



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES



The purpose of Youth Leadership Adventures is to build the next generation of conservation leaders by providing a suite of transformational learning experiences for youth who lack access to similar opportunities. Backcountry courses (canoeing and backpacking) take place in North Cascades National Park, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

2015 PROGRAM COMPONENTS INCLUDED:

- Outdoor Leadership courses for 14-16 yr olds (8-day)
- Science and Sustainability courses for 16-18 yr olds (16-day)
- Youth Leadership Conference open to all alumni (3-day)
- Reunion in Seattle for all alumni (1-day)
- Mentorship and continuing opportunities for all alumni



**Sense of Place &
Community**



**Ecological Literacy &
Field Science**



**Leadership &
Communication Skills**



**Volunteerism &
Empowerment**

STUDENT STORY

Youth Leadership Adventures brought me outside of the world in which we're all so used to living. I loved every second of it, because for me the whole point of it was to find a piece of myself out there so that I had a reason to preserve it.

During my trip, I learned that despite the number of times you say you "can't," you can. I now have a better understanding of how much you have to believe that you can do something in order to do it right. That is something that I have carried with me ever since.

Youth Leadership Adventures is, simply put, something different. Sometimes we get so used to the culture of non-stop, on-going schedules that we forget we have options. Participating in Youth Leadership Adventures can cure that problem within 8 days. Leaving your behind your phone, music, and mirror for a few days can give you one of the clearest pictures of yourself that you'll ever need.

LUCIA, OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP STUDENT 2015

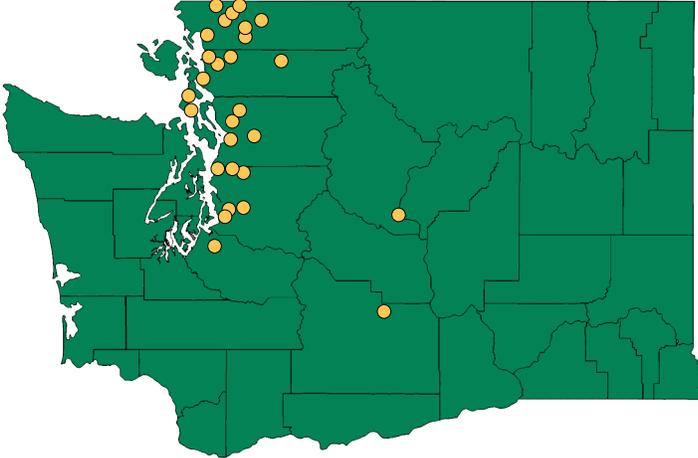


AT A GLANCE

TUITION: \$985-1,845
AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD \$1,007

PROGRAM	88 Students completed backpacking and canoeing courses	61 Students attended the Youth Leadership Conference	91% Received scholarships	Students spent over 18,000 hours learning and exploring the wilderness
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PEOPLE	59% Free and reduced lunch	69% People of color/ non-white	14 Nationalities represented	15 Languages spoken	66% Speak non-English languages at home
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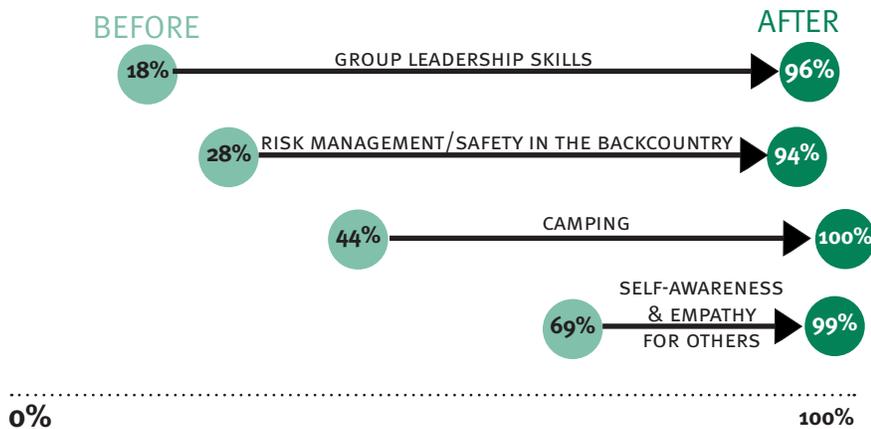
PLACES	Participating communities:		Acme	Mt. Vernon
			Arlington	Nooksack
			Bellingham	Oak Harbor
			Bow	Renton
		Concrete	SeaTac	
		Coupeville	Seattle	
		Deming	Sedro-Woolley	
		Everett	Shoreline	
		Everson	Sumas	
		La Conner	Tukwila	
		Lake Forest Park	Wenatchee	
		Lake Stevens	Woodinville	
		Lakewood	Yakima	
		Lynden	*Plus 3 out of state (OR, FL, ME)	
		Maple Falls		
		Marysville		

