



## National Success

Created by Connecticut AHEC Program in 2004, **YHSC** was piloted in CTs' four regional centers. The intent of the pilot was to inspire disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of becoming a healthcare professional through meaningful service learning. The fifty high school students who participated in the pilot program did not realize they were launching an exciting national program.

Today, under the leadership of Patricia Harrity, Executive Director of Northwestern CT AHEC (NWCTAHEC), YHSC has become a national program replicated by 33 AHEC centers in twenty states. YHSC has received recognition from the National AHEC Organization, the National Health Service Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service: Learn and Serve. As of 2009, 1600 YHSC volunteers have served an amazing 48,000 hours of service to disadvantaged populations in their communities!

YHSC is funded in part by a grant from the  
**Corporation for National and Community  
Service: Learn and Serve**



**Amazing things happened in and outside my classroom... These are the experiences students need in high school and programs like the YHSC help to make it happen.**

– Laura Gardner, CPhT, MAEd  
Perquimans High School Health Science Teacher

The vision of **Piedmont AHEC** is to have **YHSC** become the premier youth health careers recruitment program. We are committed to achieving the highest quality outcomes for school and students implementing **YHSC**

**Piedmont AHEC** is one of the nine regional Centers of the North Carolina AHEC Program. The mission of the NC AHEC program is to meet the state's health and health workforce needs by providing educational programs in partnership with academic institutions, health care agencies, and other organizations committed to improving the health of the people of North Carolina.

Serving Alamance, Caswell,  
Chatham, Guilford,  
Montgomery, Orange,  
Randolph and Rockingham  
counties



**Students helping  
to create healthier  
communities  
through service  
learning**

**PIEDMONT AHEC**  
PART OF NC AHEC

RECRUIT  
TRAIN  
RETAIN



## Mission

The Youth Health Service Corps mission is to increase the number of diverse high school students who matriculate into post secondary health care education programs.

## What is YHSC?

The Youth Health Service Corps is a health careers recruitment program that engages diverse high school students as leaders in meaningful community service learning that addresses community health issues. Student volunteers are trained using a six module curriculum that prepares them to serve in health care settings that serve the underserved. Once prepared, students choose independent service or group service learning projects to complete a minimum of fifty hours of service for completion of the program.

## Student benefits:

- Knowledge about health careers
- Participation in meaningful service
- Increase in academic & civic engagement
- Exposure to professional career role models
- Building their resume for college or work
- Participation in YHSC online social network of students with similar interests

I joined YHSC to gain a better understanding of what I can do for others and ways I can help my community.

– S.W. NC High School Senior

## Program & Curriculum

The Youth Health Service Corps is grounded in four sets of Standards: Academic Frameworks, National Health Care Skill Standards, K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice and the 40 Developmental Assets.

Our goals are to:

- Increase student awareness of health careers
- Increase student involvement in service learning
- Increase student academic & civic engagement
- Strengthen AHEC partnerships between secondary, post secondary education & community based organizations

## Volunteer Training

In preparation for service, students are trained in:

Module 1: Leadership & Service Learning

Module 2: YHSC Website Training

Module 3: Vulnerable Populations

Cultural Competency

Module 4: Ethical & Legal Issues

Confidentiality

Module 5: Health Career Exploration

Module 6: Health Care Skills

CPR & AED Certification



## Service

Independent service in an area of interest for students who want to volunteer on their own schedule. YHSC Coordinators place and follow student progress.

**Service Learning Projects** guided by YHSC coordinators, continue over a semester to raise awareness of health issues. Using the IPARDCS service learning process, small groups of students work together to Investigate, Plan, Act, Reflect, Demonstrate, Celebrate and Sustain projects that address important community health issues.



## Student Rewards & Recognition

Students receive the **YHSC National Community Service Recognition Award** supported in partnership with the **National Health Service Corps** for 50 hours of service. Students who serve a minimum of 100 hours over 12 months are eligible for the **President's Volunteer Service Award**.

## For more information

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