



Organizing Workprograms for High School Students

A Resource List

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

TOPIC

High school workprograms are a great opportunity for youth leadership through environmental education and job training. The work teaches basic tree maintenance and landscaping skills including watering, weeding, mulching, some pruning, and cleanup, using shovels, rakes, buckets, hoses, and other hand tools, or the chance to hone math, science, and computer skills working with GIS data, statistical analysis, measuring storm water runoff and contaminants, and tree planting and maintenance.

More information at: www.actrees.org/site/stories/organizing_workprograms_for_high_school_stude.php

TRAINERS

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Amanda Benner

In May 2006, UC Green launched its new high school summer workforce program: UC Green Corps. The program provides sustainable seasonal maintenance to approximately 500 young trees a week. This program targets teenagers in West Philadelphia, a diverse urban neighborhood, and is developing environmental stewards of the future.

Kemba Shakur

Urban ReLeaf provides school-year work opportunities for approximately 200 high school students a year. In particular, they work with at-risk teens from East and West Oakland. Through an innovative on-the-job training program that utilizes sophisticated equipment and computer programs to study the environmental benefits of trees, local youth learn not only important job skills as they plant and care for trees, but also math, science, and technology. Kemba founded Oakland ReLeaf, which is responsible for planting more than 8,000 trees in low-income communities through the East Bay.





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SUCCESS STORIES- Nonprofits

The Greening of Detroit (Detroit, MI)

The Green Corps is The Greening of Detroit's summer youth employment program. The program was founded in 1998 and gives over 20 students the opportunity to work and learn. Students travel the city and care for the 28,000 trees that The Greening of Detroit has planted, and they also learn about horticulture and urban forestry. The Green Corps provides a unique experience and paid job for students while also ensuring that plantings are cared for during the months they need the most attention.

More information at: www.greeningofdetroit.com/

Casey Trees (Washington, DC)

Casey Trees has a paid summer internship program for high school and college students. Students work in teams in the DC area caring for young trees and communicating with city residents about the importance of trees. College interns supervise high school interns, so students have more opportunities to connect, develop leadership, and build teamwork skills. The internship also provides students with the opportunity to learn about tree identification and the benefits of urban forestry.

More information at: www.caseytrees.org/

Friends of the Urban Forest (San Francisco, CA)

Their Youth Tree Program employs underserved students to care for city trees year-round. The program gives students the much-needed chance to earn money and the opportunity to learn about urban forestry and its importance. The program also provides the city with a valuable and vital service: the maintenance of city trees. The program is over ten years old and has employed more than 225 youth. The feedback from young participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and the program has made a visible impact on communities in San Francisco.

More information at: www.fuf.net/

Canopy Youth Employment Program (Palo Alto, CA)

Canopy ranks high among the choices youth have for summer volunteer work. Teens from middle school through high school make significant contributions to Canopy's work from June through August. A dedicated core of four high school youth from the Youth Employment Program (YEP) and sixteen 8th and 9th graders from Youth Community Service contribute time on Wednesdays and Saturdays to tree care in East Palo Alto. Joined each time by one or two drop-ins, they weed, mulch, water, adjusted drip lines, and train young trees to grow straight. The youth are also critical in making Palo Alto's Young Tree Care Survey a success. Led by an adult, trained high school mentors, or Canopy, teens earn community service hours by completing seven routes covering twenty or more trees each on a given Saturday. The YEP teens also work as parking attendants and collect pledges at Canopy's special events and fundraisers.

SUCCESS STORIES- Governments

Idaho Department of Lands (Idaho)

The Idaho Department of Lands offers grants to enable communities to hire Shade Tree Apprentices. These apprentices may be high school or college students, and each community designs the internship program and projects according to their specific needs. The Shade Tree Apprenticeship Program enables youth to gain experience in community forestry while providing a valuable service to their area.

More information at: www.idl.idaho.gov/Bureau/community_forestry/tool_box_kits/index.htm

USDA Forest Service (Washington, DC)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's student opportunities are designed to combine academic studies with on-the-job training and experience and to give students an opportunity to work with USDA while completing their education.





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USDA provides undergraduate and graduate students with paid opportunities to serve as assistants to scientific, professional, administrative, and technical employees. Each USDA Mission Area or Agency manages its own programs. USDA also provides opportunities for persons to fulfill their career goals through challenging internships that provide a path to permanent employment. Click on the links below to find out about USDA's student programs, internship opportunities, and other information of interest to students and to interns. Supervisors of students and USDA Student Educational Program Managers should also look below to find information that may be of interest to them. The Forest Service offers part-time employment for high school and college students. Students can work in metropolitan, suburban, or rural areas. They have the opportunity to gain experience in a variety of areas of forestry. More information at: www.usda.gov/da/employ/intern.htm

Government of Newfoundland (Newfoundland)

The Student Tree Planting Program is the result of the combined efforts of the Department of Natural Resources Newfoundland and the Newfoundland and Labrador Forestry Training Association. The program is designed to provide summer employment for recent high school graduates and college students while also enabling reforestation efforts. The program has been so successful that it was doubled for the summer of 2007. More information at: www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/TreePlantingJob_2007.pdf

Urban Forestry Project (Portland, OR)

This program provides 100 at-risk youth with employment. As the students research, market, invest, and produce, they gain valuable business, technical, and horticultural skills. They also promote urban forestry within their city. More information at: www.oregon.gov/OYA and www.ncjrs.gov

INFORMATION RESOURCES

ACT Case Study: Friends of the Urban Forest Youth Tree Care Program

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), in conjunction with three other local nonprofits, operates a youth program that takes care of 1,500 trees and assists in the planting of 200 trees each year. Youth employees, aged 14-17, earn a living wage and develop marketable job skills while improving San Francisco's urban environment. Initially started as a summer program in 1995, the Youth Tree Care Program now has three sessions: summer, spring and fall. More than 275 youths have completed the program, which has cared for 7,400 trees. This case study of the FUF Youth Tree Care Program provides more detailed information on the planning, implementation, and results of this high school work program. More information at: http://actrees.org/site/what_we_do/success_stories/youth_tree_care_program.php

Ten Successful Years of the FUF Youth Tree Care Program

This brochure highlights the actual impact high school work programs can have on a community and on students. FUF has now made available a retrospective that follows the progress of former participants, and, based on their positive next steps and their reflective enthusiasm, proclaims that this program works. This guide includes student profiles, background on the youth tree care program, and describes what the program aims to teach. More information at: www.fuf.net/pdf/FUF_YTCP_brochure.pdf

Meeting the High School Challenge

About 68% of young Americans who enter high school graduate four years later. High quality after-school programs have emerged as important tools in meeting this challenge. This report examines the challenges of engaging teens in after-school programs and describes three programmatic approaches. It reflects lessons learned by The After-School Corporation and its many partners in engaging older students, and creating programs that can be replicated on a large scale.

More information at: www.tascorp.org/content/document/detail/1487/

