

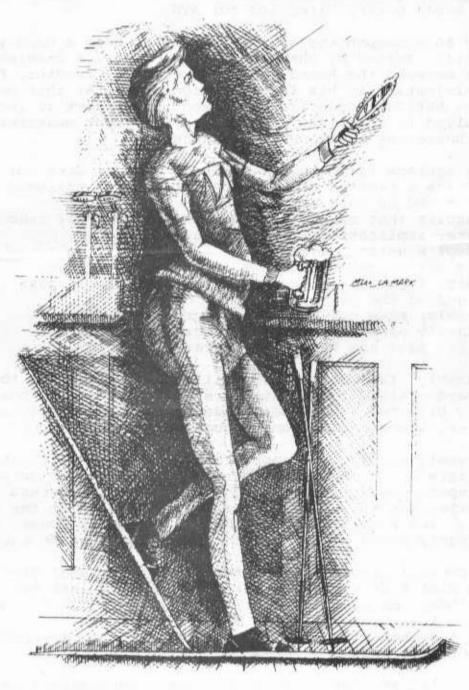


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pittsburgh council, american youth hostel, inc.

Volume 26, Number 1

JANUARY 1975



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

The annual AYH National Council meeting was held in Boston on December 6-8, 1974. Larry and Mary Giventer, Cliff Ham and Roy Weil attended for Pittsburgh Council.

The National Council is the basic governing body of AYH. Its membership consists of delegates from each of AYH's 33 local councils plus the 30 or so members of the National Board of Directors. Each director has one vote. The council delegates are apportioned votes based upon their council's "hosteling experiences" during the past year (mostly dependent upon membership and hostels in the area - Pittsburgh council had two votes). Each December the National Council meets to elect new National Board members and to set the broad policy direction for AYH.

As noted in an accompanying article, this has been a hard year for AYH nationally, marked by sharp staff reductions, a cash shortage, and a break between the Board and the Executive Director, Frank Cosgrove culminating in his forced resignation. At this December's meeting, the National Council reaffirmed its support of the National Board, resolved to stabilize its affairs, and took measures to strengthen hosteling in the United States.

Some of the actions taken by the National Council were to:
 *authorize a revised council charter process designed to
cut paperwork and be more useful for AYH

to require that councils review and endorse all club and hostel charter applications in their jurisdiction

to adopt a uniform fiscal year of Octoberl to September 30 (this will require a change in Pittsburgh Council by laws) and also important to authorize an increase in pass fees before the end of the year

a senior pass now \$10, will increase to \$11 a family pass now \$12, will increase to \$22

a life pass now \$50, will increase to \$110

More importantly, the National Council elected 12 people to the National Board - all 7 incumbents were re-elected. The Board is now strongly oriented toward hostel development and building a nationwide service organization through strong local councils.

We are extremely pleased to report that Cliff Ham was elected to a one year term on the National Board. In addition to extensive hosteling experience with Pittsburgh council, Cliff brings to the Board his expertise as a Professor of Urban Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and President of the Board of Council House, and Allegheny County based mental health/mental retardation agency.

Pittsburgh Council also nominated for Eastern Regional Vice President, Roy Weil, a past Pittsburgh Council president and last year's Golden Triangle editor. He was elected to the post by the presidents of the councils in the eastern U.S.. As Eastern Regional Vice President, Roy is also a member of the Board of Directors and his responsibilities includecouncil and hostel development within the region.

Election of Cliff and Roy to these national and regional posts is not only a credit to them personally, but also a recognition of the spirit and dedication of Pittsburgh Council's membership ... its Board of Directors ... and its Activity Board. Congratulations!



Diana Hayes, President of Potomac Area Council, elected to the National Board



Left: Dave Smith, President of Los Angeles Council Right: Tony Pranses, one of the founders of Pgh. Council, now President of Lima Council



arry Giventer rises to ddress the National Council



Jack Campbell, National President others seated from left: Dale Lonheim, National Staff Patricia Hoban, National Board John Steinmetz, West. Region V.P.



Left: Gerry Dyar, President of Hartford Area Council Right: Bill Weiss, President of Metropolitan New York Council and National Board member



Kathie Hammond, President of Greater Boston Council and National Board member

The National Board of AYH had a tough year in 1974, with a cash shortage caused by a decline in membership, the termination of the Executive Director, and the assertion of power on the Board of Directors by regional and local council members. The National Council meeting in Boston early in December faced up to the challenges, voted constructively and positively for the strengthening of the organization, and primarily sought to heal the wounds and reduce tensions. It was into the crisis situation that Roy Weil and I deigned to run for Board of Directors and Eastern Regional Vice President respectively (and won!)

