



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

2018

PROGRAM REPORT

GOAL: TO INSPIRE A LIFELONG CONSERVATION ETHIC IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Youth Leadership Adventures is a progression of transformational learning experiences designed for local underserved teens to jump-start lifelong environmental and community stewardship. Primary activities are 8-day Outdoor Leadership and 12-day Science and Sustainability Summer Courses in North Cascades National Park, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Next steps include Youth Ambassadors, internships, and the Northwest Youth Leadership Summit, allowing participants to put skills into action.

Program Outcomes

Develop a **SENSE OF PLACE & COMMUNITY** by connecting underserved teens to public lands



157+ outdoor learner hours per student

“ I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, but without YLA I would have never experienced the great outdoors like this.

— Sydney

Deepen **ECOLOGICAL LITERACY** through first-hand field science learning



“ YLA empowered me and made me more confident that women in STEM are just as capable and able to do anything.

— Kathleen

Cultivate **LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION SKILLS** through identity exploration and public speaking



“ A leader is someone who can pull together a group of strangers and make them family.

— Taylor

Empower teens through **STEWARDSHIP, CIVIC ACTION, and WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES**



1,875 hours volunteered

“ I loved the service projects! Helping build things to support fellow adventurous folks and being part of a bigger cause is a special thing.

— Jayda

Participant Snapshot

We provide scholarships, transportation, clothing, gear, meals, family orientations, culturally relevant curriculum, and gender-inclusive camp options. 94% of participants reported that they applied for YLA because of these support systems. Statistics reflect Summer Course and Ambassador participants.

82% live in the
NORTH CASCADES
ecosystem

72% identify as
LOW-INCOME
families

10 **LANGUAGES**
SPOKEN

51% **FIRST TIME**
in North Cascades
National Park

95% of participants
RECEIVED
SCHOLARSHIPS

63% identify as
PEOPLE
OF COLOR

77% **FIRST TIME**
participating in an
outdoor program

66% participants
PAID ZERO
DOLLARS

74% prospective
FIRST GENERATION
college students

Pathways for Youth: Next-Step Opportunities to Put Skills Into Action



Youth Ambassadors

Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors further develop leadership and outdoor skills, volunteer, and plan for college and careers. Each participant volunteered 10 hours at state parks and public lands and received 56 hours of college access lessons and visits to regional colleges and universities. Read student-penned narratives from 2018 Ambassador trips on our blog (goo.gl/8g2A8N).

Summer Interns

Interns assist in leading summer courses while gaining work experience. Participants are inspired by interns who are of similar ages and backgrounds. Interns receive stipends, housing, meals, and Wilderness First Aid training.

Northwest Youth Leadership Summit

The Summit equips students with personal and professional development skills to serve the environment and communities. This free, two-day Summit in Seattle includes skill-building sessions, a career fair, discussions, and outdoor adventures.



79 **SUMMER**
COURSE
participants

28 **YOUTH**
AMBASSADORS

120 **SUMMIT**
participants

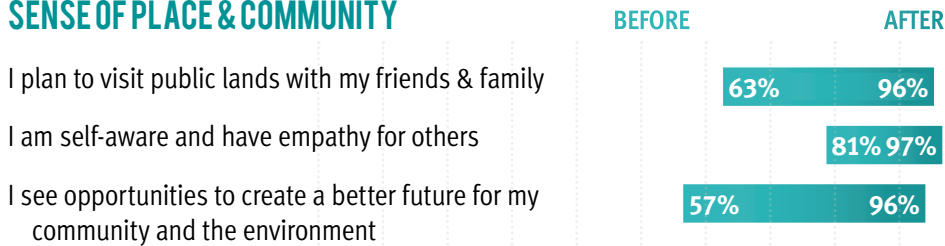
2 summer
course
INTERNS

Evaluating Program Outcomes

Pre- then post-program surveys demonstrate progress towards program outcomes and student transformations as a result of participation in YLA.

