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## Summer 2015 Youth Conservation Corps *Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge*

**Reported by Kimberly Hayes**

This summer at Harris Neck NWR, 4 local youth were given the opportunity to participate in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Participants Brandy Gay-18 (Youth Leader), Jonathan Miller-18, Seth Ricker-15, and Hiram Moody-15 were mentored by YCC Adult Leader Chris Thornton.



They participated in several projects on the refuge including: capture and banding of threatened Wood Stork chicks, banding of Mourning Doves, monitoring threatened loggerhead sea turtle nests on Blackbeard Island NWR, and various maintenance and grounds projects.



Several educational field trips were conducted to foster an interest and awareness in coastal Georgia's diverse natural resources. The YCC group was exposed to all levels of conservation work (both maintenance and biological) that are needed to keep our National Wildlife Refuges thriving.

*Photos by Chris Thornton, USFWS*