

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

Effective Date: 01/18/17
Series: Special Programs
Part 755: Youth Programs
Chapter 1: Engaging the Next Generation

Originating Office: Office of Human Resources

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1.1 **Purpose.** This chapter provides Department of the Interior (DOI) policy and program guidance for engaging the next generation on public lands and in the stewardship of America's natural and cultural resources.

1.2 **Scope.** The policy in this chapter applies to all DOI bureaus/offices.

1.3 **Authorities.**

- A. Take Pride in America Act, (16 U.S.C 4601 et seq).
- B. Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).
- C. Youth Conservation Corps Act (16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).
- D. Direct Hire Authority (16 U.S.C. 1725a).

1.4 **Policy.** The DOI bureaus/offices shall take affirmative steps to involve the next generation in meaningful connections to the nation's public lands and natural resources by creating and/or enhancing opportunities aimed at the next generation in the following areas:

- A. Play. Offering outdoor recreation programs and opportunities.
- B. Learn. Providing educational activities.
- C. Serve. Creating volunteer opportunities for youth on public lands.
- D. Work. Providing work and training opportunities to young people and returning veterans.

1.5 **Objective.** The policy in this chapter is aimed towards bridging the growing disconnect

between young people and the great outdoors.

1.6 **Responsibilities.**

A. Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget. Provides management oversight, ensures program implementation, and coordinates with the Deputy Secretary and Program Assistant Secretaries.

B. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital and Diversity. Coordinates with and supports heads of bureaus/offices in implementing and developing program metrics for accountability, collecting results, and analyzing progress.

C. Program Assistant Secretaries.

(1) Work with their respective bureaus/offices to develop program goals.

(2) Monitor progress and elevate issues of concerns requiring Department-wide coordination and collaboration.

(3) Serve on the Executive Steering Committee responsible for reviewing implementation of this chapter.

D. Heads of Bureaus/Offices.

(1) Ensure that the program goals are cascaded to all appropriate levels of their organization.

(2) Ensure that appropriate mechanisms are implemented to monitor and track progress.

(3) Assign responsibility for implementing this policy to a member of the Senior Executive Service, who shall serve as the Senior Accountable Official.

E. Senior Accountable Official. Implements this chapter and serves as a liaison to partners, both within and external to the Federal Government.

1.7 **Program Requirements.** Bureaus/offices must:

A. Implement program goals and plans to accomplish the goals of this chapter.

B. Identify efficiencies and coordinate with other bureaus/offices to develop opportunities for young people to play, learn, serve, and work on public lands.

C. Develop and implement appropriate mechanisms to monitor and track progress.

1.8 **Progress Reports.** Metrics and reporting progress will be monitored quarterly using performance planning reporting processes approved by the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget, in consultation with the Program Assistant Secretaries.