

2013

SUMMARY REPORT

# NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES



## PURPOSE

North Cascades Institute's Youth Leadership Adventures builds the next generation of conservation leaders by providing a suite of transformational learning experiences for youth who lack access to similar opportunities. The goal is to provide a gateway for youth to jumpstart their lifelong engagement with nature, stewardship and community and to provide an opportunity for personal, academic, and professional growth. The program uses a tiered tuition structure with scholarships available.

### Empower

youth to make a difference through civic action, stewardship, sustainable behaviors and workforce opportunities



### Develop

effective leadership, communication and public speaking skills



### Connect

underserved youth to nature, wilderness and public lands



### Provide

firsthand knowledge about ecology, field science and climate change



## FORMAT

Youth Leadership Adventures backcountry courses take place in North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Transportation to the program site, gear, and food is provided. Key program components in 2013 included:

### 8-day

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP & STEWARDSHIP COURSES FOR

14-16 YR OLDS

### 15-day

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY COURSES FOR

16-18 YR OLDS

### 31-day

LEADERSHIP CORPS COURSE FOR

18-22 YR OLDS

### 2-day

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

for all ALUMNI

### 1-day

FALL REUNION IN SEATTLE

for all ALUMNI

# 2013 AT A GLANCE

**\$495-\$1,845** Listed tuition

**117**  
applications  
received

**78**  
students  
participated  
in courses

**100**  
youth and  
families  
attended  
the reunion

**60**  
students  
attended  
the Youth  
Leadership  
Conference

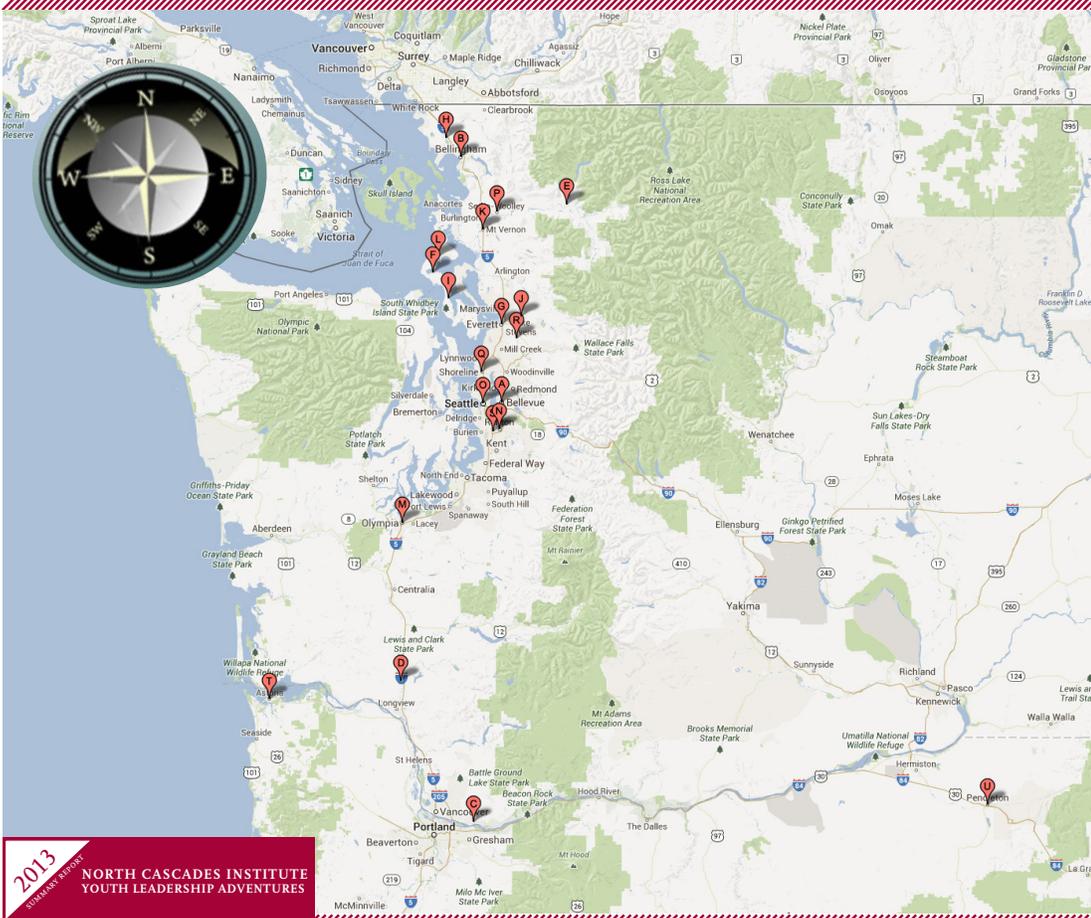
**96%**  
of students  
received  
financial  
assistance

**73%**  
of students  
qualified as  
underserved

**14-19**  
age range of  
participants



# PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES



- Anacortes
- Bellevue
- Bellingham
- Camas
- Castle Rock
- Concrete
- Coupeville
- Everett
- Ferndale
- Greenbank
- Lake Stevens
- Mount Vernon
- Oak Harbor
- Olympia
- Renton
- Seattle
- Sedro-Woolley
- Shoreline
- Snohomish
- Tukwila
- Astoria, OR
- Pendleton, OR

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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78 students contributed 2,688 service hours benefiting ecosystems in North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Service work completed included the following:



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**78** students contributed

**2,688** service hours

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**5** fire rings installed

**8** tent pads constructed or expanded

**600** sq feet of illegal tent pad space decommissioned

**650** feet of social trails decommissioned

**12** miles of trail brushed and maintained

**11** signs installed

**430** feet of new trail constructed

**3** pounds of invasive reed canarygrass removed

**15** pounds of invasive rush skeletonweed removed

**33** drainage ditches cleaned and maintained

**1** water bar and **1** check step constructed

**8** food storage boxes installed at Baker Lake

# EVALUATION

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**91%** of participants reported being very or extremely interested in pursuing other opportunities to protect or restore the environment, either by volunteering or as a career.

# FROM THE STUDENTS



“I want to thank you for your support of programs like this, because they are so vital, not only to the growth of young people individually, but also to the future of national parks and natural areas.”

– Leadership Corps participant



“Over the course of fifteen days, I became more open and willing, worked on my sense of place and connection to nature, and transformed into a more positive, passionate, and appreciative person”

– Science and Sustainability participant



“I am so grateful to have had this opportunity! It has re-sparked my interest for science, and I feel more of a call to go into some field in botany....I have learned that I am a part of nature and not just a visitor.”

– Leadership Corps participant



“I have learned so much while on this trip....how to canoe, pack a backpack efficiently, different types of forest fires (crown and ground), watersheds, climate change, and many other things....”

– Outdoor Leadership and Stewardship participant

## 2013 PARTNERS

Youth Leadership Adventures is made possible with the generous support of many individuals and organizations, including:



North Cascades National Park, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, Tom and Sonya Campion Fund, The North Face Explore Fund, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Skagit Community Foundation, Fred Meyer Corporation, Horizons Foundation, Quest for Truth Foundation, OneFamily Foundation, National Forest Foundation, Outdoor Youth Connections, Clif Bar Family Foundation, McEachern Charitable Trust, SmartWool Advocacy Fund, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Foundation, Alcoa Intalco Works, Washington Foundation for the Environment, Zumiez, McNett Corporation, REI, Blue Heron Farm, Ross Lake Resort, Summer Search, and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. A special thank you to Ethan Welty, Patrick Kennedy, Karlie Rowland, Jessica Newley and Aneka Singlaub for the donation of the photos for this publication.

NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE



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