

Contact:

Mark Landon, The Nature Corps, (805)434-0299

NEWS

For Immediate Release – July 5, 2006

Santa Barbara Youth to Restore Sequoia's Giant Forest

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, youth from throughout Santa Barbara County can look forward to continuing their work on a critical campaign to restore the world renowned ecosystems of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. For the last three years the Santa Barbara Foundation has sponsored The Nature Corps' student volunteer program to assure the preservation of the parks' rare habitats and to give Santa Barbara's underserved youth an opportunity to explore and learn about the Sierra Nevada. To date the kids have contributed their efforts on an important restoration program that has resulted in the planting of 15,000 tree seedlings throughout the parks.

To kick off this year's activities, the grant will allow youth from the Santa Barbara Police Activities League and the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District to be mobilized to Sequoia National Park where they will participate in the restoration of Sequoia's "Giant Forest". As part of its overall objective, this experiential learning program focuses on the importance of conservation and the ongoing stewardship of the parks' precious natural resources.

To accomplish this objective, The Nature Corps partners with the National Park Service to provide Santa Barbara's youth with stewardship opportunities, environmental education, outdoor recreation and introduces them to careers in conservation.

This summer The Nature Corps looks forward to bring over 100 youth to Sequoia to preserve and explore the park's natural wonders. The next event is scheduled for July 14-19. To learn more call (805) 434-0299.

###