Several issues revolve around Board membership - Should the Board be "national" or should it represent local council interests? Should the Board stress expertise based on activities (biking, hiking, canoeing) or hostel development? Should the Board consist of relatively prominent persons of stature or AYH members already participants in AYH programs? The results of the voting emphasized AYH participation and organizational expertise over prestige,, but hopefully the Board will try to balance local and national concerns. All incumbents were re-elected; other directors elected are active in AYH and were present at the meeting.

Discussion of resolutions and their disposition indicated a strong desire for conciliation and getting on with the job. Urgent problems remain - reversing the decline in membership, developing more hostels, and improving the conditions and utilization of existing hostels. The Board as now constituted seems willing to tackle these jobs, and competent.

The annual meeting in the Parker House kept us all busy, tired, and stimulated. We only regret that we didn't have time to enjoy Boston: Open House is held every Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome, member or non-member. Doors open about 7:45 PM with the program starting around 8:30 PM. Come and find out about us.

<u>January 2</u> - Howard Davidson of the Allegheny County Department of Planning and Development will present their hiking and bicycling plans for the county. A question and answer period will follow.

January 9 - Joe Hoechner will show a movie, "Skiing - Park City".

January 16 - Joe Levine presents: Orange Paint, Bramble Cutters, Apple Pies and Beautiful Views - mixed well with enthusiastic trippers what is it? The Tuscarora Trail Maintenance Weekend.

January 23 - Join Mike and Marta Hurwitz on a tour of the Pacific Northwest. Follow them up Mount Hood, Mount Ranier, through the Olympic Rain Forest to Cape Alava.

January 30 - Ski areas of the United States and Europe is the subject of tonight's slide show by Bob Omler.



SALES AND SERVICE

Floyd Newingham Schwinn Bicycle Center 740 Fifth Avenue New Kensington, Pa., 15068

335-6464

Tuesday night, November 26, 1974, was a historic date for Pittsburgh Council, AYH. On that date a carefully worded six page option agreement was signed by Larry Giventer, as president of the council, and the four partners who own the former "Melcroft School".

Essentially this means that Pittsburgh Council has entered into an agreement to pay the owners a \$50 per month nonrefundable fee for a period of eight months to hold the property for us. During that time we will be investigating various sources, including foundation support, for the rehabilitation of the building into a youth hostel. Estimates of the cost have run around \$60,000. At the end of the eight month period Pittsburgh Council can either drop the option (and lose \$400) or exercise the right to purchase the property (with the \$400 credited toward the purchase price) -

Right now you are probably saying to yourself, "\$60,000: Is it really worth it?" Well, everyone involved so far thinks it is, and there is much enthusiasm for the project. The building is located 5 miles south of the Donegal exit of the Pennsylvania turnpike on Route 711. This locates it about 15 miles from Ohiophyle State Park, 10 miles from the Seven Springs Ski Resort, and approximately 5 miles from the Laurel Ridge Trail. It has the possibility of easily holding 50 overnighters and being open year round.

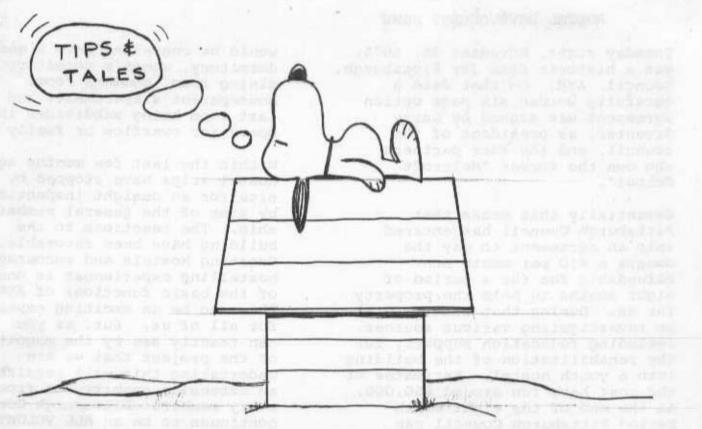
Well, so much for the location, what about the building itself? In size, it is 7500 suare feet, consisting of six large classrooms 20' x 30' each. There are also existing toilets, office space and even a kitchen, although these will require extensive remodelling! The six classrooms

would be converted into a men's dormitory, women's dormitory, dining room, commons room, houseparent's apartment, and the last room being subdivided into space for overflow or family groups.

