided vehicles, sometimes off road), working with students in field projects, and making sure that the students are prepared for any upcoming activities. The TL will also assist program directors in coordinating and planning events. They must also keep a record of the team's progress and work efforts.

Minimum Qualifications: All team leader applicants must have a high school diploma and have completed their sophomore year in college. They must also have a valid Hawaii driver's license. It is important to have the ability to work in a team situation and provide direction to the team. Ability to perform physically demanding work such as trail building, working with field tools, hiking with backpacks, and water safety awareness are also important. TLs must be comfortable working in rural, rugged outdoor, marine, and freshwater environments. Applicants should have some previous experience in education and/or Conservation/leadership experience. Applicants should also have previous experience in managing high school and/or college students preferably field/outdoor situations. Experience in planning and coordinating logistics is also necessary. As team leaders will be responsible for driving rented vehicles, applicants should meet minimum age requirements (21 years of age or 24 years of age, depending on island).

Desirable Qualifications: Field leadership and teaching experience. An understanding of natural resource management issues and techniques. Public speaking and community outreach skills.

Inquiries: Check us out on the web at www.hawaiiycc.com. You may email us at yccinfo@ponopacific.com or call us at (808) 735-1221.

Application Requirements: Resume, three work or school related letters of recommendation and a completed application. Application packets may be requested via the contact information above, or downloaded from the website.

Short Answers

The following questions are to help us gain a more in-depth perspective of you. Each answer should not exceed 2-3 paragraphs.

1. Please list any courses, leadership positions, or experiences you have taken/had that you feel would be relevant to your participation in this program (please list most recent ones first):

2. Why do you want to be a team leader in the HYCC program? What are your goals and expectations?

3. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths? Which things would you most like to improve about yourself?

4. What do you consider the most important quality a leader of a small team should have?

5. Describe an experience when, as a leader, you had to counsel/help one of your team members or students in a difficult situation. What was the situation and how did you handle it? Could you have improved the way you handled it? If yes, how so?

6. What do you think is the biggest threat to Hawaii's environment? How would you solve this problem?

7. What would you like the participants in this program to gain at the end of the summer? How would you like to help them accomplish this?

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING

This program requires that you actively participate in rugged terrain, on/in the water, and/or in bad weather, with minimal or no facilities (bathrooms, etc.). Members will be based on the islands of Kauai, the Big Island, Oahu, Maui, or Molokai and must provide their own transportation to and from designated worksites. Program timeframe will involve all weekdays (except holidays) for seven weeks from June to July. Members must be available 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday and able to participate in possible nighttime excursions, early morning excursions, and/or occasional weekend activities. The HYCC program may also include extensive overnight activities where members will be asked to camp for the duration of the week (especially on the Big Island, Molokai, Maui, and Kauai). There will also be one to two neighbor island trips (airfare, food, and lodging paid for by HYCC program). The team leader is responsible for overseeing all team logistics including preparation of the upcoming work week and week activities. Some responsibilities include calling site managers, picking up vehicles, and purchasing food for camping. (Purchasing food and picking up vehicles occurs during the weekend). Team leaders are also not allowed to smoke, consume alcohol, or use any illegal substances. All team leaders are subject to drug testing.

1. Are there any circumstances, including any mental/physical challenges that would prevent you from completely participating in the program? If so, please explain.*

2. Who will provide your transportation to and from the meeting site?

3. Will you be able to entirely commit your time between the dates stated above?

4. Are there any other obligations that would affect your complete participation in the program and your responsibilities as a team leader? If yes, please explain fully.

I certify that all of the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's signature
or typed name: _____

Date: _____

* Note: HYCC participants must be able to perform efficiently the physical and mental duties of the position. Qualified applicants with disabilities who can perform the essential functions of the volunteer position are encouraged to apply. The State of Hawaii and Kupu are committed to making reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps
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