



Frequently Asked Questions

Any specific or additional questions can be sent to:

secc@conservationlegacy.org

American Sign Language Inclusion (ASLi) youth crew 2019

How many people are on a crew?

There are 6 crew members and 2 leaders on each crew, so 8 total people.

Who will be on my crew?

Crew members will be young people between 16-19 years of age at the time of the program. We recruit and select members from schools across the southeast, from a diverse range of backgrounds. Members can have varying levels of hearing ability and of ASL ability.

Where is the SECC office?

We are in downtown Chattanooga, TN. Many locals know the building as the old Buster Brown Building.

Southeast Conservation Corps

2001 N. Chamberlain Ave.

Chattanooga, TN 37406

Where will the ASLi crew camp and work?

This summer the ASLi crew will camp within about 1 hour of Chattanooga, at three different areas. You will move camp each week of the three-week program. You will camp at or within the vicinity of the project location for that week. The locations are Lula Lake Land Trust, property owned by the City of Ringgold, and property owned by The Nature Conservancy of TN.

When can I shower?

Members will have a chance to take a full shower once per weekend at a pre-planned location such as a YMCA or otherwise. Members should pack a towel and needed soaps for this.

How do I stay clean?

Cleanliness keeps you going strong. Members should use basic wilderness hygiene routines to keep clean during the work week and while camping. Members can take time at camp in the evenings to clean off in their personal tent. This can include using baby wipes or a designated hand towel with clean water to wipe off the body. We require that members have a change of clothes (for camp) separate from their work clothes.

Above all, while you're out on the trail take care of yourself and stay clean. Wash your hands frequently. By keeping an eye on cleanliness you'll help avoid infections, poison ivy, vaginal and urinary tract infections.

When will I do laundry?

Members will do laundry as a crew once per weekend. Crew leaders will take the crew to a pre-planned site to allow each member a chance to do their laundry. Initially Crew Leaders will assist members who need help with this process, but members are ultimately responsible for their clothes and laundry.

What happens if I'm on my period?

In town and at home, tampons and pads are convenient—you just use them once and toss them. In the woods, it's not so simple. You can't just discard feminine products after use. You can store tampons before and after use in an opaque plastic bag for privacy. Make sure to have one bag for clean tampons and another well-marked waste bag for used ones. Before leaving home, you can make your own waste/used tampon bag by completely covering a zip-top plastic bag with duct tape and marking it with a skull and crossbones. If you can, bring tampons without applicators for less waste to pack out. Just be sure to bring enough tampons for the whole program.

Where do I poop?

At camp – You will likely be at a campground or camping area that has a port-a-potty or bathroom for the crew to use.

At worksite- You will have to practice Leave No Trace guidelines for pooping in the woods. This will be reviewed again with you by your crew leaders. In short, you will need to bury your poop in a 'cathole'. This hole should be six to eight inches deep, away from the trail, and 200 feet away from water, campsites, and shelters. A shovel/tool should never come in contact with your poop. The crew will have 1-2 designated bathroom bags, with toilet paper and hand sanitizer in it.

<https://lnt.org/blog/how-poop-woods>

What about bears, bees and bugs?

We take appropriate measures to ensure our crews are as safe as possible at camp. While the crew is unlikely to encounter a bear, we follow basic rules just in case. We always store food in a vehicle or locked trailer to prevent odor and keep a very clean camp. Members cannot keep anything “smelly” (toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) in their personal tents but are taught to keep it in a bag in the trailer or van.

Bees and bugs only pose life threatening harm to those allergic, so we make to review medical forms and leaders are prepared with medical training to react as needed. Otherwise, we teach our members to be smart and aware of what is around them and to be respectful of wildlife.

Is food provided?

Yes, food is provided for the crew by the program for all three weeks. All three meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner as well as snacks. If you have extremely limited dietary restrictions or preferences, you may need to supplement your meals.

Who cooks the food?

The members and leaders take turns sharing this responsibility. Each morning and evening members are assigned cooking duties on a rotating schedule. Members make their lunch in the morning for the workday, we encourage members to bring Tupperware for this reason.

Do I have to share a tent?

No, each member will get their own tent to sleep in. They will be responsible for learning to set it up and taking care of it.

Where do I get water?

Clean drinking water will be available at camp for members. Members will have to carry enough water (1 gal.) for the work day with them in their backpack each day.

Is there power at the campsites?

Maybe, but members should bring enough batteries to power everyday objects, like their head lamp, with them. On the weekends members will have the chance to buy more batteries if needed or to charge things needed by the member.

Can I have my phone?

Members will only have access to their phones 1-2 times per week, on a designated day and time to call/text home. Otherwise members are not allowed to have a phone on hand and must agree to this policy prior to accepting a position.

Leaders will have phones or other devices to contact SECC staff, receive updates, check the weather, and in case of emergency.

How can I communicate with my parents/guardians?

Members will only have access to their phones 1-2 times per week, on a designated day and time to call/text home. Members can write letters to mail home on the weekends and SECC staff will deliver letters/mail to the member in the field once per week.

How will my parents know I'm okay?

In addition to the weekly phone time, SECC staff will be sending out a weekly update via email to parents/guardians letting them know how the crew is doing and what they have been working on. Also, SECC staff will always be available for the parents to call with questions.

If parents/guardians must get in contact with their child for a family need or other emergency, SECC staff will work to get the crew leaders involved in allowing the member access to their phone.

Can I wear an apple watch/smart watch?

No, members can not use Smart Watches but are encourage to have a basic digital watch that has a vibrating alarm feature.

What if I take prescription medication?

Minors who take prescribed medications must provide to the program a printed prescription list and regimen for each medicine. Leaders will store all prescription medicines (Must be in original bottle) but members can access them upon request and members are responsible for taking their medications as prescribed. Leaders will record observed medication intake.

Epi-Pens and Inhalers are the only acceptance, members are allowed to have these items with them and must provide a second of these items for the crew leaders to store safely.

What happens if I get hurt?

SECC crew leader hold at minimum a Wilderness First Aid/ CPR certification and are trained in emergency response processes. Each crew has a first aid kit and leaders have a phone, radio or other device that allows them to contact SECC staff or emergency services if needed.

What happens if I get frustrated, sad or homesick?

Everyone has feelings and a bad day or two. It is most important that members communicate honestly with their crew leaders when they are having a hard time, as the leaders are there to help each member have a fun and successful season.

Do I need to pay anything to do this program?

No, members only need to be able to get themselves to Chattanooga by the first day of the program and be picked up on the last day of the program. Food and activities are covered. Members may want to have a little bit of money for weekends if they want to buy special snacks or a souvenir, and should bring change for coin laundromats. Members will need to provide their own pants and work boots. (a packing list will be provided)

How do I get the stipend/money?

Member get paid every other week according to our payroll schedule. You can get you a paper check or get your money through direct deposit to your own bank account or to a parents bank account.

When is transportation provided?

From our office on Day 1 throughout the program, until the last day. On the last day members should have arranged transportation form our office back to their home.

Any specific or additional questions can be sent to SECC program staff: secc@conservationlegacy.org (or Call 423-498-5430)