



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer Positions Available for Teens at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge

CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, near Havana is accepting applications from youth ages 15 through 18 for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program. Enrollees will be selected in a random drawing to participate in the 8 week program, tentatively scheduled to begin June 11 and end August 3. These position dates are subject to change if budgets are reduced.

Applications must be received at the refuge headquarters by 3:00 PM on Friday, April 13. If selected, applicants under the age of 16 will be required to obtain a work permit before May 1. Applicants must be at least 15 when the program begins (June 11) and must not turn 19 before the program closes (August 3).

YCC enrollees work on wildlife habitat improvement projects, refuge maintenance projects, trails, boundary posting, brush cutting, and other outdoor work. The work is primarily outdoors so exposure to insects and poison ivy is inevitable. Appropriate personal protective equipment will be provided by the refuge. YCC enrollees will be paid the state minimum wage of \$8.25 per hour, 40 hours per week. The daily reporting site is located 8 miles northeast of Havana, just off the Manito Blacktop. Working hours are 7:30 AM-4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Information on obtaining YCC enrollee applications is being provided to area schools. Applications can also be downloaded from the following web site
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/IllinoisRiver>

For more information, please contact Ron Fisher at 309/535-2290.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species

Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>