

Overview of FYS 2015

2015 was a highly successful season for the Forest Youth Success program. This season saw 23 students completed the season successfully. Project sponsors were consistently pleased with the amount and quality of work accomplished on each project. Evaluations from students and staff were universally positive regarding the 2015 FYS summer season.

Employment

- 28 individuals were employed during the 6 week season
- 1 program director employed from March - August
- 4 adult crew leaders received leadership and facilitation training in preparation for the season, and employed from June - August.
- 8 junior and senior age students served as mentors and received leadership training in addition to the summer work experience. Employed: July - August.
- 15 freshman and sophomore age students served as workers and gained valuable teamwork and work ethic skills during the summer work season. Employed: July - August.
- This season 96 crew days or 648 labor days of project time (maximum number of days without subtracting absences)
- An estimated \$64,824 worth of project time (GS-4 and GS-5 rates used to establish value of project time)
- Over \$1,185,321 worth of project time has been completed since 2002

Projects

The 2015 work season focused on two major projects; white pine pruning and trail maintenance and brushing.

- Project Sponsors included the following agencies and organizations:
- US Forest Service Mt. Adams District
- US Forest Service Mt. St. Helens District
- Pacific Crest Trail Association

Accomplishments

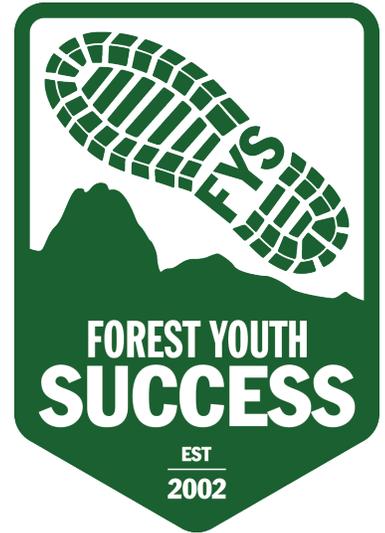
US Forest Service

Mt. Adams District

- 127 acres of white pine pruned across 6 units
- .5 miles of tread maintenance
- .5 miles of brushing on East Crater trail
- 2 culverts removed on East Crater trail
- 2 culverts installed on East Crater trail
- 20 drains cleaned on East Crater trail

Mt. St. Helens District

- 1.5 miles of brushing on June Lake trail
- 1.5 miles brushing on Goat Marsh trail
- 1 mile brushing on Kalama Ski trail
- 1 mile brushing on Boundary trail
- Trash cleared from lower Ape Cave



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Pacific Crest Trail Association

PCT North of 68

- 2 miles of tread maintenance
- 2 miles of brushing
- 15 drains cleaned

PCT 2070 Road

- 1.25 miles of tread maintenance
- 1.25 miles of brushing
- 10 drains cleaned
- 1 turnpike cleared and drainage improved

PCT South of Bunker

- 125 feet of turnpike repaired or installed
- .5 miles of tread maintenance
- .5 miles of brushing
- 3 drains cleaned
- Crews learned about the importance of the PCT to Skamania County. They also interacted with thru-hikers and learned about what the PCT means to them and the hiking community.

Education

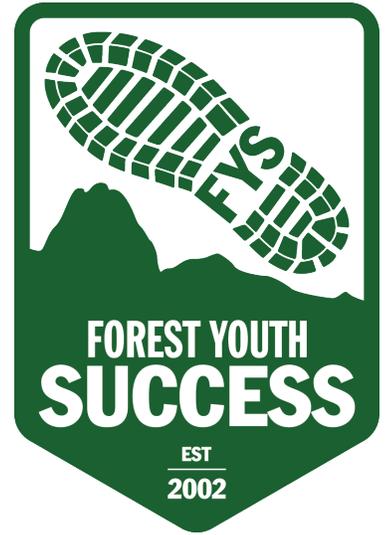
Education is an ongoing and continuous process that is integrated into the fieldwork as well as the classroom. Project sponsors are expected to incorporate an educational component into each project making everyday a learning experience. Students also complete an environmental education curriculum along with afternoon and Friday classes. Classes this summer included:

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- Fish necropsies led by US Fish and Wildlife
- Employment skills
- Resume development and interview skills
- Money management
- Credit and debt education
- Challenges facing pacific salmon
- Entomology
- Work ethic development
- Tree measurement and identification

All 23 students earned the Forest Teamwork credit. Credit is awarded by SCSD and is counted as an elective credit. To receive credit students had to fulfill the following requirements:

- Pass the final test
- Receive satisfactory marks on their end of the season evaluation
- Attend all Friday classes or complete a makeup assignment



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Leadership Curriculum for Mentors

- One-on-one mentoring in leadership skills by adult staff
- Leadership-oriented goal setting
- Integrity and values
- Relationship building
- Tolerance and diversity training and activities
- Personal skills assessment
- Leadership styles and situational leadership assessments and training
- Public speaking
- Team motivation training
- Group development and roles
- Completion of 3-page Leadership Essay

Trainings

- Tool training and trail work training with USFS Trail Crew
- 1st Aid and CPR for adult staff and mentors

Changes / Improvements in 2015

Extended Season to Six Weeks

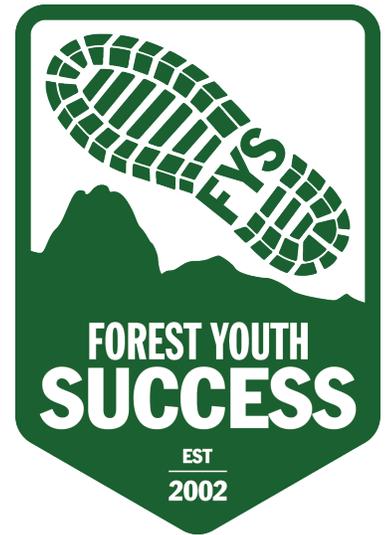
By extending the season to six (6) weeks the program was able to complete more projects, develop stronger peer relationships, and enjoy additional educational experiences.

Math Integration

Working with the Stevenson-Carson School District and a math specialist, FYS was provided with math resources and lessons that will be integrated into the environmental education curriculum moving forward. The goal of this integration is provide students with an opportunity to use and develop skills that apply to both the classroom and workforce.

Sustainability Efforts

Efforts continued to develop a sustainable funding model that will meet the needs and requirements of financial partners, project sponsors, staff, and the community as a whole. FYS is committed to meeting the needs of the community, partner agencies and organizations, and the environment. The sustainability efforts undertaken this year will ensure that FYS continues for years to come.



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