

OYC awarded \$3,000 to the North Cascades Institute for their “North Cascades Wild” program.

The North Cascades Wild curriculum is built around four key themes: leadership development, sense of community, environmental awareness, and stewardship. These themes are infused into 8 and 12-day field trips within the North Cascades National Park and Mount-Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. Participants learn camping, canoeing, and backpacking skills in addition to leadership and environmental responsibilities.



The youth also participate in service projects such as backcountry trail and campsite restoration, riparian restoration, reseeded shiner research, and monitoring water quality. They learn about the cultural and natural history of the region and how their personal choices have an effect on the world around them. Time for reflection is a key component of the program and is encouraged through silent sits, daily journaling activities and group discussions.

The program also incorporates monthly field trips for conservation and restoration service projects, as well as a Leadership Conference at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center.

“There are not enough words to express my gratitude and my appreciations. It was an honor to attend and my role in dtewardship doesn’t end just here. It is just the beginning.”
- Kai, Shoreline, WA

“This program had made me be more confident (about) what I want to be when I grow up. After looking at all those beautiful stars...I want to study something in science when I go to college. I also learned that we need to take care of our planet more carefully. We need to start recycling, stop pollution, stop littering, and think about the animals that can get affected by this nonsense.”
– Cindy, Mount Vernon, WA

After completing North Cascades Wild, I went onto join full-time running start and have re- created myself in that time. I attribute most of my growth to have begun with my service learning completed on our trip together in 2007. I have gone on to do wonderful things during my undergraduate, including hundreds of hours of service work, and I hope that most all other alumni were empowered to do thesame!”
– Marianne, 2007 alumnus