

# NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

# 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

**Youth Leadership Adventures** blends leadership training, hands-on stewardship, science education and outdoor skills. In 2016, students spent eight days canoeing, backpacking and working on service projects in the North Cascades backcountry, participating in a reunion and a Summit where they received mentorship and training.

## KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Outdoor Leadership courses for ages 14-16 (8 days)
- Science & Sustainability courses for ages 16-18 (8 days)
- Northwest Youth Leadership Summit (1 day)
- Year-round engagement opportunities



Deepen students' **ECOLOGICAL LITERACY** through firsthand experience with **FIELD SCIENCE**



Connect underrepresented students to public lands & wilderness so they develop a **SENSE OF PLACE & COMMUNITY**



**EMPOWER** youth to make a difference through **STEWARDSHIP**, civic action & workforce opportunities



Cultivate self-confidence & **COMMUNICATION SKILLS** through **LEADERSHIP** training & public speaking

## NEW & NOTABLE



SALLY JEWELL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

◀ **Northwest Youth Leadership Summit**  
North Cascades Institute partnered with The Mountaineers to host more than 100 students for a day of networking and leadership training in Seattle. The

Summit featured 18 skill-building breakout sessions, a Student Success Panel, an Opportunity Fair and surprise appearance by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

### Three Youth Leadership Apprentices

Apprentices assisted with summer backcountry courses, outreach and development. Apprentices provide critical support and enable participants to learn from peer leaders who are close to students in age, cultural and socio-economic background and experience levels.

### Recruitment Successes

We received a record number of applicants for summer courses in 2016 — 229 applications for 81 spots.

### ▼ Youth Leadership Ambassadors

Youth Leadership Ambassadors is a school-year extension that engages students and alumni from Skagit and Whatcom Counties in outdoor adventures, service work and college preparedness training. In 2017, Ambassadors will meet as a group twice a month — once for an excursion into nearby public lands or to visit local colleges and universities and once for a workshop focusing on college access.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AMBASSADORS, SKAGIT LAND TRUST WORK PARTY

# AT A GLANCE | 2016 Tuition: \$1,185 Average scholarship award: \$1,014

**103** students attended the  
**NORTHWEST YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

**77** STUDENTS  
completed  
backpacking &  
canoeing courses

**15+** LANGUAGES  
spoken during  
summer courses

**96%** students from  
**WASHINGTON  
& OREGON**

**56%** qualified for  
**FREE &  
REDUCED**  
lunch programs

**40%** **NON-ENGLISH  
LANGUAGES**  
spoken at home

**86%** RECEIVED  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**64%** PEOPLE  
**OF COLOR**

**81%** **FIRST TIME**  
participating  
in an outdoor  
summer program

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Participants completed environmental stewardship projects that improved ecological health and infrastructure on **US Forest Service** and **National Park Service** lands. Students spent **1,092 hours** on service projects.

### 2016 accomplishments included:

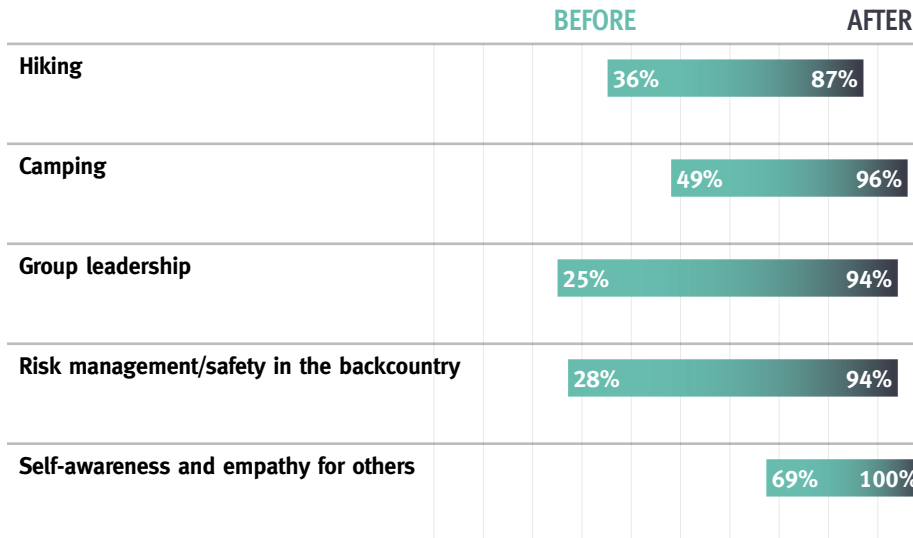
- 26 campsites maintained
- 9 illegal fire rings removed
- 700 feet of unauthorized “social” trails closed
- 11 miles of trail built or maintained
- 6 new signs installed
- 23 drainage culverts cleared
- 1 pit toilet dug
- 35 feet of turnpike built or maintained
- 80 pounds of exotic, invasive plants removed
- 500 native plants planted
- 36 pounds removed
- 1 picnic table built
- 1 tent pad built
- 1 hitch rail built



