

Conservation Youth Corps is a natural fit for summer

Registration for Credit Valley Conservation's (CVC) popular Conservation Youth Corps (CYC) Program is now open.

High school students can earn volunteer hours by participating in environmental stewardship activities. Spaces are limited so students are encouraged to sign up now.

"The program is an opportunity for students to engage in environmental activities while earning their volunteer hours," said Adam Wilford, acting program coordinator for CYC at CVC. "It's a great way for students to earn valuable experience and build important skills such as communication, leadership and team work. For many, the program is a chance to spend more time outside and develop a new appreciation for nature."

This is the ninth year CVC has offered the program to high school students in the Credit River watershed. Participants volunteer in groups of seven with CVC staff for one week of the summer. The first volunteer day consists of an orientation session at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. Remaining days are work days spent completing conservation, restoration and ecological monitoring projects.

The program runs for nine weeks during summer break.

Each year, approximately 250 students work on a range of activities that benefit nature, while earning up to 35 of the 40 volunteer hours needed to graduate high school. Activities include tree planting, managing invasive species, aquatic and terrestrial monitoring, fish and wildlife habitat construction, community gardening, trail maintenance and more.

Volunteers have an opportunity to learn about the environment through meaningful experiences, explore different areas of the Credit River watershed and meet new people. The CYC summer program also looks impressive on a resume as well as on college and university applications.

All training and tools are provided. The only thing volunteers need to bring is lunch, a refillable water bottle, appropriate footwear and a good attitude.

For more information and to register, visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/cyc or call CVC at 906-670-1615 or toll free at 1-800-668-5557.

CVC's Conservation Youth Corps program is made possible by the support of the Region of Peel, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Enersource and personal donations through the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation.