



25  
YEARS



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### **Detroit teens to attend two-day field trip in Roscommon to see forest management in action**

*DNR partners with MI Sustainable Forestry Initiative, The Greening of Detroit and Michigan Association of Timbermen to host event*

More than 120 Detroit high school students, who are employed by The Greening of Detroit to plant and maintain trees in the city, are heading to the Grayling area Aug. 3-4 to get an overview of what sustainable forest management means within the state. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is partnering with MI Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), The Greening of Detroit and the Michigan Association of Timbermen to host the students.

The trip to Grayling is part of The Greening's efforts to provide education and experimental learning opportunities for the Detroit youth and is an example of MI SFI's commitment to strengthening and expanding community partnerships.

The Greening of Detroit, a nonprofit environmental organization, employs about 150 Detroit high school students each summer to water, weed and care for approximately 12,000 newly planted trees throughout the city. These trees are planted by The Greening's Citizen Forester program. The Green Corps employees also clean up parks, participate in a variety of conservation projects, and learn many aspects of urban farming.

"During the summer months, our Green Corps members earn a paycheck and become environmental stewards" stated Devon Buskin, director of workforce development for The Greening. Members also learn of volunteerism as they are required to participate without pay at several functions during their employment. "Many of the Green Corps high school graduates have gone on to college to pursue 'green' careers; last year, 21 seniors enrolled in college and 91 percent received some scholarship funding."

During the field trip the teens will tour Hartwick Pines where they will learn more about Michigan's historic legacy of logging and tree planting and the significance of old growth preservation; join DNR foresters to see an active timber harvest on state forest land that is

certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard; visit AJD Forest Products, a green hardwood lumber mill, where they will see lumber produced from round logs as well as total utilization of all by-products.

“These young adults have already shown an interest in our natural resources through the work they do with their summer job,” said Debbie Begalle, assistant chief of the DNR Forest Resources Division. “By getting them ‘up north’ to see forestry beyond the urban environment, we can help provide a full-circle view of what sustainably-managed forests look like and what the forest products industry means to Michigan.”

To keep the students immersed in the forest environment during their time on the field trip, they will be staying at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon. An evening of presentations by resource professionals is planned during which students will become more familiar with natural resource career opportunities that exist here in MI.

“MI SFI is pleased to utilize our existing partnerships, while forming new partnerships for this event, with the common goal of providing a northern outdoor experience to the Green Corps” stated Howard Lindberg, senior resource forester, Plum Creek Timber Company. “Our hope is to make this an annual event that grows each year”.

Additional event sponsors include: Michigan Technological University, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science; Plum Creek Timber Company; The Molpus Woodlands Group; Michigan Forest Foundation; Bisballe Forest Products; AJD Forest Products; and Chris Muma Forest Products.

The 2015 Green Corps program is generously sponsored by Detroit Public Schools, JP Morgan Chase, MI Department of Natural Resources, Cox Automotive and Born and Raised Detroit, Plum Creek Timber Company.

To learn more visit:

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[www.greeningofdetroit.com](http://www.greeningofdetroit.com)

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