

In Service *of the* Future

The Nature Conservancy's youth engagement work is global, growing and grounded in service—to students and young activists, teachers and parents, and conservation professionals around the world.



I envision a future where people and wildlife coexist as one. I see green buildings, land bridges, and insect hotels. I see a better place for everyone to be and I strive to get there little by little each and every day.

Charlye Stewart

Watershed Stewardship Fellow with TNC Delaware

With more than 130 state, regional and country programs, the Youth Engagement program aspires to:

INFORM → young people around the world through content, curriculum, videos and virtual field trips on Nature Lab.

CONNECT → TNC's global youth and community outreach staff to drive collaboration, provide funding and partnership opportunities, and support anti-racist programming.

ELEVATE → the voices of young activists and support their access to and engagement in critical conversations around environmentalism, conservation and climate change.

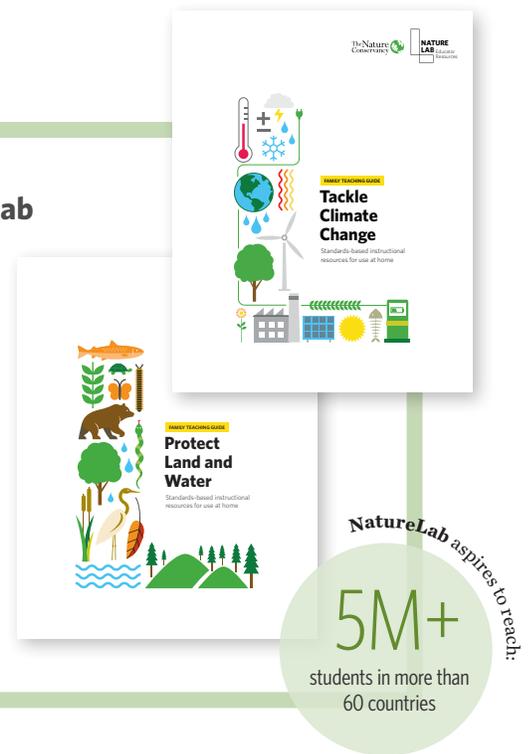
SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards) Interns Mercedes Robinson-Neasloss (right) and Mercy Mason (left) explore tidepools during a break from harvesting traditional food near Klemtu, British Columbia, Canada © Jason Houston.



INFORMING students, teachers and parents through NatureLab

Educators, teachers and students are eager for reliable, affordable and trusted resources that introduce lessons about nature and the environment and explore complex topics like sustainability, biodiversity and climate change. According to a 2019 Ipsos/NPR poll, 86% of teachers in the United States think climate change should be taught in school, but 55% of them do not currently teach or talk to their students about it. Nature Lab is designed to meet that need.

The lesson plans, teaching guides and virtual field trips leverage TNC's science, staff and creative storytelling to bring new places, projects and scientific concepts to young people around the world.



CONNECTING staff in continuous learning and partnership

The Youth Engagement Hub is a virtual network for staff to learn from one another, collaborate, communicate and develop a strong community of practice in service of TNC's growing network of youth and community-focused programs across North America, Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean and China.

The Hub represents TNC's first attempt to connect our myriad youth programs and cooperate across countries to problem solve and share best practices in pursuit of equitable and inclusive ways to engage and educate young people in the United States and around the world.

The Hub aspires to serve:

20,000

young people through
130+ programs

ELEVATING diverse voices to support young climate and conservation advocates everywhere

TNC has a long history of working with young people, but this moment in history calls on us to work differently, in a more holistic and integrated way. Our Youth Engagement team spent months identifying, connecting with and listening to youth-led groups and young advocates from a variety of backgrounds and geographies. What we found was unambiguous: Young leaders need support in funding and fundraising, science and subject matter expertise, communications training, and access to leaders, policymakers, legislators and people with the power to drive sustainable change.

To help address those needs, we're building intentional partnerships with other nonprofits, organizations and businesses committed to amplifying diverse leaders, like Youth4Nature (Y4N) a global network of more than 4,000 youth leaders and environmental advocates.



Staff members from First State National Historical Park (left and center) with 2020 Alliance for Watershed Education (AWE) Fellow Charlye Stewart (right) © Kim Hachadoorian/TNC.



“It’s such a privilege to witness youth gaining confidence and growing as individuals and as future leaders of their communities. Emerging leader programs facilitate the intergenerational transmission of cultural and ecological knowledge, which is critical to Indigenous communities rebuilding their connections to territory, culture and community. Given the traumatic history of colonization in Canada, that’s incredibly important.”

Zahra Remtulla,
On-the-Land Programs Coordinator, Nature United (TNC Canada)



“I love it out there [in the Caribbean], whether we’re working in the [coral] nurseries or waiting for spawn or just doing reef surveys. It feels wonderful to wake up and know that the work I’m doing is impacting not only me but is going to help so many more people down the line.”

Silia Woodside
Intern, Bahamas Coral Innovation Hub



“I think we have to view climate change both sociologically and environmentally, because it affects both people and nature. The way you talk to people about an issue like this can affect the way that they perceive the information you are providing. If we don’t handle social problems in addition to climate problems, we won’t have the amount of people we need or the force we need to address it, because people will still be preoccupied with their own problems. Ultimately, we are a part of the environment, so when we talk about improving it, we have to talk about improving it for both us and nature.”

Antoine Stokes
Intern, Indian Boundary Prairie
Youth Environmental Thinkers Program

TNC has spent more than two decades sharing the importance of conservation and supporting and connecting children with nature—and now we’re pushing ourselves to do more.

From top left: Youth climate activists and staff from The Nature Conservancy in Washington, and others participated in the Seattle Climate Strike 2019 © Nikolaj Lasbo/TNC; shallow reef and limestone islet, Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, Bahamas © Jeff Yonover.

To support our commitment to service and ambition to inform, connect and elevate, contact:

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