



THE LAND CONSERVANCY FOR SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY

LOCATION

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Avondale, PA 19311

CONTACT

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www.TLCforSCC.org



The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) Teens Turning Green Program

How it works

High school students apply to the program after a week-long trial period over spring break. A rigorous application process including letters of recommendation must be submitted to TLC, after which candidates are selected for peer interviews. Once final selections have been made, students are notified and enrolled in the program as paid interns. Work is performed on Saturdays, school vacations and entire summer vacations. Prior to consideration, students must have completed the 9th grade.

To enroll in the Intern and Leadership Program, individuals go through an intensive interview process overseen by current interns and TLC staff.

All students must have successfully completed their 9th grade year. If a student wishes to enroll as a paid intern as part of the Teens Turning Green Program, they should contact Mary Armstrong, administrator admin@tlcforscc.org and initiate an application process in the fall.

The program application is a competitive process, given that only a half dozen students per year are selected due to funding constraints.

Selection Process- The selection process is designed to work for those who would most benefit from the program rather than those who are solely academic achievers; indeed, many of the students selected find themselves in need of academic intervention and mentoring, which is why the teachers feel the program is a good fit. **All students are asked to:**

1. Write an essay about how and why the program would benefit them as students and individuals. For many, this is a chance to experience team building, specialized academic support, leadership training and a sense of community for the first time.
2. Provide three letters of recommendation from teachers or community members expressing how the program would be a good match for the student, and why. The

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program seeks motivated, self-aware, and open-minded students who are willing to work hard academically and physically, building trails and restoring habitat on TLC nature preserves.

3. Once this first phase of the application process is completed, the students are invited to complete 20 hours of volunteer time with the Interns.
4. Upon completion of this volunteer experience, the students then interview with the Interns (fellow students who are already enrolled in the program) as well as TLC staff. TLC staff and Interns then evaluate together who they feel needs the program the most and how it would be a good match for the applicant.

Program elements and expectations

Once admitted to the program first as an apprentice, students work with the current TLC Interns learning leadership and communication skills. As apprentices, they also learn how to safely use trail building tools and equipment as part of their education related to trail design, ecological systems, becoming comfortable and confident in the out-of-doors, and teamwork.

An academic component is also part of the Intern and Leadership Program.

1. To remain in the Teens Turning Green Program, students need to remain in good academic standing. TLC staff regularly receive updates and develop a plan of action with each apprentice, interns and the school to establish how they can improve, or maintain, their academic standing for athletics or a volunteer presence at the school, or for future plans to attend college.
2. Once they complete a year as an apprentice, and the student wishes to remain in the overall program, they will become part of the Intern Program.

Mentoring, Paid Employment- The Teens Turning Green Program Interns help mentor new apprentices, as well as taking on additional leadership, speaking, organizational, and higher-level site improvement tasks.

All Interns and apprentices are paid at above minimum wage and are trained as if this is a serious job; they are expected to work over school and holiday breaks as well as during the summer. If they experience conflicts, they are expected to proactively work out arrangements with TLC staff.

Learn More- If you would like to learn more about or volunteer with this program, please email Sequoia Rock, land manager at landmanager@tlcforscc.org or call 610-347-0347 x106.