

[From Fall 1999]

YCC Returns to CNWR

A Youth Conservation Corps summer camp was held again this year at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge from June 28 through August 20. Participants included youth leader Shiloh Scott, Shannon Byrd, Dennis Briggs, Michael Collins, Andrea White, Timothy Scott, Kenneth Krull, Rebecca Quinn, Alisha Biddle, Margaret Grillo, camp intern Cristina Homa and Group Leader Floyd Nedab.

During the summer, the camp accomplished a wide variety of projects ranging from trail-blazing a new environmental education trail, repairing wood duck boxes, building interpretive kiosks, erecting dune fencing, painting refuge sign posts, and thinning young pine tree stands, to assisting maintenance staff with brush and limb removal projects.

A unique project for the camp was the participation in the annual piping plover monitoring program. Enrollees assisted summer biology interns with the monitoring of plover chicks within the overwash area of the refuge. An impressive 1.8 chicks fledged per adult pair was achieved in this area due, in part, to the increased monitoring efforts by all refuge staff. Another important aspect of the camp was environmental education sessions held for the enrollees throughout the eight week camp.

Chincoteague Refuge staff joined the enrollees on the last day of the camp, August 20, for a pizza lunch celebration as a thank you for YCC's help with refuge projects. Each camp participant was awarded a refuge t-shirt for their efforts.

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