Park jobs open to youth

For the twelfth year, the state's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will operate the summer Alaska Conservation Corps, a popular work and learn program for young men and women between the ages of 15 and 23.

ACC provides opportunities for working in Alaska's state park system building trails, improving campgrounds and doing a variety of outdoor park maintenance tasks. Some visitor information positions are also available.

There are two sections of ACC: the Junior Corps, for workers from 15 through 18, and the Senior Corps, which employs those from 18 through 23 years old.

This summer's Junior Corps will include three non-residential camps, planned for Juneau, Kodiak and Willow, and one residential camp on the Chena Hotsprings Road, thirty miles north of Fairbanks.

Each non-residential camp will

be staffed with a crew of six, to be hired from the community in which the camp is located. Youths from all other communities will be eligible for the 29-person Chena Hot Springs residential crew.

Neil Johannsen, who heads the of Department Natural Resources' Division of Parks. says that applicants for the nonresidential program will be selected by the area park ranger on the basis of interviews, for the residential program, those hired will be chosen by drawing from all who apply from that area. Johannsen also said there are usually many more qualified applicants than positions, and he hopes those who aren't chosen this year will apply next year if they are still eligible. Last year, 360 applications were received for approximately 70 positions.

Junior Corps workers will be paid at or near minimum wage. Applications for the Junior program are now available at all high schools, state employment offices and State Park offices listed below.

Applicants for the Junior Program are urged to mail applications as early as possible, but they must be postmarked by Friday, May 10. All applications are to be mailed to the Alaska Department of Labor's Juneau office. That address is one the application form's pre-printed return mailer.

The Senior Corps program pays between \$3.85 and \$5.00 per hour and is available on a live-at-home basis for most state parks in Alaska. Although there is no special application form for the Senior program, people from 18 through 23 who are interested in applying for a position should contact their local Youth Employment Office or one of the DNR/Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation offices located in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Soldotna, or Wasilla.