

Hello guys! Im Page Ruff, I'm going to be doing a community comment today for Y.E.P. I'm a second year at Academy of the Redwoods, this is my first year in Y.E.P, and i'm excited to see what this year will bring. Y.E.P stands for Youth Engaged in Philanthropy (fi-lan-thro-p), I had to practice how to say that over and over for a long time. To me philanthropy means to donate money to nonprofit organizations that eliminate social problems in the Eel River Valley. Y.E.P has been going for 3 years now at Fortuna high, students from East High, Fortuna High, and Academy of the Redwoods come together once a week to learn about grant making, non profits, and our community.

I wanted to join Y.E.P because it sounded like a fun and educational opportunity to help my community. I enjoy doing things to help my community because to be able to change the world you got to start with changing the way you see the world and you can do that by doing small or big

things that make a positive impact on your community.

I also joined Y.E.P because it can help me with leadership skills and public speaking, which is sometimes a challenge, like doing this community comment is challenging me in a good way even though this experience is pushing me out of my comfort zone.

For Y.E.P we made a grant criteria and nonprofits apply for it. Grants are typically awarded to a nonprofit organization for a specific program or purpose. We give grants to help these organizations get the necessary resources to help the nonprofit fulfill its purpose of helping the Eel River Valley. Y.E.P has about 6,000 dollars in grants to give away this year.

This year we chose to have our grant criteria focus on the environment, we chose this because everything affects our environment and our environment affects us and who doesn't love the environment. I'm passionate about having clean

rivers and protecting the places where animals live and trees grow. I've grown up in Humboldt near rivers and creeks so when the fish swim up we go down and watch them. Sometimes my mom will get in and swim with them, so I understand how important it is to keep the river clean so we can keep doing that. My family has taught me through the way they log how to take care of the forest, and why they don't just cut down the huge old growth trees anymore because it ruins everything.

Y.E.P's commitment to funding projects that deal with the environment in the Eel river valley is the focus for this year's grant awards. Y.E.P is all about youth helping you.

If you are with a nonprofit organization that does work focused on the environment through programs or projects, or if you know someone who is, there's an easy way to apply, the deadline for this grant is November 1st 2018. You can apply for this grant by going to the Humboldt area foundations website at hafoundation.org click on the menu then

look for the grant seekers tab, or contact Cassandra Wagner at 707-442-2993. Thank you all, this was a community comment by Page Ruff from Academy of the Redwoods, have a nice day!