



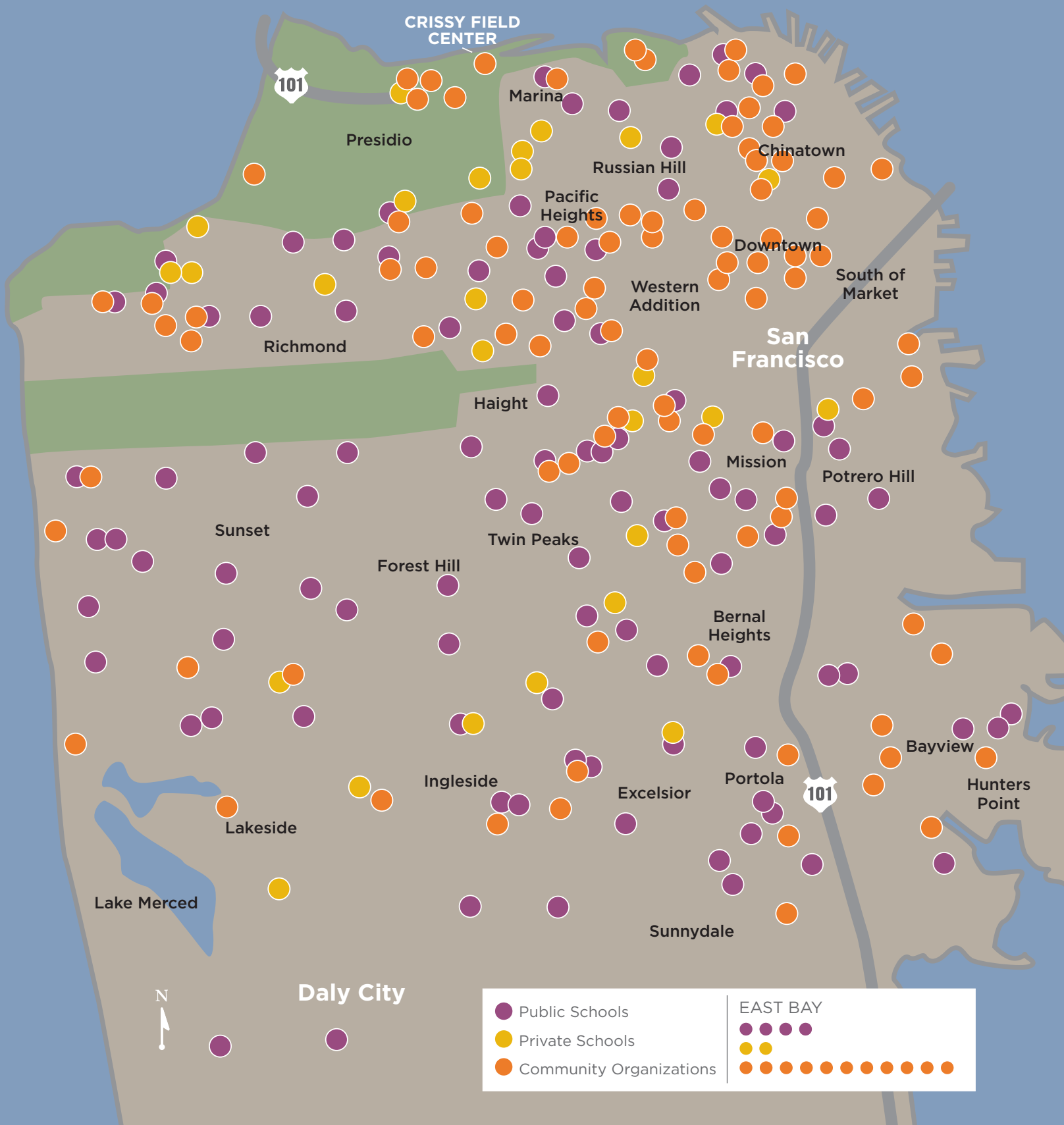
CRISSY FIELD CENTER 2001-2011





CRISSY FIELD CENTER PROGRAM REACH

Schools and organizations that have been served by Center programs, 2001–2011





COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

Anza Branch Library	Embarcadero YMCA	Outward Bound
Ardenwood	Ever Forward Club	Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program	Excelsior Branch Library	Pearson Education
Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium- Americorps	Family Connections	Peninsula Jewish Community Center
Bayshore Christian Ministries	Filipino Community Center	Planet Drum Foundation
Bayview Learns	First Graduate	Planned Parenthood-Shasta Pacific PODER
Bayview/Hunters Point Beacon Center	Francisco Middle School Afterschool	Presidio YMCA
Bayview/Hunters Point Foundation	Friends of the Urban Forest	Prince Hall Learning Center
Bayview/Waden Branch Library	Get Outdoors Club	Project Discover
Bernal Heights Branch Library	Girl Ventures	Raphael House
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center	Glide Afterschool FYCC	Recreation Center for the Handicapped
Booker T. Washington Community Service Center	Hamilton Family Center	Refugee Transitions
Boy Scouts of America	Hayes Valley Neighborhood Parks Group	Richmond District Neighborhood Center
Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco	Home Away from Homelessness	Richmond Village Beacon
Brothers on the Rise	Hometown Richmond	Roosevelt Middle School Afterschool
Buchanan YMCA	Horizons Unlimited Afterschool	San Francisco Conservation Corps
Bucklew Programs	Huckleberry Youth Programs	San Francisco Parks Trust
Burt Children Center	Ingleside Branch Library	San Francisco Rec Connect
Cal Academy Careers in Science Interns	Jamestown Community Center	San Francisco State University
California College of the Arts	Japanese Community Center	San Mateo Adult School
California Historical Society	Jewish Community Center	San Mateo Youth Foundation
California School for the Blind	Kids in Parks-Vis Valley Middle School	Sanchez Adobe
Cameron House	Kimochi Home	Self Help for the Elderly
Canal Family Support	Korean Center	Seneca Center
CARE (at S.F. General Hospital)	Lazarus House	Seven Tepees
Catholic Charities-Treasure Island Supportive Housing	LandPath's Bayer Farm	South of Market Teen Center
Center for Learning In Retirement	The Lighthouse	Stonestown YMCA
Central American Resource Center	Literacy for Environmental Justice	Sunnyvale Seniors
CES-Chinatown Beacon	Los Baños Buffalo Soldiers Association	Sunset Beacon Center
Charity Cultural Services	LYRIC	Swords to Plowshares
Chinatown Development Center	Marina Middle School Afterschool	Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center
Chinatown YMCA	Mercy Boys and Girls Club	Tenderloin Boys and Girls Club
Chinese Parent Leaders	Meridian Gallery	Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Center
Chinese Progressive Association	Mission Beacon	True Hope Church
City College, Older Adults	Mission Branch Library	UC-Berkeley EAOP Program
City of Dreams	Mission Dolores Church	UCSF Day Camp
Citywide Case Management	Mission Graduates	Up On Top
Claire Lillienthal Afterschool	National Federation of the Blind of California	Upland Way Cooperative
Congregation Chevra Thilim	NatureBridge	Urban Services YMCA
Coronado YMCA	Network for Elders	Visitacion Valley Branch Library
Cross Cultural Family Center	Novato Youth Center	Walden House
Cupertino Senior Center	Oakland Boys and Girls	Western Addition Beacon
East Bay Asian Youth Center	Oceana High School Afterschool	Westside Community Services
Edgewood Family Services	OMI/Excelsior Neighborhood Beacon Center	Women Helping All People
	Opportunity Impact	Youth Tennis Advantage
	Our Family Coalition	



