Frequently Asked Questions
Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) Summer Program

1. What do we do in the HYCC-Summer program?
   HYCC-Summer teams serve and explore some of the most beautiful and unique places in Hawai‘i. From the mountain forests to the coastal fishponds, the program provides meaningful fieldwork experience for participants to explore conservation and sustainability efforts in Hawai‘i while also giving back to the land, ocean, and community.

   The program schedule is generally as follows:
   - **Orientation** - 1 day (May)
   - **Team Leader Training** (Team Leaders only) - 1 week (May/June)
   - **Member Training** (All Participants) - 1 week (June)
   - **Service** (All Participants) - 6 weeks (June/July)

2. Where exactly do HYCC-Summer teams serve throughout the program?
   Many of the sites that host HYCC teams are within the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, National Parks, State parks, and other local non-profit environmental organizations. Specific host sites vary by year and by island.

3. Who is eligible to apply?
   Team Member applicants must be 17 years old by the first day of member training. Applicants who are currently 16 years old, but whose 17th birthday will be on or before the first day of member training, are eligible to apply.

   Team Leader applicants must be 21 years old by the first day of team leader training.

4. Does the program offer housing & transportation to participants?
   No. Participants are required to secure their own reliable housing & transportation to a specified meeting location every day on the island for which they are applying.

5. How do HYCC-Summer teams get to and from the meeting location to all of the host sites throughout the summer?
   The HYCC-Summer program provides Team Leaders with a rental vehicle for the purpose of driving his/her Team Members from the meeting location to the host sites in the morning and back in the afternoon.

6. Where are the HYCC-Summer team meeting locations?
   Teams will be assigned meeting locations in public spaces that are centrally located for the team. These meeting locations will not change throughout the course of the program. Examples of meeting locations are community colleges, park-and-rides, or shopping centers.

7. What time are the service days?
   A typical day of service falls between 7am – 5pm. This timeframe changes with scheduled camping trips and by host site.
8. Do HYCC-Summer teams camp all summer long?
   Each team will have a different itinerary for the summer. Oʻahu teams typically do day-trips with the possibility of a few nights of camping throughout the program. Neighbor-Island teams tend to receive more opportunities for camping due to the remoteness of host sites.

9. Will there be food provided?
   Participants will be responsible to bring lunch for all day-trips to host sites. However, HYCC Team Leaders receive a camping food budget to provide meals specifically for overnight camping trips.

10. Do applicants have to pay to travel to Oʻahu for training? Is there a cost involved?
    Kupu provides transportation to and from the neighbor islands for HYCC Summer participants.

    There is a $200 deposit to participate in the program, however, upon successful program completion, members can choose to have the $200 returned, the check destroyed, or donate the money to Kupu.

11. When will applicants know if theyʻve been selected for a position in the HYCC-Summer program?
    HYCC staff will follow-up with applicants in the months of March and April. Final selections are made at the end of April and beginning of May.

Typical participant packing list:
- Sturdy hiking boots (no running shoes)
- Long pants for fieldwork (denim not recommended)
- Any personal medication
- Mosquito repellent (optional)
- Hat (optional)
- Chapstick (optional)
- Sunglasses (optional)
- Lunch and snacks

*Kupu will provide one hydro-flask, rain gear, safety glasses, work gloves, cutlery, and work shirts for participants.*