



Pacific Education Institute

Youth Engaged in Sustainable Systems (YESS)

Hands-On Natural Resource Courses

YESS students earn summer school credit while building their skills and exploring careers in natural resources. Over 5-6 weeks, class time is paired with hands-on service activities at community partner sites.

Teachers provide signed documents that rate each student's proficiency in entry level industry-related skills identified by natural resource employers. Students can use this document to craft their resumes and describe their skills when applying for jobs.

Students Gain:

- Hands-on experience
- Entry-level job skills
- Participation stipend
- Cohort experience
- Document of competency
- High school credit
- Dual college credit (when available)

Programs Available:

- Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Education through Outdoor Learning
- Forest Management
- Restoration Ecology
- Urban and Community Forestry





Program Criteria:

- Offered as a 180-hour CTE or core summer session course (can be offered as part of a skills center course during the school year)
- Aligned to state learning standards and natural resource industry competencies
- Recruit historically marginalized students
- 8-16 students participate in each program
- Students receive up to \$1,800 stipend (for full participation)
- Students complete work-based learning at community partner sites at least 3 days/week



“My experience was truly amazing. I got to help others while helping the environment. It made me a more social person and got me out of my comfort zone. It prepared me to work any job, because I built teamwork skills and people skills.”

- Gabriel Tautua, Highline School District

What Students are Saying:

- 97% of surveyed students were 'Very Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' with the program.
- 94% would recommend YESS to another student
- 79% said they feel more confident in their career skills after participating.

Launch a YESS Program at your School, District or Skill Center:

