

Youth groups to study effects of oil disaster

The Prince William Sound Cleanup and Rehabilitation fund has committed \$5,000 for start-up funding to the StewardShip Earth, YES! Project — Youth Education in Stewardship.

The nonprofit pilot project began the first in a series of six-week sessions July 2 in Homer. The project is an education, adventure-based program designed to assist high school students, educators, families and interested others in developing a global understanding of the environment.

The idea came from Brian Springer, a musical artist from Homer. Springer wanted to transform his feelings about the March 24 oil spill in a positive program. His first contribution was a song, "The Requiem to Prince William Sound."

Each group will begin their trek in Homer with visits to the marine animal rescue centers, the Pratt Museum and the Kenai Wildlife Center.

Participants will ferry across Kachemak Bay where they will spend five days discussing stewardship training, practicing kayak skills and participating in low impact camping techniques, as well as observing marine life, intertidal communities and Native subsistence lifestyles.

They will then fly to Shuyak Island, near Kodiak, one of Alaska's pristine wilderness areas. Their route will provide the opportunity to observe areas affected by the oil spill, practice wilderness skills and develop individual stewardship projects.

Those who want more information may contact Colleen Trout, interim director, at 278-6980 in Anchorage or write: Box 202502, Anchorage 99520.