

Bonanza Creek Camp—

Youth Conservation Corps

Applicants for the Youth Conservation Corps Project, a state program of conservation work-education, began their summer's work on June 16.

The approximately 40 YCC enrollees, from all over Alaska, will spend eight weeks on various projects blending both work and learning experiences.

According to information given to prospective participants, the objective of the program is to "get a general knowledge of the local ecology, and an increased awareness of the need to manage, maintain, and protect our natural resources."

The participants will receive one high school credit for their work.

Although a basic aim of the project is education, there are few lectures, and where it is possible, the youths will be involved in planning of projects.

For the safety and well being of participants, work guidelines are enforced at the camp. Program participants will not work more than seven and one half hours per day, and each project will have both work and educational goals.

Participants are not allowed to operate dangerous machinery, and all crews are supervised. There are not more than eight crew members to a supervisor at any time.

The housing at Bonanza Creek camp, about 25 miles southwest of Fairbanks, is "rustic."

Food service is provided out of a modern trailer on the site. At more remote projects where daily transportation back to Bonanza is not feasible, participants will stay in "spike camps," near the

projects. The conditions in these camps are described as "primitive."

Participants from the Fairbanks area will spend weekends at home, while those from other areas will spend the entire eight weeks at the camp. Recreation activities are determined by the participants, and two specialists will be present

on weekends and evenings to assist.

The Youth Conservation Corps Project is administered by the Division of Parks, within the Department of Natural Resources. Funding is provided by the State of Alaska, with matching funds from the federal government.



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