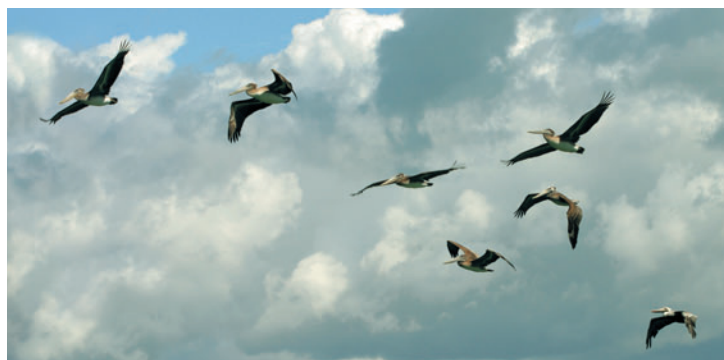
OUR IMPACT

From May 2001 to May 2011, the Crissy Field Center has

- Provided 1,336,500 hours of programming to 588,000 youth and family members
- Served students from every public middle and high school in San Francisco
- Delivered environmental education to students in 67 out of the 72 San Francisco public elementary schools
- Placed 370 young people (ages 15–25) in “green” jobs in the parks
- Worked with 400 schools and community groups to expand reach of Center programs
- Granted over \$256,000 in transportation scholarships to schools and groups

YOUTH, LEADERSHIP, ENVIRONMENT

Just as Crissy Field was a historic airfield where early pilots pushed the limits of the possible, the Crissy Field Center is a pioneer in multicultural environmental education. It's a place where children delight in winging marsh birds, youth set their imaginations soaring, and the dreams of young leaders take flight. Come fly with us—across 10 years of connecting urban communities to our national parks.



OVERVIEW

2011 Crissy Field Center staff & key partners



OUR STORY

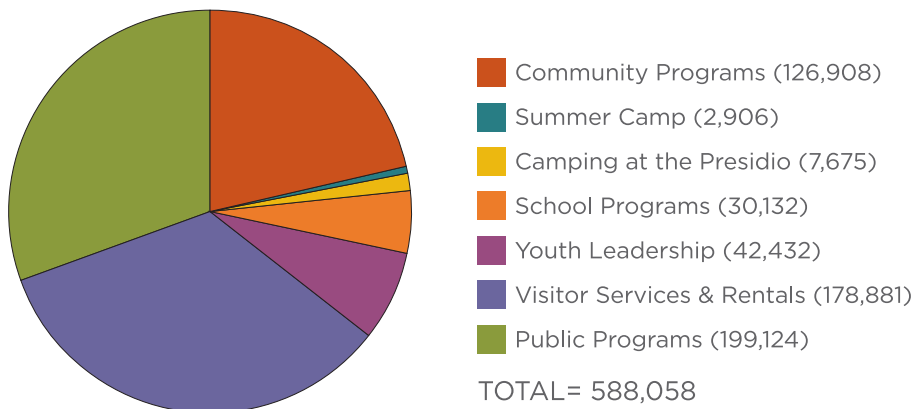
In 2001, Crissy Field Center was established with one major goal: to offer relevant, multicultural environmental education that would inspire young people to lead positive changes in the national parks, their communities, and their lives.

A partnership of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, National Park Service, and Presidio Trust, the Center has partnered with over 100 community organizations and schools to reach youth who have had little opportunity to experience national parklands. Today, this dynamic hub of community engagement in our

parks has become an educational model across the U.S. and abroad.

The Center's success is the result of visionary individual donors, generous foundations, and energetic interns, volunteers, and staff members. Their collective work and support benefit the Center's young students—the youthful voices who bring diversity and vitality to our programs and make the Golden Gate National Parks more fully realized "Parks For All Forever."


Center Participants by Program (2001–2011)



WHO WE ARE

Just as in the urban communities the Center serves, the strength of its staff lies in its diversity. Staff members—educators, subject specialists, administrators, and support staff—represent 11 ethnicities, speak a total of seven languages, and average more than six years of experience working at the Center.

Working alongside National Park Service rangers, their counterparts at the Presidio Trust, and experts with Bay Area Wilderness Training and Urban Watershed Project, staff members imbue all of the Center's programs with energy, enthusiasm, and deep knowledge.

In the following pages, you will find profiles of some of our staff members, marked by a  symbol.



'THE OUTDOORS IS ALL OF OURS'

I think the outdoors is all of ours—it's one of those rare things that all humans naturally share. Yet so few people realize this, and I hope our team inspires people to fight for their right to enjoy and rediscover nature.

—JENNA FIORELLA

Intern in the Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders (I-YEL) youth leadership program

OUR MISSION

To encourage new generations to become bold leaders for thriving parks, healthy communities, and a more environmentally just society.



'THE COMMITMENT OF STAFF'

Crissy Field Center has made an extraordinary effort to include our children, parents, and communities of color to participate in our national parks. To know that our children and parents of color know of Crissy Field and use it is a reflection of the commitment of Center staff and how they value all young people.

—DR. JACOB PEREA
DEAN OF EDUCATION

San Francisco State University

TRUSTEE

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

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Community Programs

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Project WISE

Urban Trailblazers

I-YEL

Take the Next Step

WHAT WE DO

In every season, Crissy Field Center is buzzing with activity. Schoolchildren harvest tomatoes in the community garden. Teens host a Friday night event for their peers. Students test the energy efficiency of a toaster. Youth study ecological change around a restored tidal marsh system. In everything that they do, participants in Center programs are discovering their national parks—and connecting with their communities—in new and meaningful ways.

Starting at the age of 5, young people can start up a “ladder of opportunity” at the Center, progressing through stepped programs that promote long-term relationships, redefine our connections with the natural and urban environment, and build the skills our future stewards will need to create a more sustainable and just society.



