

Op-Ed for NYT & WSJ
Green Team and Community Summer Jobs

Good works for good causes

They're planning a summit on teen violence, giving comfort to a child at a family shelter, planting trees or producing a marketing video for a nonprofit organization. For some, it's a first-time job. For others, it's a way to improve life in local communities by giving a helping hand to a nonprofit group or a family in need. And for more than 600 high school and college students across America, it's a summer experience where the benefits will likely last a lifetime.

It's all part of ExxonMobil's **Green Team** and **Community Summer Jobs Program**. Again this year, these programs are providing employment opportunities for young people involving valuable work experience, educational guidance, community service and a paycheck. At summer's end, these students will walk away with much more than the money they have earned.

ExxonMobil **Green Team** members are paid to participate in cleanup and beautification projects in national parks and community recreation areas in economically depressed neighborhoods. This year, Green Team students in California, Louisiana, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia are benefiting through environmental education and leadership training. They are also obtaining help in math, reading and writing.

The ExxonMobil **Community Summer Jobs Program** provides college students with a paid internship at local nonprofit organizations. This allows them to gain valuable experience in a wide range of nonprofit community organizations.

Since the program began more than 30 years ago, nearly 3,000 students have worked as interns in summer jobs. Today, it continues in 10 states, including Alabama, Alaska, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming -- and internationally in Angola.

Interns report that it encouraged them to recognize the importance of community service in their lives. In fact, many who have taken part have been so moved by the experience that they are now pursuing careers in the nonprofit sector.

One such student, Ganesh Krishna, served at the Dallas-based CASA, a nonprofit group providing essential services to children living in foster care. "CASA helped awaken me to the possibility that I can bring about change," says Krishna, who plans to pursue a career in international relations dealing specifically with helping developing nations.

Young people like Ganesh Krishna show why the Green Team and Community Summer Jobs Program are so important. Their work with nonprofit organizations truly benefits society and helps inspire others to do likewise.

The young people involved in these programs see just how much they can accomplish in a single summer. They gain a new sense of pride for having served their community. And they also learn a valuable lesson. Doing good works for good causes really does make a positive difference in people's lives – including their own.

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