

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on February 7, 2025

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

**Project Title:** 375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystems By Canoe

**Project Manager:** Marissa Miller

**Affiliation:** YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

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**Website:** <https://www.ymcamn.org/>

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f

**Appropriation Amount:** \$375,000

**Amount Spent:** \$319,788

**Amount Remaining:** \$55,212

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Our program engaged 469 youth across Minnesota, surpassing our goal of 375. Through canoe-based and nature experiences, we fostered environmental stewardship, promoting appreciation and understanding of nature, leave no trace principles, and conservation, contributing to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

In Minnesota, many youth from underserved urban communities face significant barriers to accessing the outdoors. These obstacles often result in a lack of understanding of the numerous benefits that nature-based experiences offer, as well as a limited awareness of the importance of conservation efforts. Our project aimed to address these challenges by merging youth development with environmental education through immersive nature experiences. These experiences were primarily centered around canoe trips ranging from 2 to 9 nights on trail, incorporating principles such as Leave No Trace and providing educational content about the areas explored.

A large portion of the grant was used to provide scholarships for youth to participate in these transformative experiences. Over three years, we served 469 youth—319 during summer trips and 150 in the fall—exceeding our

original goal of 375 participants. These youth represented a diverse range of backgrounds, with many coming from low-income families or qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch programs. Our program partnerships spanned a wide variety of organizations, including Como Park High School (St. Paul), LEAP High School (St. Paul), the TORCH Program (Northfield), the Chinese Heritage Foundation (Twin Cities Metro), Creekstone Montessori (Red Wing), JK Movement (St. Paul), the Wilder Foundation (St. Paul), Y Start/Teen Thrive (Twin Cities Metro Area), YMCA of the North Youth and Family Services (Twin Cities Metro Area), Refuge Church (St. Paul), North Hennepin Community College (Twin Cities Metro), and Minnesota Transitions Charter School (Minneapolis).

Over the three years, we expanded both the number of partner organizations and the opportunities we provided. For example, Wilder sent participants each year, culminating in a two-week canoe trip after starting with shorter excursions. Many participants from organizations such as Y Start and Minnesota Transitions Charter School have continued their outdoor journeys, pursuing paid internships through the Y Adventure programs.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

The YMCA provided scholarships for 469 youth over three years from underserved communities, granting them the opportunity to experience wilderness trips. We averaged 49 trips per summer (averaging 6 days and 6 participants with 2 counselors) were offered from June to August. Data was collected for each trip and made available for year-round reporting, with cumulative annual reports (see annual report). Program registration began each January. Support for the program staff was provided, including a dedicated point person to manage staff, camper registration, family needs, program operations, and evaluation collection, ensuring smooth implementation and impact.



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** March 7, 2025

**ID Number:** 2020-001

**Staff Lead:** Mike Campana

**Project Title:** 375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystems By Canoe

**Project Budget:** \$375,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Marissa Miller

**Organization:** YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

**Office Telephone:** (612) 230-3150

**Email:** marissa.miller@ymcanorth.org

**Web Address:** <https://www.ymcamn.org/>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** February 7, 2025

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** February 7, 2025

**Project Completion:** August 31, 2024

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f

**Appropriation Language:** \$375,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities to connect approximately 375 underserved and diverse teens from urban areas and first-ring suburbs to environmental sciences in the natural world through canoeing and learning expeditions with experienced outdoor education counselors. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2025



## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Increase opportunity for 375 underserved, diverse teens, from urban and first-ring suburbs, to experience and connect to environmental sciences in the natural world through YMCA canoeing/learning expeditions with experienced

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

We propose to EXPAND this leadership and environmental education program to an additional 375 disadvantaged teens (most from YMCA after-school and teen programs) who, without funding, might never see the Minnesota wilderness. Youth will live immersed in nature with goals that they gain an appreciation of the Minnesota Wilderness and then use their knowledge and future leadership to use and preserve outdoor spaces.

