



New Jersey Youth Corps "News and Events"

After Hours Program Launched Round the State

In response to the increasing incidence of gang activity and violence in communities throughout the state, New Jersey Youth Corps is launching an "After Hours" program. **Youth Corps... After Hours** will make available program and recreation services during the late afternoon and early evening hours when adolescents and young adults are more likely to engage in at-risk behaviors.

Supported by national data which indicates youth enrolled in Corps are less likely to be arrested, ten NJ Youth Corps sites are providing a safe environment where young people are engaging in:

- Culinary arts, photography, publication design and development, marketing, theater, movie development
- Community service activities
- Tutoring, team building, mentoring
- Movie night, family and friends night, parent night, exercise programs, music and dance

Youth Corps Alumni associations are being developed and run by Corpsmembers, Corps basketball teams are emerging, and recreational and social activities are drawing young people into the Corps environment where positive, constructive activities are helping to thwart gang involvement and violence.

Jersey Explorer Children's Magazine

The newest exhibit at New Jersey Youth Corps' Jersey Explorer Children's Museum is called, 1945 *Homefront at the Soda Fountain*. It opened on July 18th to an audience from Newark's Kids Corp.

The first issue of *The Jersey Explorer Magazine* has been released. The publication is aimed at 3rd and 4th graders.

Spring and Summer Academy for Urban and Community Forestry Training

Over 100 graduates for the green industry completed training during the spring and summer months. Four rounds of training were offered and included Basic Plant Biology, Tree Care, Groundworker Safety Training and Personal Protective Equipment, Landscape Ecology, Electrical Safety and Field Training in Ascending and Working in the Tree, Aerial Lift, Proper Pruning Techniques, Equipment Maintenance, Tree Spraying and Fertilization, Landscape Design and Management and Tree Identification. A career day focused on "What Employers Are Looking For" with a panel of employer presentation and interaction with participants. A second training component in Chain Saw Operations was offered for participants at the State of New Jersey Forestry Resource Education Center (FREC). The third component, Greenhouse Operations will provide participants with a look at local operations. The training will conclude with a "Green" community service project planned and executed by Corpsmembers at all 12 Youth Corps sites.