

[From Summer 1995]

## **Youth Conservation Corps at Eastern Shore NWR**

Nine young adults have been selected to participate in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge this summer. The program, which starts on June 19, 1995, and runs for eight weeks, is for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who are interested in working on projects that help protect the natural resources of the United States.

This year's enrollees will be involved in wildlife habitat improvement projects, trail and grounds maintenance, tree planting, installing boundary markers and a variety of other worthwhile projects. The work is planned, directed and executed in such a way as to give the enrollees an understanding of their tasks and how to do them, their part in the overall management plan and how their work contributes to the enhancement of the refuge.

Environmental education is also an important part of the YCC program. Each week a certain amount of time is set aside for educational activities, field trips and wildlife programs. Touring a fish hatchery and assisting their staff with a maintenance project is one of the field trips planned for this summer.

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge has been actively involved in the YCC program since 1986. During that time, many of the summer projects that the refuge has been able to complete would not have been possible without the help of the YCC enrollees.

*Jim Kenyon,  
Outdoor Recreation Planner*