PROJECTS	Participants completed environmental stewardship projects that improved ecological health and infrastructure on our public lands. Students spent 1,695 hours working on service projects, including:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planting 1,000 native plants removing 45 pounds of non-native plants maintaining 14 miles of trail constructing 2 bridges and maintaining 2 additional bridges decommissioning 1 old bridge collecting 14 gallons of native seed preparing 1 acre for native seed planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing 22 pounds of garbage and 10 fire rings from backcountry campsites improving 5 campsites closing 1 unauthorized campsite installing 16 signs constructing 2 tent pads moving 1 toilet maintaining 10 drainage ditches

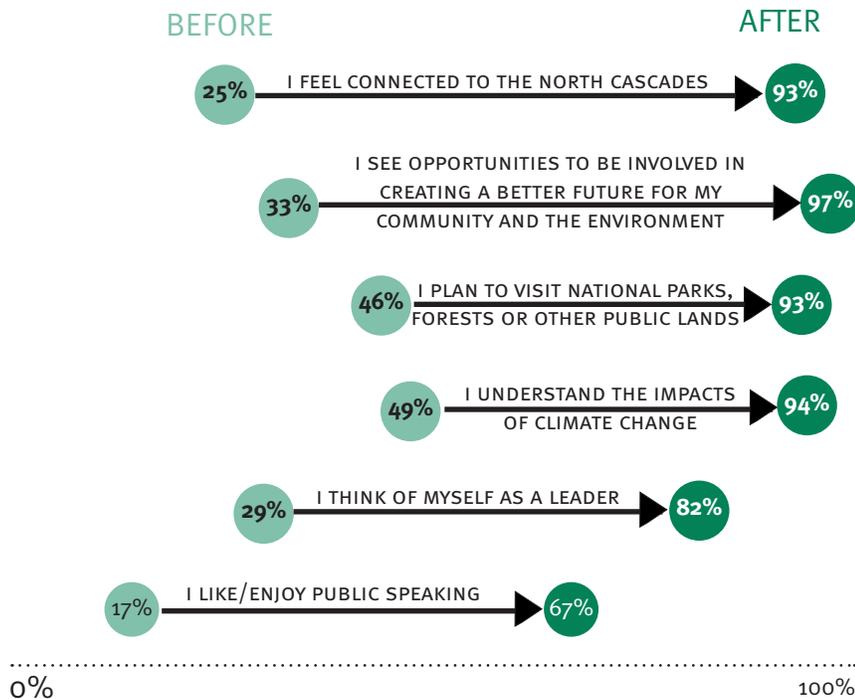
OUTCOMES & EVALUATION

We conduct surveys that ask students to respond to questions related to the program's content pillars. Students consistently report feeling stronger emotionally and physically following their courses.

In 2015 nearly all students reported feeling confident or very confident in their outdoor skills, leadership, self-awareness and empathy after Youth Leadership Adventures.



Nearly all students agreed or strongly agreed with statements representing Youth Leadership Adventures' three pillars after participating in 2015.



I am now encouraged that I have to let myself out and not be afraid to speak out my mind.



I saw proof that what I did matters. One of my instructors showed me a spot where plants had grown after she had rehabilitated the area many years ago.



Hearing the positive comments about my leading was a definite confidence boost. I believe that with time, effort and dedication I can make a huge difference.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND VIDEOS VISIT OUR MULTIMEDIA SITE @ ncascades.org/multimedia

NOTABLE IN 2015:

- Two courses were all-girls
- Two backpacking courses allowed students to travel farther into the backcountry to complete more rigorous service projects
- We expanded into the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest with a pack-supported course to complete restoration work at Fred's Lake
- Two wonderful alumni returned as apprentices to lead trips

An excellent example of our Path for Youth Initiative:

Crystal started in our Kulshan Creek Neighborhood program, participated in a Youth Leadership Adventures course in 2014, told her story in front of 150 adults at a public event, organized a fun run at her school to raise money for the Kulshan Creek program and returned in 2015 as a Youth Leadership Adventures apprentice. She was the first person in her family to attend college and continues to motivate others. Read more about Crystal and others at <http://ncascades.org/support/impact-stories>.



I haven't had the easiest life growing up . . . After this summer I felt like I could do anything. The leadership skills and confidence I gained are something I will never forget. - Crystal Sierra

“The students of mine who’ve attended this program gain a sense of confidence and increased self-efficacy or the belief in their own ability to affect their situation. They definitely return with more willingness to apply themselves and try new things. I have seen their grades and attendance improve as well.”

– Sara McManus, Wenatchee High School Counselor

2015 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you so much to the many individuals and organizations who generously supported Youth Leadership Adventures, including:



Seattle City Light



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Interlm Community Development Association, Klondike Gold Rush and Lewis and Clark National Historical Parks, Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, Mountaineers, National Outdoor Leadership School, Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Valley College, Student Conservation Association, Washington Conservation Corps, Washington Trails Association, Western Washington University and Wilderness Awareness School.



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