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

1. Does Kupu currently have a policy for vaccinations and testing?
   In order to promote the safety and well-being of staff, participants, and the communities we serve, Kupu has implemented a wide range of health and safety protocols. In 2022, a significant portion of HYCC Summer host sites required visitors (including volunteers) to be fully vaccinated before serving at their site, without the alternative of testing. As the regulations and guidance changes, participants will be required to adhere to host site policies. Participants will need to be willing to get tested and confirm status of vaccination.

   You’re considered fully vaccinated two weeks after you get a second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, two weeks after you get a second dose of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after you get a single dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. You are considered up to date with your vaccines if you have gotten all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including booster doses, when you become eligible.
   *Policies regarding vaccination and testing requirements may be subject to change.

2. What do we do in the HYCC Summer program?
   HYCC Summer teams serve and explore some of the most beautiful and unique places in Hawaiʻi. During your summer with us you will be involved in activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, trail maintenance, site restoration, invasive species removal, native planting, and exposure to Hawaiian culture. Participants have long days of intense service in various weather conditions to gain skills and support the community and host site.

   The program schedule is generally as follows:
   **Orientation** - 1 day (May)
   **Team Leader Training** (Team Leaders only) - 1 week (May/June)
   **Team Training** (All Participants) - 1 week (June)
   **Service** (All Participants) - 6 weeks (June/July); may include camping trips
   **Ho’ike** (End of Term Celebration) - last weekend of service

3. Where exactly do HYCC Summer teams serve throughout the program?
   Many of the sites that host HYCC Summer teams are within the Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources, National Parks, and other local non-profit environmental organizations. Specific host sites vary by year and by island. These sites may be in high elevation, arid, and coastal regions.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. **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 their Team Members from the meeting location to the host sites in the morning and back in the afternoon. Any transportation adjustments must be discussed and approved first.

7. **Where are the HYCC Summer team meeting locations?**

   Teams will be assigned meeting locations in public spaces that are centrally located for the team. Examples of meeting locations are community colleges, park-and-rides, or shopping centers.

8. **What time are the service days?**

   A typical day of service falls between 7am – 5pm from Monday to Friday. This timeframe can change to much earlier depending on scheduled camping trips and/or by host site.

9. **Do HYCC Summer teams camp all summer long?**

   Each team will have a different itinerary for the summer. O‘ahu 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.

10. **Will there be food provided?**

    Participants will be responsible to bring lunch and snacks for all day-trips to host sites. However, Team Leaders receive a camping food budget to provide meals specifically for overnight camping trips.

11. **Do applicants have to pay to travel to O‘ahu for training? Is there a cost involved?**

    Kupu provides HYCC Summer participants transportation to and from the neighboring islands for Team Leader and Team Training only.

12. **When will applicants know if they’ve 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 and applicants will be notified of their status.

13. **Can participation in the program count towards high school and college service credits?**

    Participation in this program can be recognized as service hours to meet high school and college requirements, but you will need to discuss this with your school administration to see if it can be approved first.
Daily packing list (basic, can vary by site):

- Sturdy hiking boots (no running shoes)
- Long pants for fieldwork (denim not recommended, leggings not allowed)
- Any personal medication
- Mosquito repellent (optional)
- Hat (optional)
- Chapstick (optional)
- Sunglasses (optional)
- Lunch, snacks, & water

*Kupu will provide one water bottle and Kupu shirts for participants.*