Summer Course Evaluations

SENSE OF PLACE & COMMUNITY



ECOLOGICAL LITERACY



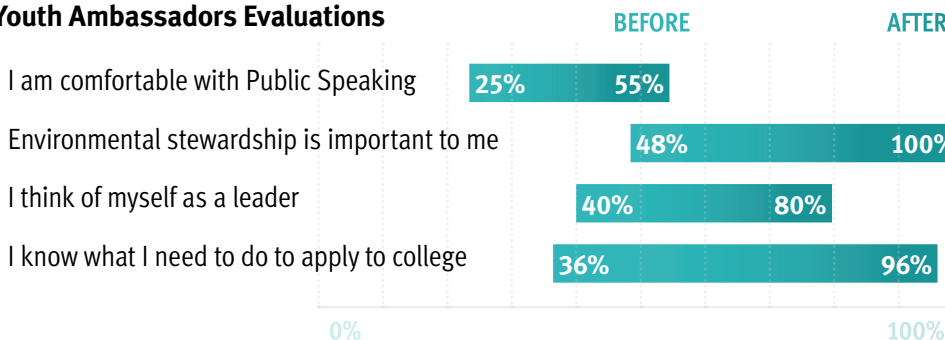
STEWARDSHIP



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION



Youth Ambassadors Evaluations



“ I am motivated to help schools become more eco-friendly because I want future generations to respect our planet and thrive.

— Christian



“ I realized that my identity is not found only in my race. You discover who you are once you find your sense of place. Nature helps me get away from distractions and find myself.

— Jessica



“ After past challenges, I didn't trust people, and worse, I didn't trust myself. Youth Ambassadors helped me to be more confident every day and made me push my limits and overcome them.

— Eleanore

Pathways for Youth: Inna's Story

“ I graduated from Mount Vernon High School this year. Adopted at age 3 from Russia, I grew up in the Pacific Northwest. My first involvement with North Cascades Institute was Mountain School in 6th grade. I decided that I like being outside and learning about the environment. The summer after 10th grade, I nervously arrived for the 8-day Youth Leadership Adventures course. It was my first time camping with people other than my family.

After, I wished that it lasted a whole week more.

I've grown my enthusiasm for learning every year since by participating in additional Youth Leadership programs. I attend the Summit and last year I was a Youth

Ambassador. We went on field trips, volunteered with park rangers, and learned about college and career planning. I then participated in the 12-day Science & Sustainability course this summer.

Leadership and public speaking were challenges that I faced. I had trouble saying what was on my mind and seeing myself as a leader. This summer, our instructor Dakota taught me that everyone is a leader, just in their own way. I had similar lessons before, but it sunk in this time. I gravitate towards being a “guide,” known as “participative leadership.” Finding my way as a leader is an unending path.

Now I'm planning to enroll at WWU's Huxley College and apply for the YLA Internship in 2019. I'm proud of having been an Ambassador, a "Ross Lake Leader," and a "Cascadian Cookie Bear." I'm thankful to be part of such an important group of outdoorists and tree huggers in the PNW.



2018 Partners and Supporters

This May, 170 people contributed to Youth Leadership Adventure scholarships during our Give Big for Youth campaign, raising over \$180,000 for all of our youth and school programs. Thank you!

Special thanks to Northwest Youth Leadership Summit sponsors and for in-kind gear donations from Crocs, GearAid and SmartWool.



Seattle City Light

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Aguila	Candi & Dick James	Gary Peterson Memorial	Leadership
Amy Brown	Community Catalyst	Fund	Lee Cole
Andrew Goodwill Murphy	Cook and Sullivan Fund	for Youth	Lorrie Otto
Memorial Fund			Michele and Robert
Ann Zwinger	Darby Foundation	Georgina	Liburdy
Booth Family	Dee & Chuck Robinson	Glasoe Family	The Skagit Scholarship
	Dream Green	Guemes Island	Weisberg Family
	Fritzberg	Environmental Trust	
		Huisman Family	
		Kevin LaFleur Youth	

GRANTS

Anonymous Foundation	Swinomish Indian Tribal
D.V. and Ida J.	Community
McEachern Trust	Tulalip Tribes Charitable
	Trust
Henry M. Jackson	Washington Stste
Foundation	Recreation &
OneFamily Foundation	Conservation Office No
Skagit Environmental	Child Left Inside Grant
Endowment Commission	Whatcom Community
	Foundation

“ Our scholarship recipient is driven to find meaning from his YLA experience, shaping his education and world view. This is exactly how we hoped our gift would affect young people. As long as programs like Youth Leadership Adventures exist, hope will prevail.

— Michele and Robert Liburdy, 2018 Scholarship Donor