

Council taking queries about work abroad

By Joi Patterson

The International Council on Monuments and Sites is taking applications from young adults, ages 17 to 23, to work on rehabilitation projects in nature and historic conservation camps in England and France next summer.

For the 50th consecutive year, the U.S. committee is seeking applicants for its summer volunteer projects overseas.

Youths will have the opportunity to work with students from other countries in work camps at various historic sites.

Lois Norris, administrative assistant at the council, said applications can come from anywhere in the United States. Applicants are judged on general interest and goals, but, Norris said, "Applying has not been that competitive." The number of positions available abroad varies from year to year, Norris said.

Norris said 16 Americans will be selected by the council to work in one or two week-long sessions in England. The work camps, or "Acorn Camps," located in England and Wales will sponsor strenuous and worthwhile outdoor projects, she said.

The council will select 100 Americans to go to France and work in one or two sessions, each lasting two weeks. The workers will work on various historic sites doing excavation, masonry, carpentry or conservation. The participants who want to be involved in the French program should be able to speak French, Norris said. Participants will become familiar with the French culture and activities in French villages near the "chantiers" or work sites.

The council works with the two countries by selecting participants. The sponsors in England and France provide the list of work sites and times.

Applicants must be prepared for a rugged environment and hard physical work, Norris said. They must also be concerned with conserving cultural heritages. Norris said volunteers pay for their own transportation abroad, and transportation to the project site.

"There is also an application fee of \$50," Norris said which covers an insurance cost.

Participants' accommodations vary from tents at temporary campsites to permanent historic buildings, schools and youth hostels. There is no additional cost for room and board, but workers sometimes must live in rustic camping conditions and help prepare meals.

The work camps offer unique living situations in a foreign country as well as experience in conservation and preservation, she said. Deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 1982. For further information and application forms, write to the council at 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, or call (202)673-4093.

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