



"Over the course of six weeks I learned a tremendous amount about leadership, nature, and forming relationships, which I will use for the rest of my life." -Returning FYS mentor

"I wanted to become a great leader and be able to lead with pride. I now can leave FYS knowing that I have reached those goals." -FYS mentor

"FYS challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. I am capable of so much more than I thought I was at the beginning of the season." -FYS crew member

"I used to call myself a city girl, but now after FYS, I understand why conservation and stewardship are important for this beautiful forest we live in." -FYS crew member

Impacts

Since 2002, the FYS program has been the largest summertime employer of youth in Skamania County. On average, \$165,000 amount of direct work value is completed on the forest each year, with a total value estimated at well over a million dollars for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest since the program's inception. In 2017, all students who completed the expectations of the summer season received elective high school credits for summer work through the partnership with the Stevenson-Carson School District. Participants who completed the program also received a \$327 education award through an AmeriCorps pilot program hosted by Mt. Adams Institute.

Positive life-skill impacts are measured annually. In 2017, FYS participants indicated increases in all life skills and employability indicators that were measured. FYS participants also showed an increase in understanding forest management practices (74%) and awareness of the types of natural resource careers (81%).

From 2009 through 2011, 95% to 98% of student participants confirmed slight to significant changes in life skills, including:

- Decision making
- Financial resource management
- Listening
- Effective communication
- Organization
- Problem-solving
- Job responsibility

In 2010, past participants from the previous five years were surveyed for lasting impacts. Over 65% responded that FYS helped them acquire another job. Ninety-five percent credit the program for forming their work ethic and increasing their basic job skills. Over 70% of past participants credit FYS for shaping their career interests. Over 50% chose their college major and shaped their degree because of FYS. Over 90% found FYS effective for helping manage personal finances.