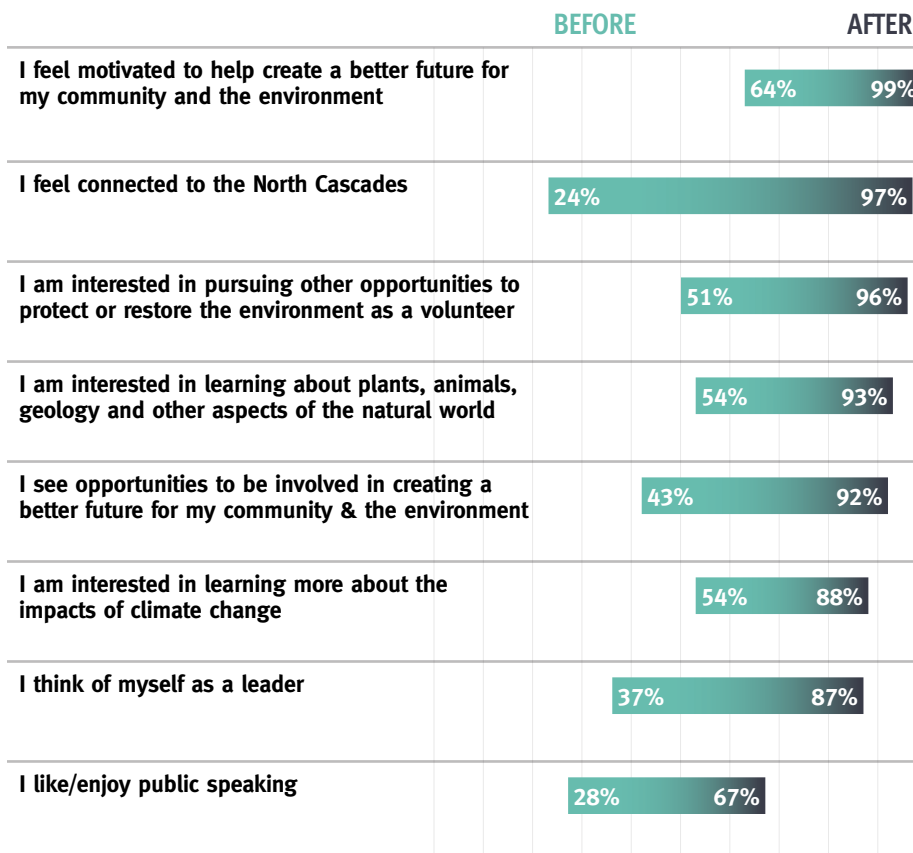
# OUTCOMES & EVALUATION

We conduct pre- then post-program surveys that assess students' development. Students consistently report emotional and physical transformations as a result of their participation.

Shown below are the percentage of students who reported feeling confident in the following areas before and after 2016 Youth Leadership Adventures.



Shown below are the percentage of students who agreed with the following statements before and after 2016 Youth Leadership Adventures.



“Before this trip I was a shy girl from a small town. Now I know that I shouldn't be afraid to use my voice. I should act on issues that matter to me, like climate change.”



“I've learned so many useful skills to better myself in ways I never thought possible. I had the chance to listen to others, watch them grow and find confidence.”



“I am so thankful that I achieved my goals of hiking and camping for the first time in my life. I was the first person in my family to go hiking and camping in the woods.”

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

“ I came in as an apprentice with very little experience, but that changed quickly. I received Wilderness First Aid certification, learned how to create lesson plans and gained valuable experiences as an educator. I also learned how to be a leader and make decisions in tough situations.

There aren't many opportunities for low-income or people of color to get this kind of experience. I never imagined that I could be an outdoor educator because I never had the opportunity to go camping, much less encounter a park ranger. I didn't know jobs like this existed until now. I suspect that is true for many kids coming on courses.

Youth Leadership Adventures means so much to me and to so many students. For a lot of kids in the program, the North Cascades become a second home, and they saw us apprentices as role models - people who they could be one day if they work hard and pursue their outdoor interests.

This apprenticeship allows students to pursue outdoor education as a realistic career; it helps create the next generation of outdoor educators!”



IMARA WHITE

## 2016 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you so much to the many individuals and organizations who have generously supported 2016 Youth Leadership Adventures.



Seattle City Light



Special thanks to Northwest Youth Leadership Summit sponsors and Opportunity Fair partners, and for in-kind support from: Burlington Coleman Factory Outlet, Columbia Sportswear, Feathered Friends, Kavu, REI, Smartwool, Zumiez and Ross Lake Resort.

### GRANTS

Clif Bar Family Foundation  
 Columbia Sportswear  
 DV and Ida McEachern Trust  
 Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Foundation  
 Horizons Foundation  
 Grassroots Outdoor Alliance  
 Henry M. Jackson Foundation  
 Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation  
 Martin-Fabert Foundation  
 OneFamily Foundation

Puget Sound Energy Foundation  
 Quest for Truth Foundation  
 Swinomish Indian Tribal Community  
 The Jeffris Wood Fund  
 The Sharing Foundation  
 The Wilderness Institute – University of Montana  
 Tom and Sonya Campion  
 Tulalip Tribes Charitable Giving  
 Washington Foundation for the Environment  
 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office - No Child Left Inside Program

### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Aguila	Gary Peterson	Jim Ford	Ricks/Van Nostrand Family
Ann Zwinger	Georgina	Joan Casey	Robert Ricks
Beau MacGregor	Gerry Cook & Hannah Sullivan	Kaylene Farley	Sandy & Sterling Clarren
Booth Family	Glasoe Family	Lee Cole	Thea and Bob Pyle
Candy & Dick James	Guemes Island Environmental Trust	Lorrie Otto	Village Books
Community Catalyst	Irene E. Mitchell	Murali & Ranjini Krishnan	Weisberg Family Fund
Darby Foundation	Iverson-Prescott	Outdoor Youth Connections	Wild Streak
Farrell Family			Youth Leadership Fund