The program was born of a recognition that youth were facing an equity gap in the cities and not participating in outdoor activities, and had little access the true Minnesota wilderness. A survey conducted in 2013 of youth through non-profit organizations in the cities indicated that 89% of youth stated they did not participate in outdoor activities, but they wanted to. In 2015 the YMCA began operation of this program to give underserved, diverse youth experiences in the wilderness. Today the program has grown to serve over 300 teens each summer, and is the second largest YMCA program of its kind in the nation.

Providing this opportunity for urban teens will advance the understanding of environmental ethics in our diverse communities and build community-wide integration of conservation, as well as ongoing participation in stewardship of

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

We are expanding this program because many any underserved youth are unaware of the value of our Minnesota wilderness, or how the loss of habitats will affect their future lives. They have had little or no experience in the outdoors. These at risk and underserved kids do not have the means to travel in nature without financial assistance.

On these expeditions youth will have some fun and an opportunity to experience nature firsthand, and see the world that exists beyond the sights, sounds, and smells of the city. Using the YMCA curriculum, they will:

- Learn camp craft and how to leave a small footprint in nature.
- Study wildlife and its natural habitat.
- Learn about native plants as pollinators and food sources.
- Learn about careers in natural resources, ecotourism, and environmental science.
- Gain experiences that will inspire further support, study, and volunteer service for the preservation of Minnesota wilderness.
- Develop lifelong leadership skills.

Expanding this program for an additional 375 underserved youth ages 12-17 will allow a total of 650 youth to camp and canoe through the natural laboratory of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and forest areas investigating bio-systems and seeing firsthand both pristine and environmentally impacted areas.

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

Our goal is to expand our program to add an additional 375 teens who have few opportunities to experience nature, camping, or gain knowledge of Minnesota's wilderness. These youth would not be able to participate without financial assistance. Minnesota benefits as youth participants from underserved communities, who would not have this opportunity without financial aid, will understand the impact they have on the environment and gain a lifelong conservation ethic.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Region(s): Metro

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

**Activity 1: An additional 375 youth from underserved communities will be awarded scholarships to access the program to learn and explore nature.**

**Activity Budget:** \$187,500

**Activity Description:**

The YMCA will provide scholarships for 375 youth over 3 years, from underserved communities so they can have the opportunity to access a wilderness experience. The program takes place on wilderness trips (approximately 25 trips annually June through August, average trip days is 12, with 9-12 participants accompanied by 2-3 counselors). Data is collected for each trip, and is available for reporting throughout the year, cumulative reports done annually. Registration for the program begins in January of each year.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
75 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year one	June 30, 2022
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2022
150 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year 2	June 30, 2023
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2023
375 youth will have accessed the program by year 3.	June 30, 2024
85% of participants will gain new appreciation and knowledge of nature, environment and preservation.	June 30, 2024
85% of youth demonstrate learned camp craft and leaving a small footprint	June 30, 2024
150 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year 3	June 30, 2024
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2024

## Activity 2: Staffing of the project

**Activity Budget:** \$187,500

**Activity Description:**

Support for the program staff point person who will manage all staff support and campers and camper family registration and needs, program operations, and evaluation collection.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2022
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2023
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2024

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

The YMCA will share outcomes of the project through reports and collected stories and surveys from participants to leadership, in marketing/outreach, and on social media. Program outcomes are used to inform program progress and program change, as well as provide information to potential funders.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

Program outcome evaluation will provide the YMCA a solid basis for leveraging sustainable funding going forward. The YMCA will use the outcome data to engage funders through foundation and corporate grants, annual giving, events and sponsorships to help sustain this program at the greater capacity.

Note\* this application is not in any way related to our 2021 application.



## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
Program Support Staff		1-2 part-time staff per year			25%	2.55		\$125,000	-	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$97,635</b>	<b>\$27,365</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-