A DAY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

10 AM-1:30 PM

E.R. Taylor Elementary field trip

Mission Education Center school field trip

Noon

Refugee Transitions group checks out
at Rob Hill Campground

Marshall Elementary group checks in
at Rob Hill

1-4:45 PM

Galileo Academy of Science and
Technology field lab

3-6 PM

Hamilton Family Center campfire,
off-site

4:45-6:45 PM

I-YEL youth leaders meeting

Total Youth Served: 219

Avg. Contact Hours per Participant: 4.5



A DAY DURING THE SUMMER

7:30-8:45 AM

Morning care for young campers

8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Counselor in Training (C.I.T.) and I-YEL
youth leadership programs

8:45 AM-4 PM

Summer Camp

9:30 AM-3 PM

Urban Trailblazers

9 AM-5 PM

Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program

10 AM-NOON

“Mo’ Magic” group program

Noon

Chinese Progressive Association check
out at Rob Hill Campground

7 Tepees group checks in

1-3 PM

YMCA Earth Service Corps group program

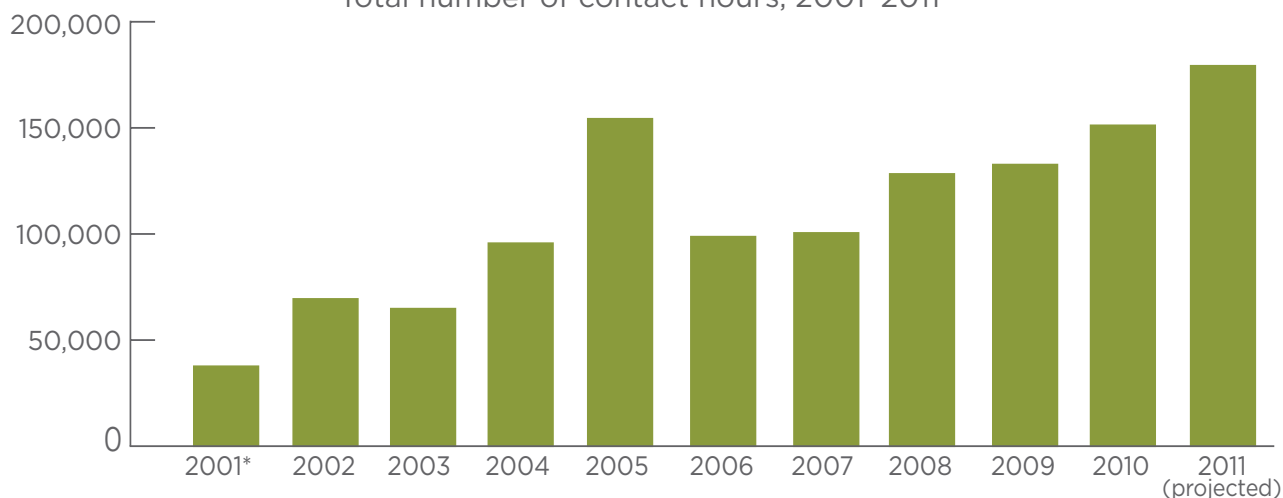
4-5:30 PM

Summer Camp extended care

Total Youth Served: 215

Avg. Contact Hours per Participant: 7

Total number of contact hours, 2001-2011





WHERE WE WORK THE CRISSY FIELD STORY

Time and again, Crissy Field Center programs demonstrate the power of places—our national parks—to transform communities. On its 10th anniversary, it's worth noting that the Center was born of a historic campaign by the community to transform a place.

Originally a marshland stewarded by Ohlone Indians, Crissy Field has also been a Grand Prix racetrack, a famous Army airfield, and an abandoned military site. In 2001, it was “reopened” as a beautiful shoreline national park. The vision and leadership gift of the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund inspired thousands of volunteers and donors to restore the natural landscape, revitalize native habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, and establish an environmental education center.

Over 3,000 community members pitched in to restore the landscape between 1998 and 2001, and 2,400 donations—ranging from million-dollar gifts to the allowance money of schoolchildren—totaled \$34.4 million for Crissy Field.

Simply put, the Crissy Field Center would not be here without the generosity and energy of the community.

Through the community-supported “Help Grow Crissy Field” campaign, Crissy Field now features:

- 100 acres of national parkland
- 20-acre tidal marsh, with 135 bird species and 17 fish species identified
- 28-acre great meadow
- 1.3-mile Golden Gate Promenade
- Revitalized dune system
- Over 100,000 native plants, of 73 species
- 12,000-square foot Crissy Field Center, Building 603 at Mason and Halleck, a former 1939 Army commissary-turned environmental education center (in 2010, the Center moved to an interim facility, see sidebar)



Community supporters did more than just “Help Grow Crissy Field”—as the campaign was called. Through the work of the Center, they helped grow future generations of park stewards and leaders.



‘THIS EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY’

It has been a richly rewarding experience to watch the achievements of the Center, its staff, and especially the youth it serves as they grow into leadership roles. I am proud to be a part of this extraordinary community.

—MIM RYAN

Center volunteer for over 10 years



GOING GREEN, ROOF TO FLOOR

In response to Presidio Parkway construction, Crissy Field Center moved in January 2010 from Building 603 on Mason Street to an interim facility at East Beach. The new structure, designed by Project FROG, is a “living classroom” of sustainability principles, featuring a water catchment system, exterior panels made of salvaged wood, recycled carpet tiles, energy-efficient lighting, and—coming in summer 2011—solar panels and wind turbines. The alternative energy system includes a “dashboard” that monitors power used and generated—an invaluable learning tool for youth in our environmental programs.

A certified SF Green Business, the Center won the Green Building Award from *California Construction* in 2010. The Center was also honored with a 2011 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award for demonstrating sustainability in all aspects of its operations.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Over the last 10 years, the Crissy Field Center has become a leader in innovative environmental education, with youth leadership programs like I-YEL emulated in other parks and neighborhoods. The National Park Service and other local, national, and international agencies come

to the Center to learn how its programs connect young people with their environment. The Center, in turn, sends its staff all over the globe to exchange best practices on cultivating new generations of bold leaders for thriving parks and healthy communities.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1 November 2007 – The Center sent representatives to Ahmedabad, India, for the International Conference on Environmental Education—a gathering of 1,500 delegates from 90 countries, organized by United Nations agencies UNESCO and UNEP to focus on the role of education in sustainable development.

2 The Crissy Field Center has honored dozens of grassroots activists through the Community Heroes award program, recognizing individuals and groups in the Bay Area for making positive environmental change in their neighborhoods.

3 For the last five years, the Center's I-YEL interns have hosted a youth reception for Goldman Environmental Prize winners—conservationists from around the world whose stories of courage and perseverance always inspire.

4 June 2010 – Five I-YEL interns and alumni were among 500 young leaders in New York City for Outdoor Nation—the first youth-led summit championing the outdoors.

5 July 2010 – National Park Service Deputy Director Mickey Fearn spent a day at the Center. Impressed by the programs, he enlisted several staff members to help create youth development strategies for the NPS.

