

OYC awarded \$1200 to the Garfield High School Ecology class to attend a 3-day field trip with NatureBridge at in the Olympic National Park.



The goal is increasing awareness of native ecology by challenging youth with hands-on experiments and the opportunity to practice the scientific method.

Environmental issues are visited in contexts that are relevant to urban life, empowering students with knowledge and life-skills that are meaningful back home.

NatureBridge environmental science offers the opportunity to learn hands-on science in an International Biosphere Reserve. The residential outdoor science programs are led by experienced educators and customized to enhance each school's curriculum.

- A classroom without walls: Located on the shore of glacially carved Lake Crescent, students can investigate old growth forests, wilderness coasts, and alpine peaks.
- Inquiry-based learning: Motivated by their own curiosity, students monitor the dynamic Elwha River system, collect and identify macroinvertebrates in Barnes Creek, and study the adaptations of local mammals in our skins and skulls lab.
- Responsible actions: Students are inspired to make informed decisions about what constitutes a healthy relationship between natural and human communities, their role in that relationship and appropriate actions they can take to sustain it.

During the field trip, the students will focus on forest ecology and watershed science, topics chosen specifically to integrate well with the units previously covered in their classroom studies.

**Coordinated by Rachel Finley and Heather Snookal**