Other Expenses										
		Scholarships for 400 youth from underserved communities	Scholarships directly support costs of trips for each youth. Includes food, camp site supplies, curriculum consumables, first aid, gear, and transportation to and from base camp.(average trip @ 12 days); 8-10 youth (on average) per trip: Food, snacks x 375 campers x \$65/day @ 12 days = \$292,500.00 additional costs: (1) curriculum supplies (\$5/camper x 375 = \$1,875), 2) Camp making supplies, water purify chemicals, tents, insect repellent, propane/pellets,(\$20/camper x 375 = \$7,500). 3) Camp/canoeing supplies and equipment e.g. tents, canoes, paddles, stoves, (annual maintenance \$5,000 x 3 yrs = \$15,000). We also provide loaner sleeping bags, suitable backpacks for portage, and other necessary items as needed by participants including clothing and hiking footwear (these are maintained by the program and provided by in-kind and other resources). Twelve days is an average trip, they range from 6-17 days. 10 youth (on average) per trip: Food, snacks x 10 campers (\$65/day @ 12 days = \$7,800) x 25 trips = \$195,000.00					\$250,000	\$222,153	\$27,847
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$222,153</b>	<b>\$27,847</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$319,788</b>	<b>\$55,212</b>

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	-	-	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [8d556997-dda.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

The YMCA camping program will provide scholarships for youth from underserved populations who will have the opportunity to canoe and camp in pristine Minnesota wilderness. The map indicates the three launching sites for the trips. Visual depicts campers in canoes on their wilderness journey....

#### *Financial Capacity*

File: [63cf51e9-baa.pdf](#)

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystem by Canoe	<a href="#">29e251de-0c0.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

#### *Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Audited Financials	<a href="#">3ddb5841-9f8.pdf</a>
Background Checks	<a href="#">eb0070c4-767.pdf</a>
Annual report	<a href="#">c0a59d54-6a6.pdf</a>
Screenshot for Acknowledgement	<a href="#">f3065b5d-1d9.pdf</a>
Screenshot for Acknowledgement	<a href="#">0c827e44-32b.pdf</a>
Screenshot for Acknowledgement	<a href="#">ee9fe805-74b.pdf</a>
2023 Annual Report and spend down	<a href="#">cfbca7d4-7d9.docx</a>
Annual Report 2023	<a href="#">f396374e-c33.pptx</a>
Annual Report 2024	<a href="#">0c13f0d4-0a1.pptx</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

work plan has been edited to provide outcomes, staffing and detail by project year, and cumulative.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request		We have amended our report as requested, and expanded on each subject. We have a new LCCMR Director, and are just at the start of this project. Great things are happening, and the reports will expand accordingly.	April 11, 2022	Yes	April 11, 2022
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 07/31/2024 New Completion Date: 08/31/2024	We would like to extend so that our full summer camping season can be included in data outcomes.	November 4, 2022	Yes	November 8, 2022
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Other</li> </ul>	We are requesting the shifting funds allocated to personnel to fund scholarships, reflecting our actual YMCA staff time spent on the LCCMR project and increasing costs and demand for scholarships.	November 20, 2023	Yes	November 22, 2023
4	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Beth Becker (beth.becker@ymcamn.org) New Manager: Marissa Miller (marissa.miller@ymcanorth.org)	Staff changes/departure	October 8, 2024	Yes	October 8, 2024

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update October 15, 2024

**Date Submitted:** January 29, 2025

**Date Approved:** January 30, 2025

### Overall Update

This summer's season we served 180 youth through our BOLD GOLD Program, 77 of whom received program scholarships through the LCCMR grant. We ran a total of 37 trips, and worked with 11 partner organizations, including: Creekstone Montessori, Hiawatha Academy, Como Park High School, Y Start/Teen Thrive, Wilder Foundation, Chinese Heritage Foundation, TORCH, Minnesota Transitions Charter School, LEAP High School, Refuge Church, North Hennepin Community College. We worked with two additional institutions that came to our program outside of funding from LCCMR, which include: Prairie Seeds Academy and Laura Jeffrey Academy. While demographic data is voluntary for our registration materials, we can confidentially say that 100% of our LCCMR scholarship recipients represent dimensions of diversity that are underserved in MN outdoor recreation (race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, etc.). The number are further reflected on trips outside of LCCMR as well.

Specific to the LCCMR scholarship, we have served 319 through summer scholarships, and 150 youth in fall, winter, spring programming scholarships, totaling 469 people, and surpassing our goal of 375 youth over three years.