Within the last few months several hostel trips have stopped by the site for an onsight inspection by some of the general membership. The reactions to the building have been favorable. Creating hostels and encouraging hostelling experiences is one of the basic functions of AYH. This can be an exciting experience for all of us. But, as you can readily see by the magnitude of the project that we are undertaking this will require an extensive committment from every member. Pittsburgh Council continues to be an ALL VOLUNTEER organization. We are looking not for financial contributions from members (although they would be accepted and appreciated) but primarily for a committment of time and talent. Please attend the meeting at headquarters January 8, 1975 at 8P.M. to see what you can do to help either immediately, or in the future months when actual rennovation begins.

We all owe much thanks to
Joe Hoechner and Roy Weil,
Hostel Development Co-chair
people for their efforts to
launch this project.

COME
HOSTELLING
WITH
US
IN
1975::



Did you know that the state of Pennsylvania has 49 ski areas? Facts like lift fees, rentals, snowmaking, etc. are now available in a <u>free</u> booklet "Ski Pennsylvania". Write to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Travel, South Office Building, Room S118, Harrisburg, Penna., 17120. With any luck you may have it by April:

Hey, winter backpackers, tired of the old "cup-of-soup" hassle? You know the trouble it is to carry out all those empty foil packets. Try another brand, "Mrs. Grass Soups". Honest! Unlike cup of soups, Mrs. Grass soups come packaged in a completely burnable cellophane packet. And best of all it costs 4¢ less per packet.

Having problems with your car heater during winter trips? Try leaving your windows open just an inch or so. Like a chimney, a car heater works best with a flue to create a draft. If you leave a window open it will give the heater a chance to blow the cold air out and start the hot air circulating. Tired of paying \$15-\$20 for woolen shirts from your favorite wilderness shop or catalog? Try looking in a nearby Sears or J.C. Penney Department store in the work clothes department. With any luck, you can usually find 70% wool plaid shirts for \$8 or \$9. These shirts are mostly imported from either Korea or Spain and use "reprocessed" wool as their main material.

while skiing or winter hiking?
These are the tiny albino insects
which abound during cold weather.
Their bites are often mistaken
for goosebumps.
Well, relief is near! Jim
Roberts has been experimenting
on a winter insect repellant. He
tested it out last year on his famous
comet watching backpacks. It appears

Ever been attacked by snow fleas

to work as neither snow fleas or comets were seen. Jim plans to continue his experiments during this winter's trips - Good Luck!

Interested in the Pittsburgh Ski Club? For information on trips, meetings, membership fees, etc. write: Pittsburgh Ski Club, P.O. Box 2022, Pgh., Pa., 15230.

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PENNSYLVANIA WILD- AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM

Action is beginning on the implementation of Pennsylvania's Wild- and Scenic Rivers Program. Many of the canoeists in AYH may wish to become involved in the early stages of this program. The "Eligibility Guidelines" for the nomination of candidate rivers for the system has been released. For a copy write to Clayton Kritschgau, Bureau of Resources Programming, Department of Environmental Resources, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa., 17120.

The first step in the program is to be a general screening to identify possible streams or segments of streams. The second step will be an in-depth study of each stream to determine whether or not it should be recommended as a final candidate for inclusion in the system. The screening process will be under the supervision of a State Wild and Scenic Rivers Task Force composed of eight representatives from the Department of Environmental Resources, plus a representative from the Fish Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the Historic and Museum Commission, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Pennsylvania State Federation of Sportsmen, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the "Canoe Clubs".

The initial steps in the screening process will begin with citizen group action at the local level. In each of the ten Pennsylvania Regional Planning areas meetings will be held under the auspices of the regional planning agencies. These meetings will include representatives of county planning commissions, county park and recreation agencies and citizen groups. Each region will have a series of meetings over a period of 3 to 4 months. If you are interested in attending some of these meetings for our southwestern Pennsylvania area contact Bruce Sundquist at 327-8737.

It is important that we take part in these screening sessions in order that the aesthetic and natural values we hold dear are given a reasonable representation. At the regional meetings we will have an opportunity to recommend candidate streams and to oppose extensive stream-side developments that some regard as part of a "scenic" river.

