### EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Earth Team volunteers are able to work side by side with professionals from NRCS, helping to protect and conserve the earth’s natural resources. These volunteers could be a significant resource for the NRCS staff in conservation districts, helping the districts to help people conserve, improve and sustain our resources and environment.

#### How can an Earth Team volunteer help?

**On the Land – working with conservationists who are working with land owners**
- Soil Mapping
- Native Grass Seeding
- Planting Trees
- Surveying
- Resource Inventories
- Conservation Practice Layout
- Water Sampling
- Establishing Wildlife Habitat

**With Organizations – working with youth groups, professional societies or civic groups**
- Conservation Planning
- Special Tours/Fairs
- Public Speaking
- Photography
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Writing
- Nature Areas

**In the Office – working with staff to help the office run smoothly**
- Data Entry
- Telephoning
- Filing
- Map Interpretation
- Editing
- Drafting
- Typing
- Reception

**In Schools – working with local students**
- In classrooms
- Recycling
- At camps
- Ag issues
- Outdoor classrooms
- Art and writing
SOME IMPORTANT NOTES:

• An Earth Team volunteer must be at least 14 years old
• Volunteers may work full-time, part-time, in the office or in the field
• Volunteers must have a position description and timesheet
• Local NRCS staff have applications and timesheets for the program. NOTE: NRCS no longer needs a social security number for volunteers, even though it is still on the application.
• Volunteers can receive course credit for their time, if NRCS and the school agree
• Volunteers are covered for Workers Compensation and Tort Claims only when they are working within their job description and during the hours reported on the timesheet
• Groups and individuals can volunteer
• Volunteers can perform almost every task that a full-time NRCS employee does. NOTE: This is not to say that a volunteer could replace your District Conservationist, but merely to point out that volunteers are allowed to help in all aspects of NRCS work
• Volunteerism can be a short- or long-term assignment
• It is important to be flexible with your volunteers so that you and the volunteer both benefit from the program
• The Earth Team provides an opportunity for people with a variety of skills and talents to use their time and effort to improve and protect the natural resources of Kentucky
• Volunteering for this program may help:
  – Young people who need professional work experience to gain that experience while “trying on” this type of work
  – Retired people who want to help spread the word about conservation while not being tied down to an 8-5 job
  – Everyone in between!