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### High School Students Selected for Youth Conservation Team

Area high school students are hard at work on an Ohio River Foundation Youth Conservation Team (YCT) performing habitat stewardship work at Morning View Heritage Land in southern Kenton County. The students selected for the YCT crew are Stella Childress (Cooper HS), Natalie Woodward (Cooper HS), Crystal Nichols (S. Dearborn HS), Matt Harris (Beechwood HS), Jared Neiser (Campbell Cnty. HS), Cooper Hayes (Mariemont HS). They are led by Crew Leader and NKU graduate, Sarah Borgman. The crew is busy removing invasive species like honeysuckle and removing debris that has collected on-site over decades of use. Their work will also include planting native trees and performing habitat assessments and inventories. They are working at the site from June 9 until June 27.

In addition to the watershed work they will perform, the students also have education days. One day they will visit the UC Center for Field Studies and conducted stream analyses with Mike Miller, *Professor Emeritus*, Dept. Biol. Sciences at University of Cincinnati. The other two days they will work with professor Chris Lorentz at the Thomas More College's Center for Ohio River Research and Education, and representatives of US Fish & Wildlife and Kenton County Conservation District.

“This is an exciting opportunity for high school students to expand their community service record and also learn more about conservation career opportunities,” said Sarah Borgman, Crew Leader. “They are also receiving college level watershed education on designated YCT education days. The YCT experience is a comprehensive stewardship experience.”

Kenton County program partner is the Kenton County Conservation District. This program is funded in part by a grant from Ashland, Inc.

More information about Ohio River Foundation and the YCT program can be found at [www.ohioriverfdn.org](http://www.ohioriverfdn.org).

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the non-profit Ohio River Foundation (ORF), through its education and conservation activities, assists communities along the river and throughout the 200,000 sq. mile watershed with protecting water quality, restoring rivers, and improving public awareness of the importance of the natural environment in the Ohio River watershed.

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