6 July 2010 – The Center's youth leaders helped train their peers to facilitate discussions for a listening session in Oakland as part of "America's Great Outdoors"—a national initiative to forge a new conservation strategy.

7 October 2010 – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar visited the Center as part of the "Let's Move Outside" campaign, citing the Center's youth programs as examples for getting the nation's young people active in the outdoors.

8 April 2011 – At Fort Baker, NPS Director Jon Jarvis met with I-YEL interns and staff, who shared with him their experiences at the Center.

Senior Youth Leadership Specialist Ernesto Pepito (to the President's right) met President Obama in February 2011.



FROM THE MISSION, ON A MISSION

Growing up in the densely populated Mission District of San Francisco, Ernesto Pepito did not have access to wide swaths of green space, but he and his friends nevertheless played outside on patches of grass no bigger than a garden bed.

It was in middle school that Ernesto found his place—in nature and in the greater community. Through camping and national park trips, Ernesto grew to love the outdoors. And through cleanup projects across the city, he was introduced to the “values and culture” of service.

That growing sense of responsibility propelled Ernesto through the San Francisco Conservation Corps. In eight years with the SFCC, he went from planting trees to leading crews as a high schooler. “I felt a sense of community I never felt before,” Ernesto says. “In a lot of ways my whole world was reshaped.”

His experiences made him a perfect fit at the Crissy Field Center. As an intern in 2001 (the Center’s first year), Ernesto worked with high school youth to develop the I-YEL program. Since then, Ernesto—and the youth leadership programs he manages—have become models nationally and internationally.

In 2003, Ernesto was invited to participate in the World Parks Conference in South Africa. In 2007, Ernesto represented Crissy Field Center at the UNESCO/ UNEP-sponsored International Conference on Environmental Education in India. And in 2010, Ernesto played a key role in the “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative, speaking on a panel to kick off the program and then meeting President Obama in the White House for the release of the final report.

All along the way, Ernesto has demonstrated the immense potential of youth to affect positive change in their neighborhood and environment.



“There are a lot of young people who grow up without any sense of the impact that they can have,” Ernesto says. “I hope to show them that they have the power to leave this place better than they found it.”



‘A NATIONAL MODEL’

The Crissy Field Center has created a national model for how national parks and their partners can work together to provide urban youth with transformative learning experiences. Through the Center’s programs, young people become citizens and leaders—the kinds of students our educational system urgently needs to produce.

—DR. MILTON CHEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS
The George Lucas Educational Foundation
BOARD ASSOCIATE & EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEMBER
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

PARKS FOR ALL FOREVER

America is changing rapidly, but National Park Service studies in the 1990s found that park visitor demographics were not keeping pace. The Crissy Field Center has become a model for community engagement and ensuring that all youth and families have access to the national parks. Our programs meet new audiences where they live, provide culturally relevant experiences, and address language and transportation barriers.

Offerings include on-site and off-site programs, partner projects, and special fairs and festivals



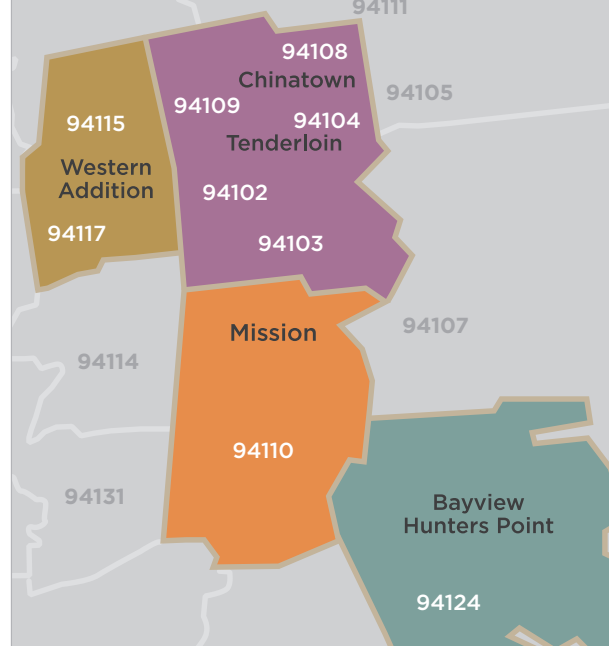
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2001, the Crissy Field Center has

- Engaged, through community programs, 126,908 individuals—including many people who previously have had limited access to national parks
- Worked with over 47 organizations to offer multiple-visit partner programs
- Partnered with community groups to share Presidio stories such as those of Ohlone people, Mexican and Spanish settlers, African-American Buffalo Soldiers, and Japanese Americans



SAN FRANCISCO
Areas of emphasis for
community programs



FINDING A WAY HOME

In 2010, the Center began partnering with Hamilton Family Center, the largest provider of shelter and services for homeless families in San Francisco, to offer unique educational opportunities to children ages 4-17. By hiking the Presidio, making art, and camping at Rob Hill, youth connect with the outdoors and develop a stronger sense of identity and community.

'A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

The kids love the program! Attendance has grown week by week. Last week, Crissy Field staff talked to the kids about the four elements of habitat (water, shelter, food, and space). Then they asked the kids to think about the difference between habitat and home and share a word that represented "home." A few of the responses from the kids were: parents, friends, warmth, light, and, my personal favorite—hope. This program is truly making a tremendous impact in these kids' lives.

SHARING THE INSPIRATION

While volunteering at La Raza Community Resource Center, Fatima Colindres learned about an opportunity to work in the Golden Gate National Parks. She soon became an interpretive park ranger through the NPS' Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), which allowed her to work while completing her degree at San Francisco State University. "SCEP

made a dream that seemed unreachable possible," Fatima says. "As a park ranger, it has become one of my goals to reach as many children as possible to inspire them and show them the possibilities their national parks can offer." Look for Fatima—and her husband and kids—at special events such as the "Fiesta de Arte en el Parque."

—DEBBIE WILBER
PROJECT POTENTIAL
SERVICES COORDINATOR
Hamilton Family Center



SUMMER CAMP

Scholarships help make camp possible for children who need the assistance



HEALTHY YOUTH, HEALTHY PARKS

At the Crissy Field Center, we don't just encourage young people to dip a toe into ecological education. We challenge them to put on waders and get knee-deep in learning. Designed for grades 1-6, summer camps like Seaside Sleuths and Things with Wings blend hands-on experiences in our science, art, and media labs with immersive excursions to the national parks. The result? Kids get into the environment—literally.

