



Youth

Onondaga Earth Corps Pre-Application Information Youth Program – Ages 15-18



We are excited that you are interested in joining the Onondaga Earth Corps and look forward to getting to know you as you prepare for the application and interview process. Once you have reviewed this information to see if Onondaga Earth Corps is the right program for you, the next step will be to complete the application process and attend an interview.

During the interview we will ask you questions about who you are, why you are interested in the Onondaga Earth Corps, and what your past experiences are. We expect you to review this document prior to your interview. You should come prepared to the interview with knowledge of the program and an idea of why it is a good fit for you at this stage in your life. Please also prepare any questions you may have to determine whether or not this is the right program for you. If you have any questions as you explore your interest in the program, please feel to come by our office or give us a call.

What is Onondaga Earth Corps?

Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) is a youth conservation corps program that empowers youth and young adults through environmental conservation, service projects, community engagement, and personal development. Our youth program is a LEARN and EARN opportunity. Crewmembers receive valuable life and work skills training as well as technical training to do environmental projects such as tree maintenance, landscape maintenance, litter awareness campaigns, and community education. You will work with staff, fellow crewmembers and partner organizations to learn while earning and improving the community.

Youth Program

The Youth Program is for youth ages 15 to 18. There are limited positions available in the spring and fall for after school and weekend programming. During the summer, OEC partners with the City of Syracuse and CNY Works to hire as many as 30 youth crewmembers to serve on a number of different crews.

Spring	Summer	Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April - May After school & weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 10 - Aug 18 Mon-Thur 9:00 - 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct - Nov After school & weekends

Spring and Fall after school schedules are confirmed by crew leaders with crew members based on crewmember and staff availability. Typical schedules have been Wednesday 4:00 – 7:00 and Saturdays 8:00 – 2:00. Hours will vary based on available work.

Summer - Program: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:30

Summer Orientation & Training

New and Renewing youth crewmembers will participate in a three day summer orientation to kick of the summer program. This is an overnight training and is **required** (July 10-13). This training will cover OEC history, policies, team building, and technical training to set the tone for the summer program. **During overnight training you are paid up to a maximum of 6 hours/day.**

Work in the summer includes a mix of education and training, often strenuous outdoor environmental work and community outreach activities. You should be willing and excited to engage in all of these activities.

After initial group training, crewmembers are assigned crews for the duration of their program season. OEC runs a variety of crews including Tree Crew, Green Infrastructure, Parks Corps, and Clean Streets. There are also many cross-program event days where all crew work together on unique projects.

Summer Daily Routine

After orientation, individual crews meet daily at their designated location (OEC classroom or staging site) to prepare for the day's field work. Small crews spread out across the city to work. Crews will mostly be out in the field and responsible for coming to work in uniform and prepared with a lunch and water bottle.



Tree Crew



Over the course of three seasons, the tree crew plants between 1,000 and 1,400 trees. As a member of the tree crew you will learn about tree biology, tree identification, soil and water conservation, urban ecology and urban forestry. You will be well informed on the ecological and socio-economic benefits of trees and green spaces. We offer professional skill training that landscape and forestry companies demand for new hires and that will be good preparation if you are contemplating going to college. Field work includes planting, watering, mulching, pruning, weeding and community outreach.

Green Infrastructure Crew



The green infrastructure (GI) crew helps maintain environmentally important sites while beautifying neighborhoods. Green infrastructure installations are important for the collection of stormwater runoff. They prevent stormwater from going into our sewers, thereby reducing the amount of pollution that goes into Onondaga Lake during storm events. Crewmembers learn about why GI installations are important, how they function, and get trained in standard

landscape maintenance practices such as weeding, edging, planting, mulching, pruning, and power tool operation. Crewmembers work in small teams and sometime with community partners to maintain close to 20 sites throughout Syracuse.

Parks Corps



During the summer program, Park Corps crewmembers split their time between educating children about the natural environment in parks and doing important landscaping and maintenance in the parks. Parks Corps crewmembers are employed directly by the City of Syracuse.

Clean Streets



Clean Streets crewmembers split their time between conducting education and outreach to raise awareness about the importance of litter prevention, and cleaning up along commercial corridors.

Clean Steets crewmembers are also employed directly by the City of Syracuse.

Application Process and Selection

1. Is OEC for me?

Read through this document and fill out the “Is OEC for me?” checklist to determine whether or not you think the OEC program is a good fit for you.

2. Submit Application

Applications are reviewed for seasonal enrollment at the end of March for spring sessions, end of May for Summer sessions and end of August for Fall sessions. All applicants should fill out 1) an application and submit along with, 2) a cover letter, and 3) a resume to 100 New St. Rm 239, Syracuse, NY 13202.

Applications will not be considered until complete. You will be notified if your application is incomplete.

3. Interview for crewmember position

Policies and Protocols

OEC follows policies that were created *by crewmembers for crewmembers* and is also informed by legal experts and best practices for programs serving youth and young adults. The goal is to provide a structure that will help you be successful in any future endeavor, as well as uphold the high standards for our program. Keep in mind that these policies are in place to ensure a positive experience for crewmembers, staff, partner agencies and community members. The expectation is for 100% compliance with integrity and professionalism. Policies include **safety, drug-free workplace, zero bullying**, and normal workplace rules.

2017 Schedule:

SPRING PROGRAM

April - May

Summer Renewal Performance Reviews

SUMMER PROGRAM

July 10 – Aug 18: Summer Youth Program

July 13 – 15: Urban Forestry Conference (Brooklyn, NY – select members only)

August 18th: Summer Banquet

FALL PROGRAM

October - November

November: Program debrief – wrap up

Program Graduation Ceremony

Commitment

Onondaga Earth Corps is one of over 100 youth conservation corps programs across the country. Conservation corps’ believe that youth are the future, youth are key to the success of our communities and that youth can be empowered by engaging with and serving communities. Your commitment to yourself and your growth as a leader, your commitment to your community and your willingness to improve the communities that we work in are essential.

Our work can be inspiring as well as very tedious; each project is chosen for the impact that it can have to support individual growth, build team bonds and improve our community. You should be prepared to meet each project with the commitment to advance your personal goals, the team’s goals, and to help our local community.



Is OEC for me?

Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you ready to commit yourself to self-growth through hard work and a team-based approach? • Can you consistently show up to work and strive towards your own goals and challenges, on your own time? • Are you ready to EARN for your fieldwork and LEARN during unpaid, personal development days? 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you ready to come to work with a positive attitude and readiness to learn? • Can you show up "on time, everytime?" • Are you ready to wear your uniform, tucked in, every day? • Can you work without looking at your phone? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEC does hard outdoor work in the sun, but also the heat, cold and wet. Are you ready to work outdoors, even in adverse conditions? • OEC's overnight camp and orientations are a great opportunity to get to know your coworkers. They are required: can you be ready to sleep outside in tents and enjoy nature? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you interested in helping out in your community? • Will you be willing to present what you learn at OEC to adults, youth and children in your community? • Do you have ideas about how to improve the community? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered ‘yes’ to most of these questions, you are likely to be a great match for the OEC experience.
 If you have some ‘no’ answers, but are intrigued, check out our seasonal trainings and register online, and then please apply and bring your questions to your interview.