

## AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

American Youth Hostels, Inc., is a non-profit organization that makes travel at home and abroad possible for young people under competent leadership and at low cost. Experience on the out-of-door trails develops sound values. The broad contacts afforded result in wider horizons, world-mindedness, and a deepening of understanding as youth of different nationalities, races and religions meet in the fellowship of the youth hostels. An investment in youth hostels is an investment in the vast structure of world peace. "Wars begin in the minds of men. It is in the minds of men that peace must be constructed."

### BACKGROUND:

The youth hostel movement is international. Started in Europe in 1910, it has spread to 24 countries with national organizations cooperating in an international conference and each offering hosteling opportunities to members of other national hostel organizations. The movement in America is more recent. It was established in 1935 and has been developed under the leadership and direction of Monroe and Isabel Smith.

### PROGRAM:

Hosteling can be enjoyed by individuals traveling alone or in groups of their own choosing or as members of an AYH "sponsored trip" under the guidance of a trained leader. Sponsored tours have covered various areas of the United States, as well as Latin American Republics, Canada and Europe. The facilities of the movement are available for use by youth groups from such other organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Y.M.'s and Y.W.'s and the Catholic youth organizations.

Hostels, under the management of local house parents and the sponsorship of local councils, are simple, inexpensive accommodations which typically provide separate dormitory facilities for boys and for girls, common recreation rooms, cooking and eating facilities. The nightly fee is about 35 cents. There are now 200 hostels in 29 states, most of them located at convenient bicycling intervals along trails in vacation areas, especially in New England.

Hostel accommodations are open to holders of AYH passes which are issued by the national headquarters upon application and payment of \$3.00 a year by adults and \$2.00 by persons under 21. Standards in hostels are maintained by observance of simple hosteling customs such as that the hosteler travels by his own steam - afoot, on bicycle, on skis, on horseback, or in a foldboat; he provides his own sheet sleeping sack; he does his share of work in cleaning and maintaining the hostel, and he refrains from smoking or drinking in the hostel.

In 1947 there were 21,000 AYH passholders who made 57,000 overnight stops in American hostels. A group of 235 hostelers went to Europe in the summer of 1947 and worked on the reconstruction of war-damaged hostels in Holland, Belgium, France, Denmark and Norway. They contributed not only material and physical labor, but also good fellowship and friendly understanding.

ORGANIZATION:

The national organization is directed by a board of directors elected by the national council of AYH. The following are among the officers and directors at the present time:

President - John G. Winant (Deceased)  
Chairman, Executive Committee - John D. Rockefeller, 3rd  
Treasurer - Edwin A. Locke  
Executive Director - Monroe Smith

Directors:

Horace M. Albright	Basil Harris
Laurence Duggan	Donald H. McLean, Jr.
Anthony D. Duke	Philip D. Reed
Lloyd K. Garrison	Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt

In carrying out the national aspects of its program the organization operates through five staff divisions dealing with development, field service, sponsored tours, services and supplies, and public relations.

FINANCES:

American Youth Hostels, Inc., is financed in part through contributions and in part through income from self-supporting activities such as issuance of AYH passes, sales of camping merchandise and fees for sponsored tours.

Due to wartime travel restrictions which necessarily curtailed AYH operations, during the war expenditures were held to a minimum, running about \$40,000 a year. Expanding the program to meet post-war opportunities calls for a substantially increased budget. During the fiscal year ending September 30, 1947, the organization operated on a budget of \$79,100. Substantial expansion, particularly of field staff, is contemplated during the current fiscal year ending September 30, 1948. An expansion budget of \$193,000 has been approved for this twelve-month period with anticipated non-contribution income, including membership fees of approximately \$80,000, leaving a total of \$113,000 to be secured from contribution sources. In addition, a necessary working capital fund of \$15,000 is being raised during this current year, making a total of \$128,000 as the 1947-1948 contribution goal. The attached table summarizes the estimated income and expenditures for this twelve-month period.

This budget does not reflect the possibilities for the full development of the movement in this country. Several times that sum would be well invested before hosteling in the United States begins even modestly to approach the status of the program in many European countries. The realization of the opportunity here will be dependent upon the extent to which generous amounts in the form of contributions are made available for sound growth.



SIGNIFICANCE:

The youth hostel program affords young people in a world characterized by over-organization, over-stimulation and the complexities of living an opportunity to have simple yet far-reaching educational experiences that differ fundamentally from typical tourist travel.

Speed and pressure are forgotten, highways are left for byways, and youth is given an opportunity to enjoy field and forest, to understand history by seeing the places where history has been made, to know and appreciate at first-hand cultural institutions and national lore. Hosteling is an experience in friendly cooperation enjoyed by groups of young people from widely varied social and economic backgrounds, but with a common love of the out-of-doors and common interest in broadening their horizons through hosteling exploration. Youth comes to love his country, not for specious adornments of wealth and pride and prestige, but for its natural beauty and cultural heritage, for the friendly talk, counsel and kindness of people.

The opportunities for low-cost foreign travel make possible a limitless expansion of this most important phase of education. Not only will American hostellers be able to go abroad in increasing numbers, but hostellers from other lands will be able to come to the United States, thus advancing mutual understanding and respect on both sides.

Helping to build healthy, happy, world-minded youth who have known and experienced tolerance and cooperation is the great task of AYH. Its worth has been demonstrated on a small scale; it is now at a turning point of opportunity and usefulness.

November 25, 1947

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AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

Estimates of Income and Expenses  
for the 12 Month Period  
October 1, 1947 through September 30, 1948

EARNINGS

Passholders fees	\$ 30,000
Youth Hostel Charter fees	1,200
Sponsored trips	30,000
Sponsored Hostels	2,000
Sales of merchandise	13,000
Bicycle rentals, etc.	2,500
Miscellaneous	1,000
<u>Total Earnings</u>	<u>\$ 79,700</u>

EXPENSES

Salaries	
General	\$ 21,200
Development and Public Affairs	6,700
Field	30,950
Sponsored Tours	11,633
Service and Supplies	26,730
Education	11,650
Total Salaries	<u>\$108,863</u>
Cost of merchandise sold	10,000
Cost of bicycle rentals, etc.	1,700
Cost of publishing KNAPSACK	6,500
Travel	15,000
Rent, electricity, moving	15,000
Telephone, telegraph, postage	5,000
Printing	6,000
Office supplies	2,000
Office equipment	5,000
Building maintenance, Northfield	3,000
Other expenses	1,500
Contingencies	5,000
Reorganization and campaign	8,109
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$192,672</u>
Operating deficit, before contributions	<u>\$112,972</u>
Contribution requirement	
For operations	112,972
To establish a working capital fund	15,000
<u>CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>\$127,972</u>

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