

# Building Good Work Habits

■ 19 youths restore Tillamook Trail as part of annual Summer Youth Crew Program.

By Ariel Bailey

Summer Youth employee

For the last 16 years, Grand Ronde youths have participated in the Summer Youth Crew Program.

The Tribe and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps partner to give teenagers a work experience through the six-week program, which is aimed at high school-age students. The Youth Crew program helps build positive experiences and work habits.

Nineteen youths worked on various projects beginning July 9. The main project has been restoration of Tillamook Trail, which is located up Agency Creek.

Youth Crew members are split into two groups and work on different parts of the trail.

"We're very fortunate to have such a good group of kids this year," said Tiffany

Brockway, who accompanies crew members on the trail and supervises, making sure there are no problems.

Only one girl, Alana Hobbs, worked as a crew member this year. She said working with 18 boys was a fun experience and that she didn't mind being the lone female.

To become part of the Summer Youth Crew Program, teens submitted an application and were interviewed. Once selected, youth received first aid training and



Photo by Summer Youth employee Ariel Bailey

The Summer Youth Crew worked to restore the Tillamook Trail located on Agency Creek in Grand Ronde. They spent six weeks working on various projects including building campgrounds at Devil's Lake near Lincoln City.

then spent the first two days of the job being taught at the Natural Resources Department the proper ways to handle tools and keep safe while working around each other.

Each day before going to work, crew members participated in a safety circle. They stood in a circle and each person took a turn reciting a way to keep safe during the day. They also choose a stretching exercise for the group to perform.

After working for six weeks,

Summer Youth Crew participants became experienced in how to build a trail. The top ground layer, which is called duff, was removed and then crew members evened out the surfaces to make it easier to walk on. Sometimes obstacles, such as trees and stumps, stood in the way of the trail and crew members, but the youth didn't seem to mind.

"Cutting down trees is one of the most fun things we do out here," said Youth Crew worker

Travis Trammel, a senior at Willamina High School.

Trail restoration isn't the only thing the crew worked on. They also helped with Fort Yamhill projects, such as cleaning campgrounds and working on trails. Crew members said they also enjoyed harvesting, cleaning and preparing lamprey caught at Willamette Falls for Tribal members. There were also a few trips, including a challenge course day where all of the teens got together in team-building exercises. Also, each group took a trip to Devil's Lake, near Lincoln City, to clean and build campgrounds, along with a canoe trip up the Willamette River. At the end of the summer program on Aug. 24, Youth Crew members attended a goodbye celebration and went whitewater rafting on the Clackamas River. Several members have returned after previous years of working on the Summer Youth Crew, taking the opportunity to work outdoors, familiarize themselves with trails and put a little change in their pockets. The youths worked 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and earned \$8 an hour. ■

## '07 Youth Program A Success

■ 33 youths receive help with school work, making up classes.

By Erika Merrill

Summer Youth employee

According to Elaine Ferguson in the Tribe's Youth Education Program, this summer's Youth Program was a huge success.

The six-week program, designed to help youth with school work and making up classes, started in June and ended in July.

Middle school students worked from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday and high school students worked from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Middle school and high school students were separated this year, which was a change from 2006. Students were separated because of curriculum, Ferguson said.

High school students had to finish credits while middle school students only had to work on getting better grades. Separating the students this year helped because it gave the students more time to finish what they needed to and reduced distractions since the two groups were doing such different things, Ferguson said.

Activities that middle school youth were involved in this year included Chinook lessons, language arts, math, Native Plan projects, a Portland LumberJax lacrosse player's lesson, a Northwest Indian mural with Richard Fenwick, a health careers mini-field trip, a field trip to Fort



Youth Teacher Elaine Ferguson

Photo by Summer Youth employee Miranda Ellis

Yamhill, a writing skills classes with Marion Mercier at the library and other kinds of presentations.

Activities that high school students participated in included Chinook lessons, independent work using Nova NET to recover high school credits, basket weaving, and other activities youth wanted to be involved in that the middle school students were doing.

Next summer the Youth Education Department is examining other changes for the Summer Youth Program, including not having a six-week daily schedule. Possibilities include going to an every other day schedule or offering shorter classes so youths can pick the days they want to go, which might spur larger daily attendance. ■

## Future Draft Picks?



Former Minnesota Viking safety Joey Browner signs a football for Tribal member Dakota Rock, right, as some of the 93 youth who showed up for the Aug. 23 football skills workshop go through their paces.



Photos by Ron Kartan