

TO: COMMANDER OR AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIRMAN

SUBJECT: YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

Dear Comrade:

The American Legion, Department of California Youth Environmental Conference will take place Friday through Monday, May 16-19, 2008 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The pertinent details are as follows:

PURPOSE: Counseled by professionals from the Federal and State Forestry Agencies, and private industry, to acquaint the interested student with all phases of Forestry, Conservation and Environmental activities; to observe Land Management activities; to give career guidance in these and allied fields, including degree requirements and employment opportunities available in the related careers students have chosen.

PARTICIPATION: High school students, boys or girls, with Sophomore or Junior Class status. Please do not send High School seniors since they don't have time to bring program information back to the school. **ALSO – PLEASE DO NOT SEND STUDENTS MORE THAN ONCE. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IS REPEATED EACH YEAR, AND SOME STUDENTS TEND TO BE DISRUPTIVE DURING THE ACTIVITIES IF THEY HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED.** They must have a desire to continue school on a college level, majoring in some branch of Forestry, Conservation or Environmental studies which can include biology, botany, entomology, recreational specialists, etc.

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION: Watershed and Timber Management / Lumbering Entomology / Wildlife Management / Fire Detection Control / Fire Fighting / Flood and Erosion Control / Reforestation / Geology / Natural History / Recreation Area Development and Management / Ecology and Environmental Changes.

DATE / TIME / PLACE: The conference assembly point will be The American Legion Post 521, 6700 8th Street, Rio Linda. Participants must arrive no later than 7:45 A.M. on Friday, May 16, 2008. Breakfast will be served promptly at 8:00.

ALL PAPERWORK / FEE DATES WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO SO WE CAN MEET FOREST SERVICE TIMEFRAMES FOR STAFFING

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DUE DATES AND FEES. DESTROY ANY PRIOR FORMS.

LA AREA SPONSORS – PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THEY LEAVE THURSDAY, MAY 15.

The \$270 fee does not include transportation. Bus transportation fees for 2008 are:

\$65 from Los Angeles
\$60 from Bakersfield/Tulare
\$50 from Fresno
\$50 for the bus that starts in Gilroy

This cost is the responsibility of the sponsoring Post or District

Each sponsoring Post should have someone at the bus pickup and drop off points to assure the students are not left unchaperoned. Please stay in touch with your students regarding bus schedules and other questions they may have.

The bus schedule will be available May 10, 2008.

It's not too early to schedule appointments to interview the students. All necessary documents are enclosed in this packet. Make copies as needed. Provide them to the school counselors right away, then schedule interviews.

When considering the cost, don't overlook asking for assistance from other Posts who may not be sponsoring a student on their own, auxiliaries, SAL Squadrons, or other local organizations. Each form is self-explanatory. Stress to the students the importance of getting the paperwork to the sponsoring District/Post in time for you to get it to the Coordinator by March 31.

Since alternates are being used more frequently make sure they have a full packet of completed documents ready. When you find that you have to use an alternate immediately send their packet to the Director. Using an Alternate will NOT cost your District/Post any additional money. Be sure their forms are marked "ALTERNATE".

If you have to replace a prime delegate with an alternate after May 10, have the application, medical consent and medical history fax'd to Barbara Ross at (916) 481-2562, then turn the packet in to the bus chaperone if they are traveling on one of the buses, or to the private driver if they are coming in by private transportation. ALL documents must be turned in or they will not be allowed to attend the conference.

Make sure the students understand this is a working conference, not a camping or hiking trip. Students will participate in meal preparation and cleanup, and will attend sessions most of the day, as well as after dinner.

Please read instructions carefully and assure that your candidate returns all required documents prior to departure time.

Please submit any questions to Barbara Ross (916) 482-9474

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION OF SPONSORSHIP
DUE WITH FEES BY MARCH 1, 2008
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
2008 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

This is to certify that American Legion District _____ and/or Post _____ will sponsor student(s) as participants in the Department of California American Legion Youth Environmental Conference May 16-19, 2008

In additional to the normal allotment of students, District _____ or Post _____ wishes to sponsor _____ more student(s) if space is available.

Dated _____

By _____ Title _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

INSTRUCTION:

Send this certification with your check for \$270 (PLUS BUS FEE) per student you wish to sponsor, payable to Youth Environmental Conference TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2008.

The conference committee will allocate each District its number of students on March 15, 2008. Each District will be entitled to at least two participants if all requirements are met by March 1, 2008. After that date the committee reserves the right to allocate unfilled openings and determine the number of students from each district.

