

## 2026 YFMP Crews:



Stream Team

Veg Team



Rapid Forest Assessment Team

Soils/Wildlife Team



Learning to monitor vegetation health

### To apply:

Email or Postmark the following:

- Contact information  
**email, address, and phone #**
- School transcript
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher or adult advisor
- Cover letter describing:
  1. *What you hope to gain by this experience.*
  2. *Special contributions you can make to this program.*

**Deadline: 11:59pm Friday, April 17th**

### YFMP

Helena-Lewis and Clark  
National Forest  
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## Youth Forest Monitoring Program

**Citizen Science 2026**



## What is YFMP?

YFMP stands for Youth Forest Monitoring Program. This program is available through a partnership between the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, Montana Discovery Foundation, and Helena College. Students collect field data and provide recommendations to public land managers.

### YFMP Members:

- Spend a summer outdoors learning about forest ecology
- Work cooperatively in a group of peers
- Engage in hands-on learning about natural resource management
- Collect data and present findings to forest scientists, county commissioners, and the public
- Make recommendations that improve forest health
- Explore a variety of natural resource careers
- Gain experience for future employment opportunities

## Program Dates

**Dates:** June 22—July 30 (Mon-Thurs)

**Time:** 8:30am—5:00pm

**Location:** Helena Forest Service Office  
Transportation is provided from the office to the field each day

**Overview:** Students spend the first week learning concepts and techniques in natural resource conservation and management. Students will work in classroom and field settings. Outdoor skills will be introduced in preparation for a 3-day field monitoring trip into the Scapegoat Wilderness in July: (tentatively 7/7—7/9).

Starting the second week of the program, students split into teams and apply their training to specific monitoring projects. Teams collect, compile, and interpret monitoring data. Field instructors provide supervision and students consult with Forest Service specialists periodically throughout the program.

**Presentation:** Students work in their team to create a presentation for forest scientists and the public on **Thursday, July 30th at 11am.**

**Stipend:** \$1,200 (pro-rated/day) received as a lump sum at end of program.

**Requirements:** Open to students entering grades 9-12, who are in good academic standing and/or have shown ability and interest in natural sciences.

Students must apply to the program by **11:59pm April 17, 2026.** Selected students will be interviewed the following week. Students will be notified by May 1st if they have been accepted into the program.

### YFMP Teams for 2026 include:

- Streams
- Soils/Wildlife
- Vegetation/Noxious Weeds
- Rapid Forest Assessment



Measuring a stream cross-section