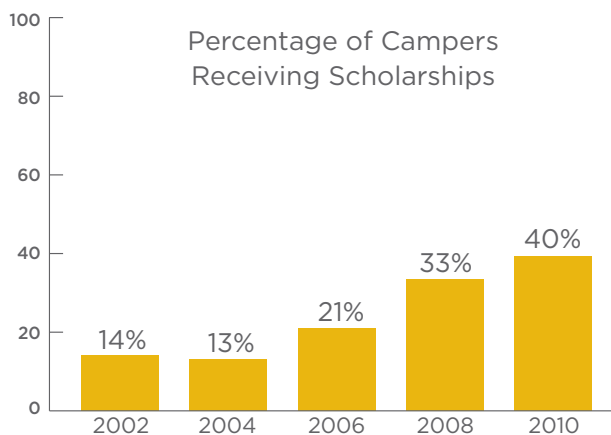
HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2002, the Crissy Field Center has

- Offered 249 camp sessions, serving 2,906 children through 141,589 hours of programming
- Trained 61 high school students through the Counselor in Training (C.I.T.) program, as they volunteered a total of 2,500 hours
- Provided 644 scholarships—totaling \$321,728—to ensure greater access to summer learning opportunities



Campers explore Green Gulch's organic farm in Marin



TAKING A PARK OATH

The Junior Rangers program, for grades 4–6, represents a vital rung in the Center's ladder of learning. Participants—many of whom benefit from scholarships—broaden their park experience through two weeks (over 80 hours!) of unique trips and hands-on stewardship activities. Junior Rangers hike the Marin Headlands, explore Sutro Baths, kayak in the Bay, slam cell doors on Alcatraz, and roast marshmallows at Rob Hill Campground in the Presidio. In the end, they are “sworn in” by National Park Service rangers—and gain a lifelong appreciation for national parklands and their critical role in our future.



A SAMPLE DAY AT CAMP

- Check-in/community-building games
- Morning Circle songs, activities
- Designing a sustainable city in the Arts Workshop
- Lunch/recreation time
- Crabbing, then biomimicry-themed claymation in the Media Lab
- Snacktime
- Beach cleanup, exploration of the Center's community garden

‘WHAT WE ALL LOVED ABOUT CAMP...’

We had a fun time over dinner tonight, sharing what we all loved about Crissy Field and Camp. Leah [grade 6] loved the music component and that everyone sang together, as well as the “awesome” art projects. Ben [grade 9] liked how the programs and activities were connected historically to the site; for example, during the cooking program, there was a strong emphasis on Spanish heritage. Ben also really appreciated the nice integrated community. Adam [grade 6] liked all the kid-friendly events, the great snacks, and the fun that everyone had learning about the environment. Needless to say, we are big supporters of both the Parks Conservancy and the Crissy Field Center.

—KRISTIN BARON

Describing how her kids have enjoyed Summer Camp for the past five years

ACCESS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Making s'mores. Sharing campfire stories. Falling asleep under the stars. Since 2007, Camping at the Presidio (CAP) has introduced thousands of youth to the magic of nature and our national park. Through a partnership of the Center, Bay Area Wilderness Training, and the Presidio Trust, CAP trains group leaders, provides the gear, and organizes trips to the Presidio's Rob Hill Campground—the only facility of its kind in San Francisco.

75% of CAP campers qualify
for free or reduced lunch
at their public schools



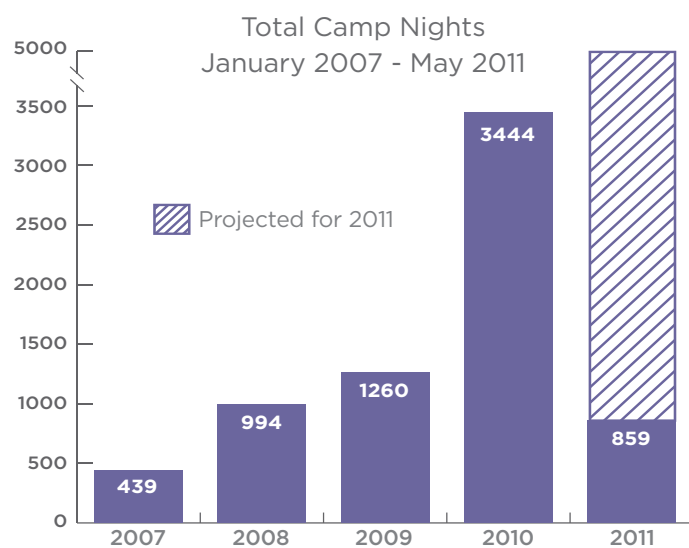
CAMPING AT THE PRESIDIO



HIGHLIGHTS

Since spring 2007, CAP has

- Hosted 7,675 young campers and their group leaders
- Partnered with 45 community groups and 38 schools
- Trained 265 teachers and program staff to lead their groups' camping trips
- Presented 8,840 hours of guided programs on cultural and natural history



Re-opened in spring 2010, the Rob Hill Campground was improved through a generous gift from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; the annual operations of CAP are funded by the Presidio Trust



CAP LEADER TRAINING

Camping can be a challenge. Now imagine taking 30 young people—many with little experience in nature! That's why CAP offers teachers and educators a two-day Leadership Training session. Through a partnership with Bay Area Wilderness Training, they learn park trails, cultural and natural landmarks, campfire songs, tent setup, and more. "The most useful part of the training was learning the intentionality behind every process of camping and how that translates to leading groups," says Samantha Harrington, a teacher at Oakland Technical High School. After completing the training, leaders can bring their groups again and again.



PARKS FOR ALL

By providing all the necessary expertise and equipment and offering discounted transportation to and from Rob Hill, CAP removes barriers that have prevented underserved youth from camping and experiencing nature.

'CAN'T WE STAY ONE MORE NIGHT?'

Refugee Transitions' students come from around the world to make new homes in the Bay Area. Because they've lost their homes, rebuilding a connection to place is important. I often hear from our students how much they miss the trees and the mountains from back home. CAP offers our students the opportunity to get outside, breathe the fresh air of their new backyards, develop positive relationships with adults and fellow students, and set goals. CAP provides an affordable, organized, and efficient way for us to offer this outdoor experience. Our students love to build fires, cook their cultural foods, curl up in the tents and tell stories, and touch their feet to the ocean. Every time we load the bus to head back, students beg, "Can't we stay one more night?"

—LAUREN MARKHAM
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Refugee Transitions



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

All trips align with California State Academic Standards and include pre- and post-learning materials



PARKS AS CLASSROOMS

Remember school trips to stuffy museums full of signs that said “Do Not Touch?” At the Center, students explore, engage, interact—and touch. These field trips, for grades K-12, provide hands-on learning experiences led by park rangers and subject specialists at a sustainably-designed “green” facility, by a tidal marsh, on a beach, and in a national park rich with natural, cultural, and ecological lessons.

HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2002, Crissy Field Center has

- Served 29,715 students in 99,653 hours of field trip programming
- Provided full scholarships for 30% of classes served each year
- Garnered the Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2002 for its Garbology 101 program (see below)

KIDS DIG IT

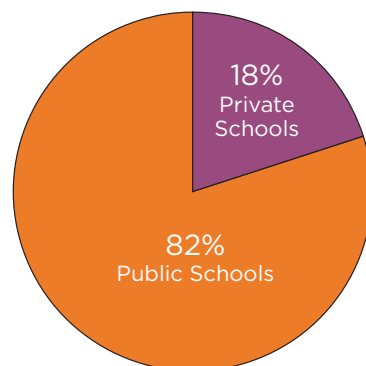
Garbology 101—an award-winning program co-sponsored by the Presidio Archeology Lab, a partnership of the Presidio Trust and National Park Service—is one of the Center's signature school programs. Students study decomposition in miniature landfills, learn about the environmental impact of garbage, discuss alternatives for reducing waste, and create artwork from recycled materials.



Four “learning labs”—Media, Art, Science, and the outdoors—deepen student understanding of urban environmental issues



Percentage of Public and Private Schools Served



PASSING IT ON

A San Francisco native, Nicole Jung-Alexander started at the Center as an AmeriCorps community outreach intern in fall 2000—and she got hooked on teaching. Nicole went on to serve as the Center's sustainable arts specialist and then became a National Park Service ranger working as the education coordi-

nator for the Center. “I just really enjoy meeting Bay Area students on field trips, collaborating with park partners and colleagues, and working in a location that is not only historical and beautiful...but is also ‘my’ national park,” Nicole says. And now her work is showing young people that the park belongs to us all.



‘EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE’

The entire day was very well-planned—content, organization, rhythm—and all staff seemed so well-prepared and equipped to work with the children. The fact that you did all this in a new space [the interim Center] makes your work even more impressive.

—JANINE LEE
TEACHER
Brisbane Elementary School

CITIZEN SCIENCE AT WORK

What's the secret recipe to get teens to study environmental science, engage with nature, and develop as socially and environmentally responsible members of their local and global communities? Well, just add water. For 10 years, San Francisco high schoolers in Project WISE (Watersheds Inspiring Student Education) have learned from scientists in the ultimate classroom labs—the Presidio's creeks, marshes, and watersheds.

Urban Watershed Project partners with the Center on science content, while the Presidio Trust provides transportation



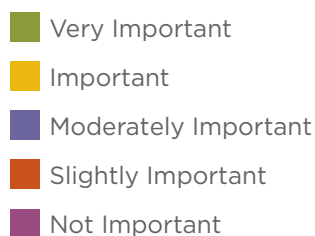
PROJECT WISE



HIGHLIGHTS

- 391 Galileo Academy of Science and Technology students have each completed 96 hours of field study since 2001
- 32,938 hours of close instruction and mentoring provided by scientists and park staff
- 48% of recent participants indicated they were “super interested” in environmental issues after their involvement with WISE, compared to 13% before the class

Importance of Presidio FIELD Lab in Preparing for AP Test*



*based on survey of WISE students



Project WISE students conduct experiments in wildland ecology in the High Sierras or Point Reyes National Seashore during a three- or four-day overnight trip



‘THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAM...’

Project WISE was the most inspirational program I have ever participated in. Not only did I gain a passion for the environment that led me to choosing environmental lobbying as a career goal, but I also made lifelong friends. I thank Project WISE for helping me become the person I am now, giving me direction in life, and leaving me with beautiful memories to cherish for the rest of my life.

—JENNIFER FLORES
FORMER WISE STUDENT
& SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR

SCIENCE: FOR REAL

In 2005, Project WISE (Watersheds Inspiring Student Education) participants studying the Tennessee Hollow Watershed discovered some changes in the oxygen content and invertebrate diversity—and noticed the water had a slight odor and strange sheen. Their results were reported to Presidio Trust staff, who later found a leak in a sewage pipe and made repairs. Because Tennessee Hollow creeks flow through Crissy Field Marsh, the sewage leak could have become a health issue for the many people who enjoy the adjacent beach. A school project thus became a prime example of how young people can make a difference in their community.



BEYOND BOOK LEARNING

Project WISE engages two environmental studies classes at Galileo Academy, bringing students to the Presidio one afternoon a week for an entire school year. Each student chooses to research an environmental topic that impacts the health of their park and neighborhood. Students present their findings in May to teachers, families, resource managers, and community members.

Working with the Crissy Field Center has been the most rewarding experience of my teaching career. By providing amazing staff, resources, and facilities, they have helped countless Galileo students engage in meaningful, hands-on, scientific exploration. What they have given the Galileo WISE students and me over the past 10 years is a gift beyond measure.

—LISA FRANZEN
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHER
Galileo Academy of Science and Technology



URBAN TRAILBLAZERS

47% of Urban Trailblazers
came back for a second
or third summer



UP A LADDER OF LEARNING

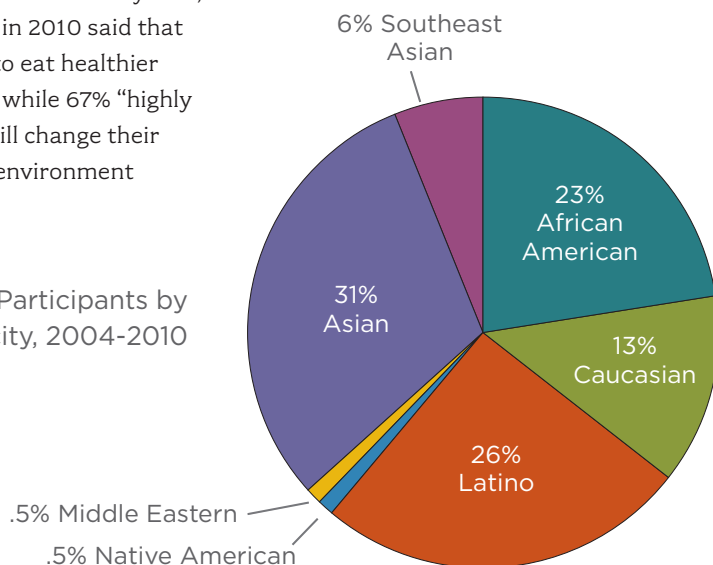
Launched in 2004, Urban Trailblazers (UTB) helps students discover their own path through that wilderness called “middle school.” The program participants—all San Francisco public school students—benefit from UTB’s mix of volunteer projects and outdoor adventures along park trails. Young people gain skills and knowledge that help them during school, in their communities, and wherever life’s trails take them.

