

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$70,000 in Scholarships for North Bay Youth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Beginning in June, the popular Project ReGeneration summer youth camp is offering \$500 higher education scholarships for the 140 youth program participants, made possible by a grant from Learn & Serve America.

”There are few good options for engaging middle school kids during the summer. By providing a free, four-week program for 6th through 9th graders, not only do we get the kids off their computers, cell phones and street corners, working families have access to an experienced, quality environmental summer program for their adolescent children,” says Marilee Eckert, Executive Director at Conservation Corps North Bay. Youth that complete 100 hours of service this summer will earn the scholarship, and have it available for up to 10 years to pay for higher education expenses. For example, the scholarship could pay for a semester at College of Marin or Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition, with summer camps commonly costing approximately \$250 per week, many families will save \$1,000 in summer camp expenses by having their kids participate in the four week Project ReGeneration program.

In addition to scholarships, the Learn & Serve America grant provides funding to keep the popular Project ReGeneration program going. “With many of our local parks and recreation departments forced to cut youth programs, and many families strapped for cash this year, summer programs like Project Regeneration are more important than ever,” said Eckert. Earlier this year, Conservation Corps North Bay announced that reductions in funding resulted in ending the practice of providing stipends for Project ReGeneration youth.

Youth serve on teams of ten, led by two trained adult leaders. Teams complete hundreds of local environmental service projects. Examples have included school garden beautification & planting, harvesting at an organic farm, trail building, invasive species removal, monitoring of wildlife, and litter abatement. Project sites this summer will include Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Organic farms, Sonoma County parks, Marin County parks, and many more.

The funding also enables Conservation Corps North Bay to expand the popular summer program into Sonoma County - the third major program that CCNB has rolled out in Sonoma since 2008, joining its growing Natural Resource and Recycling services. In addition to the youth development aspects of the program, Project ReGeneration helps the community by providing hundreds of service projects each summer.

Youth may participate in one of the four-week ReGeneration sessions: June 21-July 16, or July 20-August 13. Participants meet Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm at the Corps’

offices either in San Rafael, Novato, or Cotati before setting out for the day to sites throughout the North Bay.

Youth entering grades sixth through ninth next fall are eligible to apply. In addition to the scholarships, 9th grad students earn High School life science credits through a partnership with the John Muir Charter School.

Applications are due April 1, 2001. Apply online at www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org. For more information, call 415-454-4554 extension 271.

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Project ReGeneration Testimonials

“These past few weeks in Project ReGeneration have been a blast. I have made a bunch of new friends and enjoyed time we spent in nature. Perhaps more importantly, though, I have learned about the impact a single person can have on the environment, or anything they do.”

“This will be the third time that I have done Project ReGeneration, and I can say without any hesitation, it just keeps getting better and better. From the projects, to the team building activities to the education, the program just keeps growing into something bigger and better each year. In this day in age, a lot of people (mainly teenagers) have nothing to keep them occupied. Project ReGeneration gives me and my new friends a chance to get out of the house and get to know the

area in which we live and work. I've learned more about the environment here in a month than I did during my whole life before I did the program.”

“Every group is a similar basic experience; we start out shy and quiet, not even knowing each other's names. By the second or third day, however, we are fast friends!”

About Conservation Corps North Bay

Founded in 1982 as the nation's first local nonprofit conservation corps program, Conservation Corps North Bay is a recognized leader in youth service. Conservation Corps North Bay's mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a strong, sustainable community. For the past 25 years, our organization has helped thousands of young people, while improving local parklands and communities, cultivating strong environmental leaders, and promoting environmental sustainability. In addition to Project Regeneration each year CCNB provides more than 120 young adults, ages 18-28, with the job training, education, and social services needed to transform their lives. <http://www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org>

About Learn & Serve America

Four thousand middle school students will participate in service-learning projects this summer, funded by the 2010 Summer of Service grants from Learn and Serve America, a national service program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The agency awarded grants totaling \$2 million to 17 nonprofits, universities and schools to engage at-risk youth in grades 6 through 9 in innovative service projects that address environmental and disaster preparedness issues. The Summer of Service program is a new initiative that was

established under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in April 200 in support of
President Obama's call for volunteer service. <http://www.learnandserve.gov>

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