### Activity 1

With a final 77 young people representing underserved communities participating in BOLD GOLD programming this summer, we have served 319 through summer programming, and 150 from fall, winter, spring experiences the past three years. This number (469) meets and surpasses our goal of 375 youth from underserved communities total through LCCMR funding.

87% of our participants surveyed through Hello Insight reported having completing an outdoor activity which they experienced for the first time- which helps to meet the 85% milestone of new appreciation for nature and the environment. This 87% also supports the milestone of those learning a new camp craft. Our curriculum includes a 100% participation rate in learning about leaving a small footprint (also a milestone) through our Leave No Trace policies and practices.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

This summer, one program director worked directly on site, carrying out program operation and success through training staff, ensuring trip logistics and standards are met, connecting with campers and camper families to ensure a successful trail experience, and more. The other program director worked in an administrative capacity, supporting partner groups through registration and camp readiness, supporting and guiding program where needed, helping with survey entry, and serving as a support for sites as needed. This project was adequately staffed to meet our goals.

While we did meet our program goals via staffing roles as outlined, we did not meet our staff budget for the project, due to the allocation for staffing being much higher than either of the two program directors in the role make.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Dissemination

We disseminated our work supported by ENRTF money in the following ways:

Outreach to partner organizations



Email and direct outreach to youth and families.

Internal communications to recruit youth from other Y programs

Program overview and learning for association leaders, and Mission Advancement partnerships.

We acknowledged ENRTF money in the following ways:

Logo and tagline on website and scholarship site (see screenshots in attachments)

Logo and tagline on social media (see screenshot in attachments)

Logo and tagline on outcome report (see report in attachments)

Logo and tagline on annual reports given to national leaders, and association leadership.

Partner organizations are told verbally about the funding available and they appreciate the opportunities they can provide the youth they serve through ENRTF support.

We continue to recognize ENRTF support whenever possible. Because we are an environmental focused program, we do not use print and paper often.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** July 15, 2024

**Date Approved:** July 15, 2024

### Overall Update

More than 400 young people have participated in exploring Minnesota wilderness, surpassing our goals ahead of the completion of this grant. The Program Director is continuing to work closely with families, partner organization, association partners, and camp leadership to serve as a conduit for communication and program readiness. The Program Director is also in charge of program visioning, supporting staff training, and overseeing program evaluation through a Hello Insight Survey platform for all program participants.

Building on the momentum of our summer, this Fall, Winter, Spring, we worked intentionally with program partners to look ahead to the summer 2024. With an unusually warm winter, many of our plans closer to the cities were cancelled due to weather that was inconsistent with our recreation plans. However, we were able to host Minnesota Transitions Charter School two times at YMCA Camp Menogyn for different seasonal touchpoints with a camping and adventure experience- totaling 20 people in the fall and 31 people in the winter. We hosted Como Park High School (38 youth) for a day-experience at camp, and a spring retreat (8 youth). Total we have served an additional 97 youth throughout this fall winter spring, adding to the last report's total of 625, to equal

### Activity 1

In January of 2024 registrations again opened for applications for the BOLD/GOLD program that supports this funding. Since October's report, we have served 51 youth through the grant, and anticipate closing the gap to 375 this summer (of which we were already ahead of our previous milestones after the first two summers). These 51 youth all represent diverse communities and backgrounds local to the Twin Cities through Minnesota Transitions Charter School.

According to our Hello Insight Metrics from 2023, between a combined core social emotional learning capacities through the program, and outdoor social emotional learning, 90% of participants succeeded in this program, continuing the metrics from 2022, and achieving 85% participants gaining an appreciation of nature, the environment, and preservation. Through our curriculum, we can report that 100% of our program participants learn a new camp craft, and are taught.

### Activity 2

Advancing our first milestone of delivering scholarships to the BOLD & GOLD Program, we are on track with most trips at capacity for the coming summer, and new partner organizations. We have an increased number of trips with the addition of a backpacking program out of Camp Ihduhapi this summer, and an added age group of 6th grade participants. Our trips will still range from 4-8 participants with two staff on each trip. Trips also still range in 5-21 day tiers.

This fall, winter, spring, the Program Director worked with families, partner organization contacts, association partners and camp leadership to serve as a conduit for summer planning and program readiness. The Program Director supported continued learning and staff training, visioning, program support, registration, and the launch of new program sites.

