



2018 STATISTICS

22

Interns from 7 different high schools

212

Contact hours per participant

103

High school students attended 3 day 2 night Backyard Bound Youth Summit

13

Youth interns in the Leadership High School afterschool program

15

15 Youth in Park Hop, a black history spring break program exploring 5 different NPS locations

153

Total I-YEL alumni since 2001

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

National parks are places where young people develop skills to create change in communities and society. When young people in the Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders (I-YEL) program teach, coordinate events, or recreate in their national park, they also explore social and environmental justice issues while serving as park ambassadors.

Leading by Example: For over a decade, I-YEL teens have stepped up to host recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize, an award that honors six grassroots heroes. Meeting a globally known local hero who fights for environmental justice is a unique and motivating experience. The stories these heroes tell is what transforms young people into advocates for protecting and preserving communities and the environment.



Francia Marquez is a big inspiration to me for the dedication she had for her community in her native land. She stood up for her people and provided them a voice to fight back against greedy corporations.

—Anthony Rodriguez, 2018 I-YEL Intern

Youth Voice in a National Park: Youth leaders are transforming this national park to be more relevant, inclusive, and equitable for their community. When youth lead in our national parks, they explore justice themes, act as envoys, and reshape who this park serves. Families and communities that have never been a part of national parks become new members of the park story.

Connecting with Schools in the Community: The I-YEL Program partnered with Leadership High School (LHS), California's first start-

up charter high school, for the second year. Young people from the communities south-east of San Francisco normally experience barriers to national parks. This expansion program grants opportunities for new young people to connect through a park leadership program in their own community. More accessible programs serve new generations of young people unable to join us in national parks this far from home.



PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

LEADING THE LEADERS

Jasmin is a leader in I-YEL who joined through the LHS program. She grew in personal responsibility as a freshman and practiced using her public speaking voice to carry over into the I-YEL yearlong program in January. With her confidence growing and public speaking becoming more and more natural, Jasmin presented a Goldman winner, a rare honor for a freshman. Jasmin continued to take on speaking roles during the Backyard Bound youth summit and sharpened her communication and leadership skills through her summer internship leading middle school youth in Urban Trailblazers, an eight-week leadership program. Jasmin's commitment to Urban Trailblazers and her own personal growth is guiding her into her second year of the program where she will mentor younger leaders. She is an unstoppable force fueled by passion for her community and justice.



I-YEL was one of the greatest decisions I ever made and one of the most memorable experiences in my life. It taught me lessons that I can use even in my adulthood such as patience, communication, public speaking, and how to care about my community. Most of all, I-YEL is a family that I'm so glad to be a part of and will always be grateful for.

—Jasmin Martinez, 2018 Leadership HS I-YEL Intern



TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS



Fifteen youth of color from two San Francisco high schools connected with African American heritage and culture through national parks. Participants visited five Bay Area National Park Service sites during their spring break. Center staff partnered with Maritime National Historic Site staff to provide a powerful and unique experience, bringing undiscovered stories to life. Students received stipends and school credit for their participation.

This program needs to be worldwide. I learned more in this program than I learned in school.

— Park Hop Participant



KEY PARTNER

LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

PARK HOP PARTNERS

- Downtown High School
- Civic Center Secondary School

BACKYARD BOUND PARTNERS

- EverForward club
- Greenagers
- Poder!
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Richmond District Neighborhood Center
- Literacy for Environmental Justice
- Groundwork Richmond
- Community Grows