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North Bay youth can apply for \$70,000 in scholarships

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By Scope staff

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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.

Youth who 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. 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 10, led by two trained adult leaders. Teams complete hundreds of local environmental service projects. Examples have included school garden beautification and planting, harvesting at an organic farm, trail building, invasive-species removal, monitoring of wildlife and litter abatement. Project sites this summer will include the 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 either one of the four-week ReGeneration sessions: June 21-July 16, or July 20-Aug. 13. Participants meet Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 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 six through nine next fall are eligible to apply. In addition to the scholarships, ninth-grade students earn high school life-science credits through a partnership with the John Muir Charter School.

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

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