



ISSUE BRIEFING: youth engagement

Giving to the Minnesota Environmental Fund ensures that youth can learn, engage, and be empowered through leadership development, events and outdoor opportunities. Together, we can ensure that Minnesota's young people lead healthy, active and sustainable lives, and become environmental stewards and conservation leaders of today and tomorrow. **Connecting youth to nature and environmental issues ensures the preservation of Minnesota's environment for future generations.**

Your support contributes to key actions, including these initiatives of our 21 member groups:

- **Addressing educational and opportunity disparities, and ensuring that everyone has access to parks and healthy food:**
 - **Wilderness Inquiry** connects over 10,000 urban youth and youth with disabilities to wild and natural places in their local communities every year.
 - **The Trust for Public Land** works with cities large and small to ensure that kids of all ages have parks, gardens, playgrounds, trails and other natural places within a ten-minute walk from their home.
 - **Minnesota Food Association** hosts youth and family programs at its farm near the St. Croix River, focusing on organic sustainable farming and people who grow their food.
- **Providing outdoor learning and stewardship in Minnesota's national parks and wilderness:**
 - **Voyageurs National Park Association** provides Minnesota high school students with a multi-day outdoor learning expedition in Voyageurs National Park through the National Park Teen Ambassador program.
 - **Friends of the Mississippi River** offers habitat restoration projects, storm drain stenciling outings, and environmental education activities for youth and families along the Mississippi River to protect the essential public values of the river in the Twin Cities
- **Empowering Minnesota youth to lead on climate and conservation advocacy:**
 - **Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy's** Emerging Leaders program supports high school and college youth leadership in shaping climate change solutions through education, mentorship and capacity building, key strategies in the transition to a just and sustainable future for all.
 - **Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness** provides the Conservation Fellows Program for racially diverse high school students to experience wilderness and engage in conservation stewardship and advocacy.
 - The Conservation Leadership Corps, sponsored by **Minnesota Conservation Federation**, helps high school and college students increase their skills in leadership, communication, advocacy, and policy related to protecting Minnesota's natural resources.
- **Training youth for environmental employment opportunities:**
 - In JobPrep, **Tree Trust** provides job training and work experience for young adults, boosting their self-confidence while greening and reforesting the Twin Cities urban landscape.

Want to learn more? Visit www.mnenvirofund.org, and these members' pages: www.climategen.org, www.friends-bwca.org, www.fmr.org, www.mnfoodassociation.org, www.treetrust.org, www.tpl.org/our-work/minnesota, www.wildernessinquiry.org, www.voyageurs.org