Another way for us to take part in the initial stages of the Wild- and Scenic Rivers Program is to develop a reasonably good slide show on "Canoeing in Western Pennsylvania", or some similar topic. In this show we can stress the natural beauty and pleasant experiences that some of the streams in our area have to offer. We can also point out the destruction of these values by dumps and other developments. AYH now has access to a good, portable 7' x 14' screen, a number of projectors, recorded sound systems, etc. Among all our canoeists we must have untold thousands of slides that could make up a show that many groups would like to see. Canoeists with cameras and others interested in this project should contact Bruce Sundquist at 327-8737.

CANOE STREAMS MAP AVAILABLE

A full color 12" x 21" map of canoeable waters in the drainage of the Allegheny and Monongahela River Watersheds is now available from AYH for \$1.25. The streams are color-coded so as to describe the basic features of interest to canoeists. Major highways are also shown as fine red lines to aid in locating segments of streams of interest. The map was printed by Tom Gray based on an original map drawn by Don Hoecker and PhilChase some years ago.

The Forest Service is now in the process of formulating an off-road vehicle (ORV) policy for the Allegheny National Forest which they plan to finish by June of 1975. Citizen involvement in this planning process is vitally important. In New Hampshire only the snowmobilers were heard from and consequently 60% of the White Mountain National Forest (perhaps the most heavily hiked Forest in the country) was opened to them with few restrictions. On the other hand, conservationists in Indiana were very active and trailbikes will be limited to less than 15% of the Hoosier National Forest.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club has submitted a statement to the Allegheny National Forest which proposes that:

- 1. Off-road vehicle use be limited to presently existing roads in an area of about 10% of the Forest and that no new trails be built for them; and
- 2. Off-road vehicle use be forbidden everywhere except where it is specifically permitted by signs (this is already the policy on Pennsylvania State Parks, Forests and Game Lands); and discusses recent research which justifies this approach.

The Forest Service recently released the results of a mail questionnaire of theirs which indicates that only 3% of the respondents support a program similar to that outlined above. It is imperative that hikers, canoeists, skiiers and other outdoor people express their opinions in proportion to their numbers.

If you wish to comment on the policy write Mr. Ralph Freeman, Supervisor Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847, Warren, Pennsylvania, 16365. You can also ask to be put on the mailing list for a copy of the draft Forest Land Use Plan in which their proposed off-road vehicle policy will appear.

For more information, or for a copy of the Sierra Club statement, please write: Alan Hausrath, Chairman, Pennsylvania Chapter Off-Road Vehicle Committee, Box 7404, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15213; or phone him at 421-6076. ************************************

CHANGE IN STATE PARK REGULATIONS

The Environmental Quality Board has approved a revision in state park regulations to allow the Bureau of State Parks to waive any of its fees when an individual, group of individuals or organization "wants to conduct a program in the parks which will significantly improve the health, safety, education, or welfare of the general public".

This change follows one made last year when the bureau was given permission to waive camping fees for individuals and groups coming into the parks to conduct voluntary work details of for training or research purposes.

This latest revision will allow the bureau to exercise its discretion in waiving boat launching and mooring fees for similar programs. -8-1 THE RESERVE T

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In about six weeks we will be enjoying the weekend at Cook Forest.

Have you reserved with Nan and Dave Porterfield, Textor School Road, RD2, Box 173, Zelienople, Pa., 16063, phone (814) 452-7071, for the weekend of 14 - 16 February?

Last year's talks with the Snow God were not fruitful, even though the date was changed from the traditional March weekend to the first weekend in February. This year it was determined that if fishing is bad, as shown on Wright's Guide to Best Fishing Days, winter sports should be good. The moon will be a sliver halfway between new moon and first quarter.

The planners have made the chartered bus a tradition. Last year enough gasoline was saved to take 4 cars to the Connoquenessing for white water school, 4 cars to the Yough for a rafting trip, 2 cars to Casparis for a caving trip, 3 cars to Dolly Sods for a backpacking trip and 10 cars to Boyce Park for kite flying. We'll save about the same this year, with only a 9% increase in the charter cost.

Cost is expected to be about \$20 per person, including transportation, meals and space in a cabin. Deposit of \$5 will reserve a space for you. Limit is 48 people. Mail your check today to Nan and Dave.

