## Student Volunteers

- In the United States, 25 percent of teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 volunteer their time and talents to various projects.
- Teenagers and young adults volunteer an estimated 4.3 billion hours — worth $77.9 billion annually.
- Volunteers typically donate between 4 and 5 hours of their time per week.
- Twenty-two percent of NRCS Earth Team volunteers are younger than 35.

## *We Need Your Help To Save Our Land!*

NRCS provides leadership in a voluntary partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and protect our natural resources and environment.

The purpose of the Earth Team is to support and expand NRCS services by using volunteer time, talent, and energy to help meet our agency and customer needs.

Now, as in the past, the Earth Team is continually looking for volunteers who want to help people help the land!

## As an Earth Team volunteer, you can:

- Develop leadership and job skills.
- Gain volunteer experience to highlight on college applications and resumes.
- Work with your peers to help conserve and protect soil, water, and wildlife resources in your own community.

***www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers***

USDA NRCS

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**July 2007**

NRCS

Earth Team Volunteers

***Helping People Help the Land***

# *Student Volunteers Can Make a World of Difference!*

***www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers***

## What is the Earth Team, and what's in it for you?

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Government's lead agency for voluntary conservation of natural resources on private lands. Earth Team volunteers play an important role in helping NRCS fulfill its commitment to working with people to protect and conserve our Nation's natural resources.

The Earth Team offers outstanding and exciting opportunities for students who need professional work experience or academic credit. Who knows — after serving on the Earth Team, you may decide to pursue a career in conservation!

*"The Earth Team volunteer program has fostered my passion for conservation."*

**–Stephanie Cole, Kansas Earth Team Volunteer**

## How can you make a difference?

The Earth Team needs a variety of people with diverse skills and talents. As an Earth Team volunteer, you can help professional conservationists put conservation practices on the land. You could also help improve wildlife habitat or inventory natural resources.

When you sign on as an Earth Team volunteer, you are on your way to becoming a caretaker of natural resources in your community. You could find yourself helping farmers, ranchers, and other landowners prevent wind and water erosion, conserve and improve water, enhance wildlife habitat, or reduce flooding. You may help people of all ages learn about the environment and conservation through educational activities.

*Activities can be done by groups.*

**Superior Nebraska NRCS Employees and FFA Members**

## Who can volunteer?

You must be 14 years of age or older and interested in conserving natural resources. You can work part-time or full-time, evenings or weekends, and outdoors or in a local NRCS office.

## How do you sign up?

The Earth Team is now recruiting at more than 3,000 locations across the country — that means that the Earth Team is at work near you!

Becoming an Earth Team volunteer is easy! Stop in at your local NRCS office. The address and phone number can usually be found in the U.S. Government section of your phone book under USDA or Natural Resources Conservation Service.

You can also call 1-888-LANDCARE (888-526-3227) or send an e-mail to *landcare@usda.gov*. Be sure to provide your name, address, and phone number. The national referral network will pass the information on to an office near you. You can also find out more about the Earth Team on our Web site at *www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers*.

***Get on the Earth Team and play an important role as NRCS continues "Helping People Help the Land."***