A District which certifies its entitlement of 2 students in the upper part of the certification may apply to sponsor additional students in the lower part of the certification for filling available openings. Fees deposited for participants not selected in the quota for the conference will be returned.

Though fees will be returned for students not selected, NO MONEY CAN BE RETURNED AFTER APRIL 1 FOR SELECTED STUDENTS WHO WILLFULLY DROP OUT. Every effort will be made to make a refund if a student becomes ill at the last minute. However, we have already paid Sly Park for each student and the fee is non-refundable, so each case will be decided on a funds-available basis.

It is advisable to have a qualified alternate available in case the student selected as the prime delegate is unable to attend at the last moment. Be sure the alternate delegates have a completed set of all forms.

STUDENT PAPERWORK is due no later than March 31, 2008 to Barbara Ross, P.O. Box 601464, Sacramento, CA 95860-1464. SPONSOR SHOULD RETAIN 1 COPY OF APPLICATION, AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT, AND MEDICAL HISTORY TO BE GIVEN TO THE BUS CHAPERONE, or private vehicle driver.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
2008 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

STUDENT APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

CONFERENCE DATES: FRIDAY-MONDAY, MAY 16, 17, 18, 19

Name of Applicant _____ Phone (____) _____
(PLEASE PRINT) (LAST) (FIRST) (M.I.)

Home Address _____
(Number) (Street) (City) (Zip)

Age _____ Birthdate _____ Sex _____ School Grade _____ GPA _____
(Years) (Mo-Day-Year) (M/F) (Soph/J) (Latest)

Is the student proficient in English? Yes _____ No _____

High School Name _____ City _____

Future College (If known) _____ Probable Major _____

Special Interest in Forestry, Conservation, Ecology, etc. _____

Experience in the above (if any) _____

Why do you wish to participate in this program? _____

Meals are prepared by professional school staff. They are well-balanced and nutritious, and contain some non-red meat dishes at all meals. **We are unable to cater to individual food preferences.**

T-shirt size _____ (S/M/L/XL)

School Reference _____ Phone (____) _____
Teacher or Counselor Signature

Parental Consent _____ Phone (____) _____
Parent or Guardian Signature

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

ONE OR BOTH OF THESE SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED FOR CONTACT

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ Dist # _____

Address _____
Number City Zip

POST CHAIRMAN

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ Post # _____

Address _____
Number City Zip

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
2008 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

When you return your application to the sponsoring District or Post, the following must be attached:

- TWO SIGNED COPIES OF THE "MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM"
- TWO SIGNED COPIES OF THE "AUTHORIZATION CONSENTING TO TREATMENT OF A MINOR"
- ONE SIGNED COPY OF THE "CODE OF ETHICS DEPARTMENT ETHICS CODE"
- TWO SIGNED COPIES OF THE PARENT'S CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

AUTHORIZATION CONSENTING TO TREATMENT OF A MINOR

(I)(WE), the undersigned, parents or guardians of _____, a minor, do hereby authorize The American Legion Youth Environmental Conference as agent(s), for the undersigned, to consent to any X-Ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any Physician and Surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practices Act on the medical staff of any qualified hospital, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said Physician or at said hospital.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required but is given to provide authority and power on the part of aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnoses, treatment or hospital care which the aforementioned Physician in the exercise of his/her best judgment may deem advisable.

This authorization shall remain effective until termination of the scheduled transportation by The American Legion at the conclusion of the conference, unless sooner revoked in writing delivered to said agent(s)

_____, or Signed (Father)	_____ Date
_____, or Signed (Mother)	_____ Date
_____ Signed (Legal Guardian)	_____ Date

NOTE: Both copies of this form must be signed and returned with the application to the chairman of The American Legion Post or District that is sponsoring the student.

INSURANCE COMPANY _____

ID# _____

SUBSCRIBER _____

GROUP # _____

Family Physician Name _____

Physician's Phone Number (____) _____

AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH
ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

PARENT'S CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

To be signed by parent(s) or guardian(s). If parents are divorced or legally separated, this form must be signed by the parent having legal custody as established by a court.

1. I/We have read and understand this form, the application and other forms I/we signed for my/our son/daughter to participate in the American Legion Youth Environmental Conference.
2. I/we consent to and understand that my/our son/daughter will travel by bus to the El Dorado National Forest and other environmental areas as a part of the Conference field trips. I/We also consent to and understand that the field trips could include a short trip into the State of Nevada to the Native American Interpretive trail and Cave Rock.
3. I/we hereby release, discharge, and relinquish The American Legion, its officers, agents, their representatives and employees from any and all claims, demands, actions and causes of action of any sort, for any injuries sustained by my/our son/daughter.

