

State of Oregon



OREGON YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS 2019 SUMMER CONSERVATION CORPS

Request for Grant Applications (RFA)

Date of Issue: January 8, 2019

Application Due on: February 8, 2019

For questions, clarifications, or if you need this material in a different format, please contact OYCC at:
oycc.info@oregon.gov.



1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Oregon, acting by and through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), is issuing this Request for Grant Applications for the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) 2019 Summer Conservation Corps.

OYCC's mission is, "Empowering youth by providing outdoor work and stewardship experiences throughout Oregon." The vision is that Oregon's at-risk youth are successful community members engaged in work, stewardship, and lifelong learning. The Summer Conservation Corps (SCC) is OYCC's largest state-funded program, with the goal of having a local program in each of Oregon's 36 counties and in Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. The primary objective of an SCC program is to provide youth an opportunity to develop critical soft/life skills through paid summer employment opportunities where they gain valuable job skills while completing community focused, natural resource, and stewardship projects.

HECC/OYCC anticipates awarding Grant Agreements (the Agreement/s) for up to \$13,000 each.

The allowable cost period for each Grant is expected to be from June 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.

2. OYCC OVERVIEW

OYCC has the responsibility of implementing ORS 418.650 through 418.663, the general purposes of which are:

- To establish a disadvantaged and at-risk youth work program in order to perform conservation work of public value in the most cost-effective manner;
- To utilize such a program as a means of needed assistance to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve the natural, historical and cultural resources of the state; and
- To utilize such a program to increase educational, training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth for the purpose of improving work skills, instilling work ethic and increasing employability.

The goals of the OYCC SCC are:

- Increased work skills
- Increased stewardship
- Increased community involvement
- Increase in education and lifelong learning
- Opportunity to earn academic credit
- Safely completed projects
- Positive Youth Development (PYD)

PYD is defined by the *Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs* and used by OYCC as: "An intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youths' strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths."

3. GRANT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

OYCC SCC funds programs that provide summer employment for youth during which they gain valuable work skills training with an emphasis on education and lifelong learning. OYCC's goal is to fund programs that last approximately 5-6 weeks. Youth complete work projects focusing on natural resource enhancement and/or community stewardship in a crew setting. Work projects must protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Oregon.

Applicants must develop a community-based, community-focused program. Successful SCC programs involve the collaboration of many community organizations. It is highly recommended that Applicants partner with a local school district to provide credit to the youth who are working towards their high school diploma.

The number and types of credit differ between districts. If you are awarded a Grant Agreement, please contact OYCC if you have difficulty arranging for credit with your local schools.

Applicants must be physically located in the county or sovereign nation for which the grant funds are targeted. For Applicants who serve a community that falls within two counties, project work will be allowed in both counties. Youth may also be hired from both counties, in this case. However, the majority of the work will need to be completed in the county for which the funds are targeted. For these purposes, a community is defined as a school district, city, county or sovereign nation.

Staff for the Applicant should include both a Crew Leader and a project funding development person. Someone with the time to develop projects and funding sources will enhance the program measurably. OYCC considers a crew to be no less than 4 youth (preferably at least 5) working together to achieve a common goal.

Applicants must hire local youth from the county or sovereign nation for which the grant funds are targeted, and youth must be paid at least Oregon's minimum wage. Youth may not be paid a stipend. Oregon minimum wage will increase again on July 1, 2019.

Target Population:

- Local Oregon youth ages 13 – 24 (Corpsmembers who will turn 25 during the course of employment are not eligible).
- OYCC is committed to diversity in the crew setting. The crew makeup will reflect the local community and include a gender, ethnic, cultural, and social mix.
- 75% of youth served must meet OYCC's disadvantaged and at-risk definition: "Those who may be unable to achieve the educational, economic, or social expectations of their community."

Applicants must include educational/enrichment activities, defined as supplemental discovery and exposure to new knowledge and ideas. These activities must be intentional and go beyond the normal skill-building opportunities that are gained in day-to-day work activities. Examples include, but are not limited to: ropes course, journaling, plant and animal ID, first aid, CPR, food handler's card, canoe/rafting trips, camping trips, guest speakers, museum tours, college tours, hiking/backpacking, nutrition classes, taxes/money management, map/GPS reading, and certifications.

Applicants are required to develop/include an Adopt-A-River component. The project may include any of the following Adopt-A-River/Slough/Creek or Lakeside activities: litter cleanup, invasive plant removal, planting of native trees and shrubs and monitoring and maintenance of watershed restoration

sites. Oregon Adopt-A-River is a partnership between SOLVE and the Oregon State Marine Board that supports organizations in preserving Oregon's waterways. For more information visit: <https://www.solveoregon.org/oregon-adopt-a-river>.

Applicants must develop safety, work site, orientation, education, and emergency plans in compliance with state and federal law. These plans must be in place prior to operating a SCC crew. In addition, successful Applicants will be required to complete online surveys as well as provide a final project report to OYCC. Final report categories include but are not limited to Corpsmember information, Crew Leader information, hours worked, project outcomes, budget detail, and photos. These components will be described in detail in the Grant Agreements.

Crew Leaders must attend an OYCC-sponsored training in Bend, Oregon on June 19-21, 2019.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Rangeland conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement;
- Endangered species and other wildlife habitat conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement;
- Historical and cultural site preservation and maintenance;
- Recreational area development, maintenance, and beautification;
- Road and trail maintenance and improvement;
- Soil conservation work, including erosion control;
- Stream, lake, and waterfront improvement;
- Fish culture and habitat maintenance and improvement;
- Some fence maintenance and construction, at OYCC's discretion;
- Planting, tending, and harvesting a community garden or farm; and
- Energy conservation projects, as described in ORS 418.660(1)(n)

The projects being completed should have a meaningful impact on the community. Projects cannot exceed 20% of time spent on repetitive up-keep projects (e.g. cleaning bathrooms, mowing lawns). Fence and trail maintenance may be exempt from this requirement, at OYCC's discretion.

Projects on private land are not encouraged, but are allowed under certain circumstances. Projects completed on private land must meet all three of the following guidelines:

- Corpsmember work skills and education objectives are increased;
- Public benefit is clearly defined, and;
- Public benefit is greater than any benefit to the private landowner.

HECC/OYCC will not fund:

- Individual placements
- Capital projects
- Third party beneficiaries in which grants are sub-granted or contracted out
- Crews of less than 4 youth
- Projects that span over multiple counties or are completed in a different county than the grant was approved for (an exception is described above in Section 3)
- Lobbying
- Programs that charge tuition

As per ORS 418.663, projects cannot displace currently employed workers, impair existing contracts, substitute jobs, or replace laid off workers.

4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submissions shall be sent electronically to oycc.info@oregon.gov.

Submissions received after February 8, 2019 may not be accepted.

Please submit:

- A completed Application

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grants will be awarded based on:

- Past performance,
- Timeliness and completeness of Application,
- Number of Applicants in a given County, and
- How well the program meets the Grant's purpose and guidelines.

6. PUBLIC RECORDS

All information and records submitted to HECC are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.478. If Applicant believes that any information or records it submits to HECC may be a trade secret under ORS 192.345(2), or otherwise is exempt from disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law, Applicant must identify such information with particularity and include the following statement:

“This data is exempt from disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law pursuant to ORS 192, and is not to be disclosed except in accordance with the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 through 192.478.”

If Applicant fails to identify with particularity the portions of such information that Applicant believes are exempt from disclosure, Applicant is deemed to waive any future claim of non-disclosure of that information.