



Program Description

YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESC) is a high school leadership and environmental service-learning program which combines four key elements: leadership development, environmental education, service-learning and international/cross-cultural awareness. YESC partners with area schools to form extracurricular clubs. Teachers and community volunteers serve as adult advisors, students provide energy and leadership, and YMCA staff provide resources and support. YESC also offers wilderness adventure and environmental education opportunities such as kayaking trips for students to explore the natural world during the summer.

Number of Participants Served

During the 2005-2006 school year, YESC served 50 high schools in the Puget Sound area, and engaged over 1400 students in more than 160 environmental service projects. Over 250 adult volunteers participated in direct service with students and in environmental service-learning projects.

Participant Profile

Participants are primarily high school students, ages 13-19, who are interested in environmental issues, developing leadership skills and serving their community. The program has continued to make special efforts to increase the racial and economic diversity of its participants. In 2005-2006, approximately 32% of program participants were youth of color.

How Does a Person Become a Participant?

Students can sign up for YESC at their school or local YMCA. YESC is a year-round program. College students are also engaged in the program as volunteers.

History of the Program

YESC started in Seattle in 1989 at the Metrocenter YMCA. Since that time, Earth Service Corps has expanded into a national YMCA teen program model.

Key Staff

Alicia Blood, Seattle Earth Service Corps Youth Development Director
ablood@mc.seattleyymca.org (206) 223-1628

Ben Opdyke, Seattle Earth Service Corps Program Coordinator
bopdyke@mc.seattleyymca.org (206) 587-6112



For More Information:

Metrocenter YMCA
909 Fourth Avenue
Seattle WA 98104

www.metrocenteryymca.org
www.yesc.org