### Dissemination

We disseminated our work supported by ENRTF money in the following ways:

Outreach to partner organizations

Email and direct outreach to youth and families.

Internal communications to recruit youth from other Y programs

Program overview and learning for association leaders, and Mission Advancement partnerships.

We acknowledged ENRTF money in the following ways:

Logo and tagline on website and scholarship site (see screenshots in attachments)

Logo and tagline on social media (see screenshot in attachments)

Logo and tagline on outcome report (see report in attachments)

Logo and tagline on annual reports given to national leaders, and association leadership.

Partner organizations are told verbally about the funding available and they appreciate the opportunities they can provide the youth they serve through ENRTF support.

We continue to recognize ENRTF support whenever possible. Because we are an environmental focused program, we do not use print and paper often.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** November 20, 2023

**Date Approved:** November 22, 2023

### Overall Update

This summer's season, we welcomed 296 young people through the BOLD GOLD summer sessions, with dates varying from 5 -16 days. Of the 296 young people, 55 were returning to the BOLD GOLD program from the previous summer, and the remaining 241 were new, surpassing our goal of 150 students served. Our combined total is 625 youth, 570 of which are new participants over summers 2022 and 2023. This summer, we welcomed Creekstone Montessori, the JK Movement, Como Park High School, The Wilder Foundation, and Laura Jeffrey Academy as new program partners. We welcomed back Y Start, Prairie Seeds Academy, YMCA of the 7 Council Fires, YMCA Youth and Family Services and the Chinese Heritage Foundation as returning program partners. This summer we had a total of 62 trips between our sites.

Additionally, this summer, we piloted a backpacking program through YMCA Camp Ihduhapi. In preparation for our summer, we worked extensively with the BOLD GOLD National Team to refine the BOLD GOLD Curriculum, including the introduction of an updated learning manual to our staff teams. We partner, nationally, with a survey program, Hello Insight, to measure program outcomes. Results will be available at the end.

### Activity 1

We have surpassed our goal for our Activity 1, Year 2 Milestone of 150 youth served, as we have a combined total of 570 youth served. Through what is reported in our system, at least 228 of those youth (likely more, although our systems do not require participants to declare race/ethnicity) are young people of color. All of the scholarships we have given out are to participants of diverse backgrounds who are new or wouldn't otherwise have these nature experiences. According to our Hello Insight Metrics from 2022, 86% of program participants grew, per survey language, in achieving Outdoor Social Emotional Learning (SEL) metrics (connection to the outdoors, well-being in the outdoors, support for the outdoors). While Summer 2023 data is not yet complete, our trend is currently right on par with last year at 86% of program participants indicating personal growth in achieving Outdoor SEL metrics. This data further advances our milestone of at least 85% participants gaining appreciation and knowledge of nature, the environment and preservation. Through our curriculum, we can report that 100% of our program participants learn a new camp craft, and are taught the leave no trace curriculum, advancing Activity 1.

### Activity 2

This summer the Program Director continued to work with families, partner organization contacts, association partners and camp leadership to serve as a conduit for communication and program readiness. The Program Director supported continued learning and staff training, visioning, and program support as needed, as well as manages the program evaluation through Hello Insight. Full scholarships were provided to 80% of the participants, partial scholarships at 50% of costs were provided to 20% of participants.

As our participant numbers continue to increase (87 in year two, 155 in year one, 242 total so far through scholarships), we need to increase the support staff for this program. We wish to add a .3 FTE to the personnel reimbursement. This will actually help to help us remain on target to spend down the grant in its entirety, as we continue to build the program to be accessible for underserved populations through scholarships. As we continue to reach our scholarship and numbers goals, we are trending about 20k/year under what we should be spending, particularly in the salary category. This budget adjustment will alleviate that, and provide the additional program support our youth and their families need.

## **Dissemination**

We disseminated our work supported by ENRTF money in the following ways:

- Outreach to partner organizations
- Email and direct outreach to youth and families.
- Internal communications to recruit youth from other Y programs
- Program overview and learning for association leaders, and Mission Advancement partnerships.

