

Finding Jobs for Young People Hard But Ft. Wainwright Tries

Finding a job in Fairbanks area right now is tough, especially if you are a young person. But something is being done about it at Fort Wainwright, with a project called the Summer Hire Program.

"It's all part of the President's plan to give the youth of this country jobs for the summer," according to Mrs. Judy Nixon of the Fort Wainwright Civilian Personnel Office.

"The age of the people in the program is from 16-21 years old," Mrs. Nixon said. "Many of the men and women come from low income families and will use the money to continue their education."

"Without jobs during the summer, some of the people would find returning to school impossible. The program is aimed at native people who go to school in the Fairbanks area."

"The program started May 16th and will continue until September 30. About 50 young people are involved in the project."

"To get a job on Fort Wainwright, a person must first apply to the state employment office in Fairbanks. The applicant then goes to the Civilian Personnel Office on post. All applicants are judged by their net income. Very few military personnel are involved in the program," Mrs. Nixon said.

"It is basically for the civilian community around Fort Wainwright. Wages paid will be \$2.10 an hour, and the employees will work from 7:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, making a 40 hour work week."

According to Mrs. Nixon, "the people work on the roads, grounds, in the commissary or anywhere else where help is needed. Some are even in the mechanical and electrical shops. Also, these youths are used to fill posi-

tions which have vacated by people going on vacations."

"We try to place them in meaningful work that's related to their own career objectives. We are hoping to place more people in skilled types of jobs, because there is a larger demand for this type of employee."

"I think the program has really been beneficial for these students. Many of them haven't had an opportunity to work before and will learn good work habits and attitudes which will help them when they get out into the business world," Mrs. Nixon concluded.