



## 2017 STATISTICS

15

New interns

24

Youth participants

9

Different schools

10

Diverse cultural backgrounds

7 of 15

Youth continuing from fall pilot group

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**National parks** are places where young people develop skills to create change in communities and society. Parklands defined by the past are places where the future is shaped. When young people in the **I-YEL** program teach lesson plans, coordinate events, or recreate in their national park, they also explore social and environmental justice issues, serve as park ambassadors, and influence how parks support communities.

### Leading by Example

For over a decade, I-YEL teens have befriended recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize which honors six grassroots heroes from the world's inhabited continental regions. Each young person researches an award winner's path to community activism and introduces the winner at an intimate event for environmental youth groups and park staff.

### Youth Voice in a National Park

National parks are transforming into community resources. Students explore their relationship and role to park history and future through leadership, turning personal experiences into park stories. When youth teach lessons, coordinate events, or recreate in this space, they explore justice themes, act as envoys, and reshape who this park serves.

**I-YEL Leadership Program** is a partnership with Leadership High School (LHS), California's first start-up charter high school. This expansion is a first in I-YEL's history with on-site lessons exploring connections to nature, increasing accessibility for those unavailable for the standard program, and deepening the Center's reach in San Francisco. Participants discover themselves and their national parks with the chance to transition to the spring-summer cohort.

“There is something special about this program that keeps us coming back. Community. I believe that the Crissy Field Center is my second home, filled with people that make me genuinely happy. Lives are changed in this program.”

— Sarah Hoang



## PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

**Leading the Leaders:** Youth Leadership Coordinator Guilder took charge of the Leadership High School program this year. A former I-YEL intern himself, Guilder's curriculum centered on community and connection. Discussion activities explored identity and stereotypes. Students created digital stories and wrote poetry that discussed the value and importance of their own voices.

I-YEL has become a part of life in this past year. It has helped me grow as a person, be more confident, and step out of my comfort zone. It's like a community to me. I used to be shy and awkward, more introverted, but towards the end of the program I started leading and speaking out more

-- Tatyana, Leadership High School student



## TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS



**Bay Area Civil Rights Spring Break Park Hop** is a five-day program for 15 youth of color, connecting African American heritage and culture across 5 Bay Area National Park Service (NPS) sites. Staff provides resources to an African American NPS Ranger team while students from Downtown and Civic Center High Schools receive stipends, expressing themselves through professionally guided creative productions.