We acknowledged ENRTF money in the following ways:

- Logo and tagline on website and scholarship site (see screenshots in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on social media (see screenshot in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on outcome report (see report in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on annual reports given to national leaders, and association leadership.
- Partner organizations are told verbally about the funding available and they appreciate the opportunities they can provide the youth they serve through ENRTF support.
- We continue to recognize ENRTF support whenever possible. Because we are an environmental focused program, we do not use print and paper often.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** March 31, 2023

**Date Approved:** April 12, 2023

### Overall Update

Continuing after our second largest summer to date (participant-wise), we began fall with connecting with all partner groups to ensure spaces if interested for summer 2023, and to get feedback on their time at camp. With this feedback, we met as a team to plan for the following summer, which included coordinating with BOLD & GOLD National trainers for continued education for our team, building in space for new partner organizations, securing additional program funding (\$15,000), and adding additional Fall, Winter and Spring programming. We plan to host two retreats before Summer so our youth can connect with camping and outdoor education experiences before this summer, and to ensure that our summer experiences don't feel one-off or transactional. We offered three additional paid internships this summer, three of whom are participants from partner organizations in past summers (in other words, the youth served through LCCMR scholarships for BOLD & GOLD are seeking continued opportunities within the program). Finally, we are onboarding Como Park High School, The Wilder Foundation, Creekstone Montessori, and JK Movement as new program partners, all of whom will be supported through the grant, to continue past our goal of 150 students served through Summer 2023.

### Activity 1

Advancing our first milestone of delivering scholarships to the BOLD & GOLD Program, we are on track with most trips at capacity for the coming summer, and new partner organizations. We have an increased number of trips with the addition of a backpacking program out of Camp Ihduhapi this summer, and an added age group of 6th grade participants. Our trips will still range from 4-8 participants with two staff on each trip. Trips also still range in 5-21 day tiers.

We are in the process of planning staff trainings that continue to equip all staff with the ability to foster skill building, comfortability in outdoor spaces, leadership training, and environmental stewardship.

### Activity 2

The Program Director is continuing to work closely with families, partner organization, association partners, and camp leadership to serve as a conduit for communication and program readiness. The Program Director is also in charge of program visioning, supporting staff training, and overseeing program evaluation through a Hello Insight Survey platform for all program participants.

### Dissemination

We disseminated our work supported by ENRTF money in the following ways:

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- Logo and tagline on outcome report (see report in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on annual reports given to national leaders, and association leadership.
- Partner organizations are told verbally about the funding available and they appreciate the opportunities they can provide the youth they serve through ENRTF support.

- We continue to recognize ENRTF support whenever possible. Because we are an environmental focused program, we do not use print and paper often.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** November 4, 2022

**Date Approved:** November 8, 2022

### Overall Update

Our goal for year 1 is that 75 youth from underserved communities receive scholarships to the YMCA BOLD & GOLD wilderness experience program. We served 329 youth May- August, across four different sites; Camp Menogyn, Camp Widjiwagan, Camp Ihduhapi and Camp St. Croix. Of these, 155 received scholarships (47% of total). Experiences in the outdoors ranged from rock climbing, to two and a half week-long canoe trips. The curriculum provides a backbone to the wilderness trip by providing intentional learning opportunities for self-reflection and personal growth, leadership development, environmental awareness, and teamwork skills.

We partnered with 9 organizations to expand outreach to diverse audiences who were new to wilderness trip experiences. The partner groups included Rebound Minneapolis, Y Start/Teen Thrive, Beacons, Prairie Seeds Academy, Chinese Heritage Foundation, Urban Roots, Noble Academy, YMCA Youth and Family Services, and LEAP High School. All groups from partners were majority, if not completely youth of color.