HIGHLIGHTS

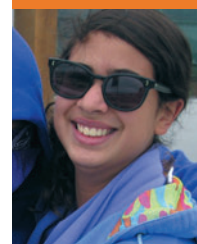
Since 2004, UTB has

- Engaged 178 middle school students in 21,744 hours of trail and restoration projects, workshops, and outdoor experiences
- Reached youth in underserved communities; over 50% of UTB participants live in southeastern San Francisco
- Made a difference in the lives of youth; 89% of participants in 2010 said that UTB inspired them to eat healthier and be more active, while 67% “highly agreed” that they will change their actions toward the environment

UTB Participants by Ethnicity, 2004-2010



UTB participants help build a garden bed in Crissy Field Center's backyard



'WE ARE THE FUTURE'

I hope there will be other chances for us to help the environment and the Golden Gate National Parks. I will try to convince people to buy organic, fair-trade, and eco-friendly foods and products because it is important to take control—seeing as we are the future.

—NAJWA ANASSE
8TH GRADER

Alice Fong Yu Middle School



ON A CAREER PATH

Sam Tran has been there from the start. In high school, Sam was on the Center's Youth Advisory Council. As one of the first Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders (I-YEL) interns, he designed the program's logo. "The Center experience made me a better and more accountable citizen in my community and environment," Sam recalls. Since then, he has taught third-graders about national parks, led youth on backpacking trips, and recently attained the position of UTB coordinator. "This is where I found my true calling," Sam says. "I hope I can make the same positive and life-changing impacts with the students I work with now."

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

Every summer, UTB has taken students camping to places such as Yosemite or Point Reyes National Seashore. Participants—many of them camping for the first time—learn to pitch tents, embark on challenging hikes, and practice "Leave No Trace" principles along the way. The trip builds team camaraderie, opens minds to conservation, and instills ethics that the students bring back to San Francisco.



The Crissy Field Center provided me with confidence and opportunities that have shaped my life. Its middle and high school programs prepared me to think critically and helped me genuinely care about the people and the environment around me. The Center and its programs prepared me to succeed as a national park ranger and as a student at Dartmouth College.

—CHRISTOPHER NORMAN
UTB AND I-YEL ALUMNUS

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

A signature program of the Center, I-YEL (Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders) is designed by youth—for youth. In I-YEL, San Francisco high school students from diverse backgrounds learn about parks, study urban environmental issues, cultivate leadership skills, and bring positive change to their communities. For their work on summits, service projects, and other youth-led initiatives, I-YEL interns deserve a big shout-out!

I-YEL interns on a research trip to the Grand Canyon, investigating park visitation by people of color



I-YEL

I-YEL alums cut the ribbon at the interim Center



HIGHLIGHTS

- I-YEL has provided 167 interns with 37,924 hours of training, project planning, and support since 2001
- Interns have engaged and educated 40,223 other youth and adults about issues affecting their environment and community
- 81 students have held additional summer jobs in the Golden Gate National Parks—assisting with the Center’s summer camps, mentoring middle school students in Urban Trailblazers, performing visitor services on Alcatraz, and orienting participants in the Camping at the Presidio program
- In 2011, I-YEL interns were honored with a Take Pride in America National Award for organizing “Backyard Bound,” a youth-led summit that gathered 98 young people at Rob Hill to discuss connecting their generation with the outdoors



IN THE BEGINNING

In 2001, before Crissy Field Center opened its doors, the seven high school students on the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) sought ways to bring young people to Crissy Field and the Golden Gate National Parks. After months of meetings and developing pilot programs, they proposed a youth leadership program through which young people could learn about the parks while developing skills to tackle environmental issues in their home communities. That summer, I-YEL was born. Ten years later, two of the original I-YEL interns (Jie Chen and Sam Tran) are now managing the same youth programs that had inspired them.

◀ In 2010, I-YEL interns designed a mural at Hayes Valley Farm to spark conversation on sustainable and non-sustainable food production processes



‘OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW’ 10 YEARS

As a student at Burton High School on San Francisco’s south side, Jie Chen signed up for the new Crissy Field Center’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC) because he thought it would be a fun experience. He never dreamed it would lead to a career.

In rapid succession, Jie found himself doing outreach for the Center, designing the I-YEL program, and guiding the new Urban Trailblazers (UTB) program. “The opportunities to grow and learn kept coming!” Jie recalls.

While attending UC-Berkeley on a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship, Jie returned every summer to lead UTB. So after he graduated, Jie was offered a full-time job at the Center to help grow I-YEL. That was three years ago.

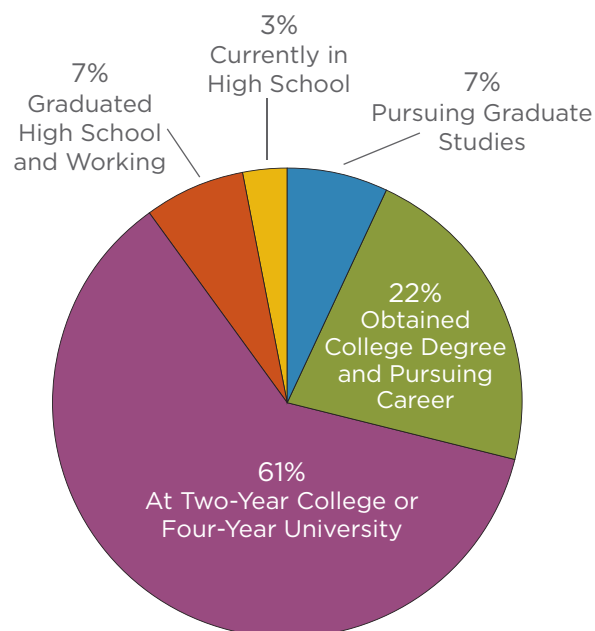
“I cannot think of a more rewarding job than working with San Francisco youth who are engaged and passionate to make positive change in their communities,” Jie says.

—JIE CHEN
I-YEL MANAGER

Institutions Attended by I-YEL Alums

Barnard College
Cal Poly
Cal State-East Bay
College of San Mateo
Dartmouth College
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Humboldt State
Mills College
Reed College
Sacramento State
Saint Mary’s College
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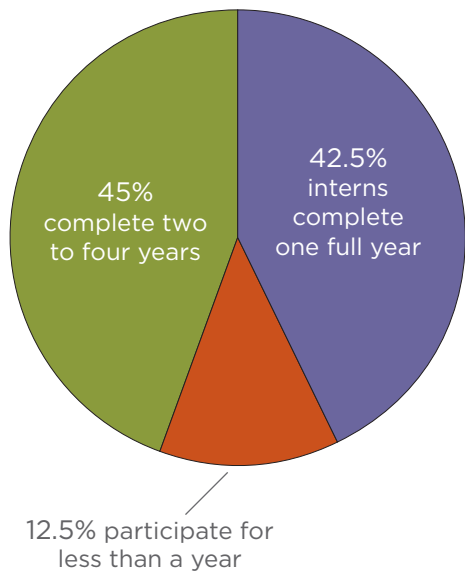
Where Are The Alums Now?



