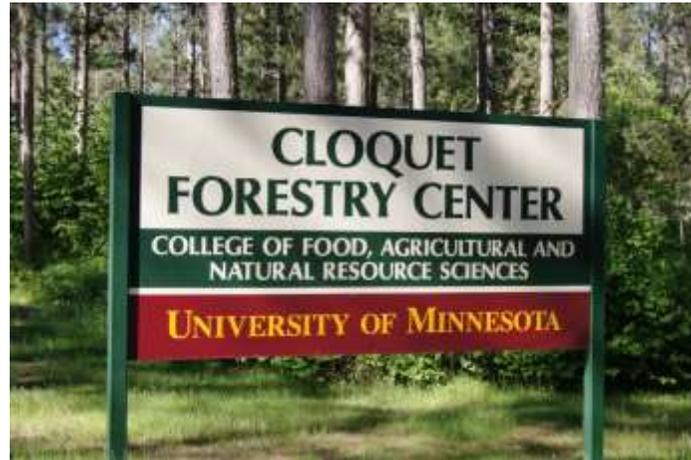


YOUTH TRAINING DAY AT THE CLOQUET FORESTRY CENTER

By: Rita Olness, June 12, 2017



On a gorgeous, northern Minnesota June day, eleven area youth ranging in age from 16 to 21 started their summer youth work experience with the NE MN Office of Job Training by participating in a Youth Training Day held at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The primary focus of the day was to prepare students for work by helping them understand the skills needed to be safe, successful employees.

Safety was in the forefront of the day's agenda with Rita Olness presenting a video that explained the dangers in the workplace. Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the U.S., a teenager is injured seriously enough on the job to go to a hospital emergency room. Understanding that 'safety is a primary focus with every job they hold' was the goal of the training. Learning about child labor laws and the importance of putting into play safe work practices was a key message for the morning as Stacy Kenyon led students through several games of Labor Law Bingo and Hazard Hunt. Safety equipment was also handed out for use on the job.

After lunch, Clare Balow went over how to complete timesheets for the program and the importance of turning them in on time in order to be paid. Before heading outdoors, students and staff discussed what it means to be a professional on the job. The day ended with an informative wagon ride through the rich tree stands of the Cloquet Forestry Center as Kyle Gill, Forestry Manager, enlightened students with his knowledge of forest habitats and the overall management of the forests. Kyle also shared information about his own journey through summer jobs as a youth which helped him ultimately know what career he truly wanted to pursue.

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training would like to thank the Cloquet Forestry Center for allowing us to hold this Youth Work Experience Opener at their facility.