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

CODE OF ETHICS GUIDELINES

Much time, effort and money is expended to bring the Youth Environmental Conference to fruition. The American Legion feels that this outlay is well spent if the students each derive sufficient benefit from the program. Students come from throughout the State; some are possibly exposed to different customs/environments. Utmost consideration is given to instruction, and the welfare of the students. The American Legion has, however, set up the following rules of minimum discipline so that all will have the same concept. Where there is willful disregard for acceptable ethical behavior, either stated or in practice, The American Legion reserves the right of immediate expulsion, and may report to the student's school, parent(s), and sponsoring Legion Post that this student was unacceptable in the program.

- 1) Quarters assignment must be adhered to. Quarters assigned to female students are **OFF LIMITS** to male students, and quarters assigned to male students are **OFF LIMITS** to female students. There shall be no loitering in quarters other than those assigned to you.
- 2) You are not to tamper with the clothing or gear belonging to another person.
- 3) DO NOT leave the immediate grounds or subject area during a field trip without permission. Give your undivided attention to the counselors or Crew Leaders when they are giving instruction of any nature.
- 4) Your conduct should be consistent with the purposes of the Youth Environmental Conference; to devote your efforts to study of the ecosystem, not the conquest of boy or girl friends. It is mandatory that each participating student in the program be present for each scheduled activity.
- 5) Consult Counselors, Crew Leaders or Escorts regarding recreational facilities which are available. Pulling stunts or partying at the behest of individuals often results in injury.
- 6) Bickering, fighting, gambling, use of alcohol, use of narcotics or tobacco, or any other improper acts will not be tolerated.
- 7) Be punctual for meals, work details, field trips and other group activities. Tardiness penalizes both the group and the program.
- 8) BE NEAT!! Keep quarters clean. Do not litter the grounds on field trip routes. Daily routine should include a shower and grooming.
- 9) Sickness, injury or other mishap should be brought to the immediate attention of a Counselor, Crew Leader or Escort.

I have read the Code of Ethics Guidelines above, and agree with the contents.

Signed – Applicant

Date

Signed – Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE OATH

I pledge to do my duty to love my Country, The United State of America, to supports its constitution, to obey its laws, to give allegiance to, and respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Signed – Applicant

Date

NOTE: A copy of this form **MUST** be signed and returned with the application to the chairman of The American Legion Post or District that is sponsoring the student.

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

THE LIST OF ITEMS BELOW IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE WHICH EACH STUDENT CAN FOLLOW IN MAKING UP HIS/HER PACK FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE. PLEASE TAKE EXTREME CARE TO INCLUDE THOSE ARTICLES WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO COMFORT AND SAFETY WHILE IN CAMP OR IN THE FIELD.

CLOTHING

1. Comfortable boots or high shoes, preferably with composition soles, good for hiking.
2. Socks, preferably cotton and wool mixed (3 extra pair)
3. Shirts, preferably loose, cotton or wool
4. Underclothing (shirts/shorts/bras – 3 extra)
5. Warm jacket or coat
6. Gloves (optional, but useful)
7. Rainwear
8. Long pants or slacks are required on field trips. Shorts may be worn in camp

BED CLOTHING

Either one sleeping bag or two/three blankets. NOTE: We advise a sleeping bag if one is available. They are easy to carry and store. Don't forget your pillow!!

TOILET ARTICLES

1. Shaving equipment
2. Soap/Wash Cloth(s)/Towel(s)
3. Toothbrush/toothpaste
4. Comb or brush
5. Cosmetics
6. Feminine needs (cycles can change at this altitude)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Flashlight (required) – battery operated (with extra batteries)
2. A few band-aids
3. Notebook and pencil
4. Camera and film (optional)
5. Any medication that you take at home (vitamins, nose drops, etc.)
6. Musical Instrument (optional)
7. **Bug Repellent**
8. **Sun Block**

ELECTRONIC ITEMS (RADIOS, CD PLAYERS, ETC) CAN ONLY BE USED IN CAMP DURING FREE TIME. THEY CANNOT BE TAKEN ON THE FIELD TRIPS OR **THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED. THIS INCLUDES CELLULAR PHONES.** There are no land-based or pay phones available to the students during the 4 days.

NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO FIREARMS!! Bring everything that is essential to your well-being, but no excess gear. If possible, pack all gear into one duffel bag or knapsack (with the exception of bed clothing which can be attached with bungee cords). This will facilitate handling of baggage. Travel light, but effectively.

Weather can change drastically within a few hours. Come prepared to change from warm and dry to cold and damp.