### Activity 1

Our first activity was primarily focused on delivering scholarships to the BOLD & GOLD Program. We served 329 youth (155 on scholarship), totaling 47 trips, ranging from 4 participants to 8, with two staff on each trip. The BOLD & GOLD experiences ranged from 5- 21 days. We also operated an internship for 8 individuals lasting three and a half weeks. We ensure 100% of the youth gained new camp skills like canoeing or rock climbing, as everyone takes turns paddling or climbing each day of the trip. We also discuss with each trip the concept of leaving a small footprint. 82% felt an increased connection to the outdoors and 87% increased understanding of the importance of supporting the environment. One participant shared how much this trip meant to them: "This has been a very opening experience for me. Especially for the insane attachments I've had with all the sights I have visited and left along with the little moments that have impacted me as a person."

Our annual report is shared under the attachments tab with outcomes from this year.

### Activity 2

The Program Director worked closely with families, partner organizations and camp leadership to serve as a conduit for communication and readiness for the experiences this summer. Youth surveys illustrated that 86% of participants felt safe and supported in the program environment. 83% of youth reported that staff gave them opportunities to engage in activities they like to do. Participants shared their enthusiasm for their wilderness experiences and the staff that made it possible:

- It was very fun, and you have lots of choices along the way. The counselors give you freedoms and it changed my mind about summer camps.
- This trip was so boring, hot, tiring, and dirty, but at the end of it the accomplishment you feel makes it all worth it. I made so many new friends on this trip and I bonded so much with counselors. It was amazing canoeing and seeing everything. We saw animals, waterfalls, caves, and more. One of the best weeks of my life and I hope it does that for you too.

We are proud of the successful results of our BOLD & GOLD program in 2022 and are looking forward to next summer.

### Dissemination

We disseminated our work supported by ENRTF money in the following ways:



- Outreach to partner organizations –
- Email newsletters and direct outreach to youth and families
- Internal communications to recruit youth from other Y programs

We acknowledged ENRTF money in the following ways:

- Logo and tagline on website and scholarship site (see screenshots in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on social media (see screenshot in attachments)
- Logo and tagline on outcome report (see report in attachments)
- Partner organizations are told verbally about the funding available and they appreciate the opportunities they can provide the youth they serve through ENRTF support.
- We continue to recognize ENRTF support whenever possible. Because we are an environmental focused program, we do not use print and paper often.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** April 11, 2022

**Date Approved:** April 11, 2022

### **Overall Update**

The YMCA BOLD/GOLD (Boys/Girls Leadership Development) program will provide approximately 75 youth scholarships for urban, primarily BIPOC youth who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience a pristine wilderness. Youth will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of conserving and preserving Minnesota wilderness. January 2022 - March 31, 2022 will be our first submitted billing. As eligible youth register for wilderness camp, we are awarding scholarships, but we do not charge them until summer when they actually attend. Youth do not need to have any camping experience to participate, we train and guide them from base camp throughout the experience as they not only learn about the importance of our natural wilderness, but also gain skills to leave a small footprint, working as a team, self-sufficiency, and leadership as each camper has opportunities to lead their group, and work together.

### **Activity 1**

Recruitment for 2022 summer wilderness has begun and registration opened in January of 2022. There is a lot of excitement around this opportunity, and many calls from both youth and parents as they begin to sign up. Our first month of trips has filled, and we reached and exceeded our goal to have more than 51% of our campers from BIPOC and underserved communities.

### **Activity 2**

YMCA staff have been providing outreach in the urban communities for youth and for their families to invite and prepare them to participate. Urban youth are beginning to sign up for the wilderness camp taking place this summer. Part of this outreach has to be to families/parents as well who are unfamiliar with camping and want to ask a lot of questions of staff before entrusting their children to our program and care.

### **Dissemination**

Camp staff and campers from the cities who have attended BOLD & GOLD are visiting schools and YMCA youth programs to talk about the opportunity for this program. Where youth indicate interest staff invite parents to come to a meeting if there is interest so they can ask their questions. We have distributed flyers for youth to take home and take a lot of phone calls to also respond to parent questions and provide all the information. Our BIPOC communities are sharing the information with each other, and we know word-of-mouth is very important communication within our underserved communities. Finally, Kurt Simer has moved to a new position at the YMCA and Angela Wunderlich has taken on the oversight of the LCCMR program. Amanda comes with experience in leading camping experiences, and specifically with new campers and with underserved communities. She brings new excitement to the program, and learned experience and knowledge of coming to the camping world as a person of color herself.