Equipment and attributes needed: Blanket or sleeping bag (sheets and one blanket are provided, but the nights are cold and a sleeping bag is recommended); towel, soap, toothbrush, dental floss, toothpaste and other items for personal hygiene; musical instruments of your choice; singing voice or imitation thereof; songs or words to songs; warm clothing; change of clothes; hiking boots if you plan to hike; sports equipment, such as skis, snowshoes, snowball sling; checkbook or single check to pay the balance of the costs. (Cash became a problem last year; check

Did you know that the first American bikeway was dedicated in Homestead, Florida on February 24, 1962? That a Mr. Thomas Stevens was the first person to cycle across the United States - on a highwheeler in 1884!

Trivia tidbits such as these can be found in the 1975 Bikecen-tennial Calendar available now at only \$3 per copy. It sells directly from Bikecentennial for \$3.50. These calendars come in their own envelopes ready for mailing.

If you plan to partake in the 1976 cross country or regional tours now being planned here is your chance to help support this work. See hostel store-keeper Joe Hoechner for your copy.

If you would like information on short distance tours available during 1975 write to:

P.O. Box 1034
Missoula, Montana, 59801
Be sure to help them out by
providing a stamped, self-

providing a stamped, selfadressed envelope with your letter.

Bikecentennial

STATE BIKE COMMITTEE FORMED

Larry Giventer, Pittsburgh Council President, has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Bicycle Policy Committee. The committee's purpose is to provide statewide guidance on bicycling and bikeway development. Representatives from the state departments of Agriculture, Environmental Resources, Commerce, Community Affairs, Education, the AAA, Harrisburg Bicycle Club, Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition, and local government sit on the committee. It is chaired by Jack Kintslinger, Deputy Secretary of Planning for Penn DOT.

TRIPS AND TRAILS

The trips listed below are open to the public with the exception that AYH members are given priority when the trip is of limited size. Trip costs include 40¢ for registration and insurance (\$500 medical) plus transportation costs and equipment rental. Call the trip leader to reserve or cancel or just for more information about the trip.

Please call during normal hours (6:30 - 9:30 PM) unless otherwise noted. Make reservations early but in no case should they be made later than the Thursday before the trip.

- Wed Jan 1

 Bicycling Start the New Year right with the season's first ride. If Joe Hoechner is not skiing (weather permitting) he will lead an afternoon ride in town. Break the dull TV Football Habit! Cost 40¢. Time approximately 1:30 PM. Reservations needed call Joe at 343-2465.
- Fri Jan 3 Caving Join Norm Snyder on a cave tripoto West
 Sat Jan 4 Virginia. Cave temperature is about 50 all year.

 Leave Friday night and return late Saturday night.

 Call Norm at 371-2371 for more details and to reserve.
- Sun Jan 5 Beginner's Hike Beginner's hike on the Rachel Carson Trail. Leave headquarters at 9AM with lunch, suitable clothes and about \$2.00. Call Joe Levine for details at 422-8287.
- Sat Jan 11 Hiking Beginner's to intermediate hiking on the Laurel Ridge Trail. Leave headquarters at 8:30 AM. Call Natan Little for details. Cost about \$3.50. Phone 367-7670.
- Sat Jan 11 Backpack Jim Roberts will lead a beginner's backpack
 Sun Jan 12 on the Baker Trail going cross country from Corsica
 to Cooks Forest. Leave headquarters early Saturday
 morning return Sunday night. Cost about \$6.50.
 Reserve with Jim at 362-5790.
- Fri Jan 17 Caving Another one of Norm Snyder's famous caving Sat Jan 18 trips to the underground of West Virginia. Call Norm at 371-2371 between 6 7 PM for more information.
- Sat Jan 18 Intermediate/advanced hiking An exploratory bushwack and possibly cross country ski (if sufficient snow) trip on Chestnut Ridge with Barry Walker. For details phone 661-3389. Leave at 8:30, cost about \$3.50.
- Sun Jan 19 Ice Skating Another winter sport heard from. Join Cathy Lynch for easy beginning ice skating on any frozen ice or if no ice- sledding, or ??- followed by hot chocolate at Cathy's. Call 361-3707 to reserve your hot chocolate.

