



2018 STATISTICS

66

Participants completed a seven-week summer program

11

High school summer interns (4 were past UTB participants)

9

Middle schools represented (James Lick, Rooftop, Francisco, Marina, Roosevelt, Lawton Alternative, Alice Fong Yu Alternative, Visitacion Valley, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Academic Alternative)

212

Contact hours per participant during the seven-week program

16

Summer participants return for the school year UTB Saturday program

147.4

Contact hours per participant during the school-year program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our approach to youth development in our national parks utilizes park resources to build skills and explore social and environmental justice themes, examining the past, present, and future. Urban Trailblazers (UTB) is a youth leadership program based in the Presidio of San Francisco designed especially for middle school-age youth. For seven weeks each summer, 66 culturally, racially, and economically diverse youth from San Francisco Bay Area public schools learn leadership through art, media, and science workshops and participate in service

through projects both within—and beyond—the Golden Gate National Parks.

For many youth, UTB is their first internship and upon completion offers a \$250 education award. Youth continue the program during the school-year with the UTB Saturday program, delving deeper into the dynamics of leadership and engagement.

Exploring this park is a new experience for many of these young people. In this environment, youth deepen and expand their understanding of themselves, their parks and their communities.



Rob Hill Ignite is a multi-day overnight lesson where youth connect deeply with national parks and each other. Parks offer opportunities to challenge youth in socially, emotionally, and physically safe spaces. Youth engage in group-based activities like ropes courses, camping, and talent shows.

These experiences build camaraderie, personal growth, and a connection to nature.

Building Integrity Through Entrepreneurship (BITE) is Project-Based Learning where youth examine businesses in and around national parks, allowing them to discuss lessons on the environment, society, and economic sustainability. They developed socially responsible pizza shops which were rated and scored by a panel of judges on taste, presentation, and the environmental impact of ingredients. With the money raised students were able to support local artists, community organizations, and individuals.



PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

Nhi Nguyen first learned about UTB as a high school intern with LINC, another park program, and was encouraged to apply for the summer internship by her mentors who thought she could explore her interests in outdoor education, environmental justice, and leadership.

She learned that a summer intensive program like UTB can be physically demanding but very rewarding. This was her first time mentoring middle school students for an entire summer which helped improve her interpersonal skills.

Nhi was hired as the UTB Middle School Instructor and now sees herself as a more confident leader and educator. Eager to be a part of a community driven by impacting the lives of San Francisco youth, she hopes to fulfill a role for others that was unavailable to her. Nhi was not exposed to national parks or the outdoors as a child and relates with many of the youth she mentors in UTB.



I hope to gain trust from the youth by holding space and helping them connect to a community bigger than themselves.

—Nhi Nguyen



TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS



For the last two years UTB's after-school program has been building connections with youth who can apply to the summer program. In 2019, we will offer Saturday programs to youth from Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. Students will contribute to service projects within and around the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

UTB will also meet multiple times per week during the academic school year, and youth will explore neighborhoods

to examine variables that contribute positively to communities. Students will learn about themselves through team-based games, activities, and lessons in self-identity, stereotypes, and prejudice. Over the course of 16 individual meetings, youth will connect with the Golden Gate National Parks through recreation, education, and service.



KEY PARTNERS

