



# Youth Stewardship Program



In an effort to provide long-term, consistent, and high-quality education and stewardship opportunities to as many youth as possible, YSP has teamed up to form the Stewardship & Environmental Education Collaborative of San Francisco (SEEC-SF). Members include the Green Schoolyard Alliance, Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), California Academy of Sciences, Kids in Parks and the Presidio. The founding organizations are united by the following themes: environmental justice, restoration and stewardship, place-based learning & biodiversity.

To learn more about SEEC-SF, please visit:  
[www.seecsf.org](http://www.seecsf.org)



## For more information, contact:

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San Francisco Recreation & Parks

## Youth Stewardship Program

The Youth Stewardship Program (YSP) engages youth, 4th–12th grade, in environmental education and service-learning projects in parks citywide. Our mission is to foster in youth an understanding of their important role in helping to build healthy social and natural communities. The program is free of cost and available to any youth group in San Francisco.

The comprehensive program includes a classroom visit followed by five field trips to a park within easy walking distance or a short bus ride from your school. Classes will also receive a free copy of our curriculum that outlines state educational standards met by YSP activities; help designing and coordinating a community action project; hands-on educational activities covering themes such as: Sense of Place, Plant Adaptations, Water and Soil, Animal Adaptations, and Interdependence. Each field trip consists of an educational component and hands-on habitat restoration.

### Benefits to Youth

- Outdoor, physically engaging learning environment
- Knowledge of San Francisco's natural and cultural history
- Valuable life skills, such as leadership and teamwork
- Strong sense of community

### Benefits to Educators

- FREE
- Place-based, service-learning
- Meet standards in creative and effective ways
- Access to curricula and adult volunteers

## What the teachers have to say...

*The most valuable aspect of the Youth Stewardship Program is getting kids comfortable outside, connecting with nature, and learning to take responsibility for a world greater and greener than their normal path from bed to school, to TV at home.*

JOHNNY HANSELL, WEST PORTAL ELEMENTARY,  
MT. DAVIDSON

*The program gives students—largely “city kids” with little outdoor experience—an opportunity to learn about their natural communities and shows them how they can become responsible caretakers for these natural areas. It’s the best kind of learning: interactive, hands-on, service-oriented...the list goes on!*

KAY KIRMAN, MIRALOMA ELEMENTARY,  
GLEN CANYON

*I thought the restoration activities were great! I wish I would have taken before and after pictures. It encouraged students who don't usually interact to work side by side. Students really are successful learners when they DO things.*

DONNA LEE, GRATTAN ELEMENTARY,  
OAK WOODLANDS: GOLDEN GATE PARK

*Students definitely developed a stronger sense of the natural world and were better able to discuss and understand environmental issues explored in the classroom. I saw a change in willingness to explore, heightened interest, and longer periods of engagement as the trips progressed.*

TIM LUBIC, MIRALOMA ELEMENTARY,  
MT. DAVIDSON

*This class gave me such HOPE that if you expose kids to the natural world without putting pressure on them, just for the pure reason to enjoy learning through play, THEY DELIVER! These students whom I was truly afraid would whine each trip, SHOWED ME that kids do want to matter and be respected and yes, working hard is a way to show their teachers and themselves that they can contribute and make a difference.*

CHERYL MCCUE,  
WEST PORTAL ELEMENTARY,  
PINE LAKE