MORE TRIPS AND TRAILS

- Sun Jan 19 Cross country ski trip Joe Hoechner invites all beginner to intermediate skiiers on a seven mile all downhill trip from Indianhead to Camp Christian. Dress warmly, bring skiis, lunch, wax, and about \$3. To reserve call Joe at 343-2465. Leave headquarters at 8:35 AM.
- Sat Jan 25 Beginner's hike on Section 1 of the Baker Trail with the Merisko sisters. Leave headquarters at 8 AM with lunch, warm clothes, hiking boots, and about \$3.

 Karen and Elaide would like to do the entire Baker Trail this year. Call 271-0831 for details.
- Sun Jan 26 Cross country ski trip This time Bruce Sundquist will lead a beginner/intermediate cross country ski trip on the Laurel Ridge near Rte. 31. If you don't have cross country skis, bring your downhill skis with cable bindings to convert them for cross country use better check with Bruce on how to do this before you attempt it though. Leave headquarters at 8 AM. Call Bruce at 327-8737.
- Sun Jan 26 Beginner's Hike Somewhere on the Laurel Ridge Trail with Sam Carlson. Leave at 8:30 AM. Call 271-4823 for more information.
- Wed Jan 8 Special Meeting on Hostel Development Anyone interested in working on any aspect of the Melcroft Hostel project from fund raising to interior design to wielding a paintbrush meet at headquarters at 8 PM. We will be outlining the job to be done and discussing the best way to tackle it. Everyone's ideas are welcome come and add your 2¢.

Jack Kowalski has discount lift tickets available for the Blue Knob Ski Resort. The tickets, normally \$9, can be purchased from Jack for \$6 and are good anytime for the next two years. See Jack at headquarters.

While a few cross country ski trips are formally scheduled this month, many more will probably spontaneously develop if the weather cooperates. If you are interested, ask around Thursday evenings - or sign your name on a "spontaneous trip" list in the back of headquarters.

HAVE YOU RENEWED ?

Stop!! Look at the address label on the back of this newsletter. If it does not read "Life", "VIP", or "Dec 75" and you have not renewed your membership in the past couple of weeks, this will be your last Golden Triangle. If you don't renew your membership you will miss not only this fantastic publication, but also the chance to frolic in the snow during Cooks Forest weekend, the chance to dine and dance among the fish at the Aqua Zoo, and unforgettable adventures on hundreds of trips.

Furthermore, bargain hunters, a great opportunity to save money now exists. At the national meeting in Boston it was decided to raise the membership fees "as soon as practical" which will give you only a few months until the paper work is straightened out. Adult memberships will go from \$10 to \$11 with the additional \$1 earmarked for a hostel development fund. Family membership, now \$12, will be twice the adult fee and be raised to \$22. Family passes are good only in the U.S. and Canada. The youth pass (for those under 18) will continue to be \$5.

Now, for the real bargain! Life membership, currently \$50, will be raised to \$110, ten times the adult pass fee. As you can see if you plan to be active in hostelling for more than a couple of years it will be very worthwhile to buy a life pass now while it is only \$50. The life pass, of course, can be used in hostels all over the world and in any council, so it is a good investment even if you do not plan to remain in Pittsburgh.

As an added incentve, if you need one, for only \$1.50 more you will receive a year's subscription to <u>Wilderness Camping</u>, a magazine featuring articles on hiking, backpacking, canoeing, bicycling, and a special section devoted to AYH news.

Now, just cut out the membership application below and send it with your check to Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.; 6300 Fifthe Ave.; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15232; ATTN. MEMBERSHIP; or see Karen or Elaine Merisko at headquarters Thursday evening.

please	type	or	print
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date of application

name	
address	
phone	***
Will you use your pass in Europe this year?	
Is this a renewal? If so, when did you	first join?
Age (if under 18)	THE LOW STORY STORY
Check one:	
Youth membership (under 18)	\$10.00 only) \$12.00
Organization membership (see Membership man	
OPTIONAL OFFER TO ALL MEMBERS	\$50.00
Subscription to Wilderness Camping magazine	a- bimonthly
one year - \$1.50	- 10

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
JANU	ARY	1 31ke	OPEN HOUSE	3 C A	4	5 Hike
6	7	8 HOSTEL MEETING	9 OPEN HOUSE	10	11 3 _{ACKF}	ACK
13	ACTIVITIES BOARD	15	OPEN HOUSE	17 CA	VE HIKE	SKATE
20	21	22	OPEN HOUSE	24	HIKE	SKI HIKE
27	28	29	OPEN HOUSE	31	FEB 1	FEB 2

Pittsburgh Council AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC. 6300 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232

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