Since 2003, 14 I-YEL interns have been hired by the National Park Service or Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy after graduating from high school

STICKING AROUND

Intern Retention Over the Last 10 Years



'HANGING OUT WITH SOME AMAZING PEOPLE'



I-YEL helped me gain confidence and leadership skills. You go through a lot of training, but we had no idea we were learning all this stuff because it was fun. While we were doing it, we were hanging out with some amazing people and learning how to teach workshops and speak to large crowds.

—MARIAJOSE ALCANTARA
I-YEL ALUMNA & CURRENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RANGER

I-YEL IN ACTION: YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

Each year I-YEL interns develop a project that takes on a concern they have for their community and environment. From inception to final execution, all work is done solely by these young environmental leaders.

In 2003, interns wrote, produced, and performed "Not in My BAAAckyard: The Great Widget Conspiracy." Based in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood, the play demonstrated how a community can find its voice for environmental justice. In 2006, I-YEL documented their road trip to Yosemite and the Grand Canyon in a short film "For Some, For None," which addressed the lack of diversity among national park visitors. Over 100 copies have been requested by park rangers and others, and diversity has become a top priority for the National Park Service.

In 2010, interns hosted "Le\$\$ Fest" at Hayes Valley Farm. There, interns unveiled "The Corny Truth: A Journey of Food"—an interactive mural to educate the community about the environmental and social issues surrounding the food we consume. Interns also staffed booths that demonstrated how the things we buy can affect our environment.

These three projects, and also the award-winning 2011 "Backyard Bound" youth summit, show how the creativity and ingenuity of young people can be converted into positive energy for healthier communities, thriving parks, and a more environmentally just society.





I-YEL helped me build a strong foundation of leadership skills and taught me how to take initiative to pursue my career goals. I am currently a Conservation Education Presenter at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom. Without I-YEL, I would not have developed the communication and coordination skills that are essential to excel in the career path of my choice.

—VIVIAN TWU
I-YEL ALUMNA



After graduating from UC-Davis, I moved to Sacramento to work on statewide advocacy at Californians Against Waste. I help develop waste reduction and recycling policies and advocate for the passage of environmental legislation and regulations. My passion for environmental policy—and resulting career aspirations—are largely rooted in the experience I had in the I-YEL program.

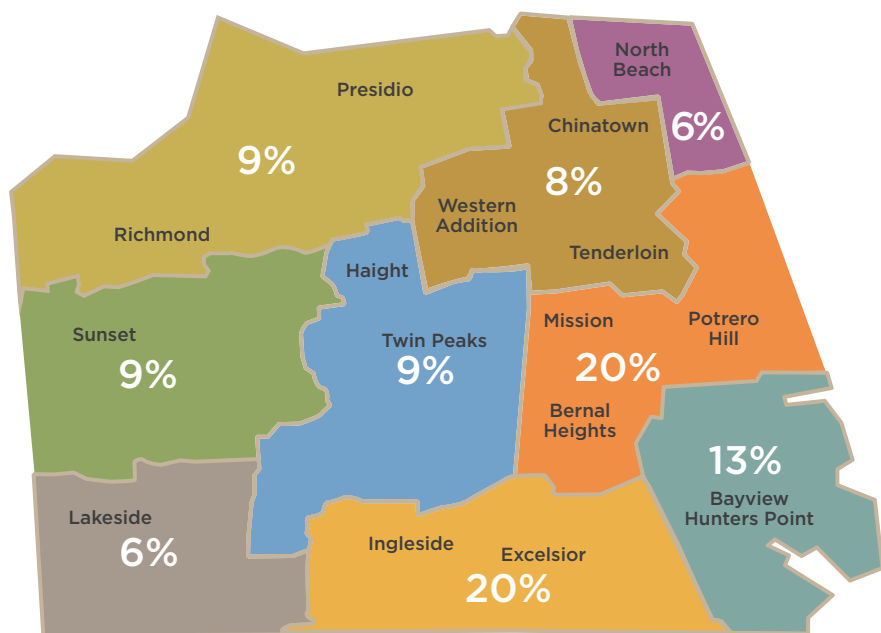
—NICK LAPIS
I-YEL ALUMNUS



This past year's experience with I-YEL and the Crissy Field Center has made me step up and carve my own path. It has helped me get to where I am today, giving me a new perspective and understanding of the things around me. I think of the Center as a place—and opportunity—to grow and be more positive.

—BRYEANNA BELMAR
SOPHOMORE
Wallenberg High School

I-YEL Interns, By San Francisco Neighborhood



‘HIGHLY MOTIVATED FROM WITHIN’

With what simple recipe can lasting change be created at the Center? The Crissy Field Center's highly qualified staff, who have the autonomy to lead by their own measures and challenge themselves under their own terms, are setting the example to the youth to be highly motivated from within... the recipe is the alchemy of collaboration, acceptance, and the innate quest for constant improvement of the self, society, and even, what lies beyond one's own horizon.

—DR. NINA S. ROBERTS
PROFESSOR
*San Francisco State University,
in a 2007 evaluation of I-YEL's
effect on young people*

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Write the next chapter of the Center's remarkable story.

- Become a Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy member.
- Contribute to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.
- Shop or dine at the Beach Hut or Warming Hut.
- Make a special gift to support programs that nurture the future leaders and stewards of our park, communities, and environment.
- Contribute to the Brian O'Neill Youth Leaders Fund. Named for the late General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Parks, this Fund carries forward Brian's lifelong work of mentoring young leaders for service in our parks and beyond. It helps support park programs that are as innovative, energetic, and inspirational as Brian's extraordinary legacy.

To learn more about the many ways to give, please contact Kathryn Morelli at kmorelli@parksconservancy.org or (415) 561-3050. Thank you for ensuring our work will thrive for many decades to come!

As original stewards of the land, the Ohlone helped the Center celebrate 10 years of environmental education in July 2011



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The accomplishments of the past 10 years represent the collective vision and effort of our community and school partners. It is with respect and admiration that the Center recognizes and thanks them for their collaboration.

AmeriCorps
Asian Neighborhood Design
B' Magic
Bay Area Wilderness Training
Bay Area Youth Corps
Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe
East Bay Asian Youth Center
East Bay Regional Park District
Enterprise for High School Students
Environmental Traveling Companions
Excelsior Family Connections
Family Mosaic Project
Garden for the Environment
Girl Scouts of the Bay Area
Girls on the Run
Global Exchange
Golden Gate Audubon Society
Goldman Environmental Prize
Growing Up for Good, Inc.
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Hamilton Family Services
Hayes Valley Farm
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KQED Quest
Lazarus House. Healing By Faith Ministries
Literacy for Environmental Justice
Mayor's Office of Youth Education and Employment Program
Mo' Magic
National Japanese American Historical Society
National Summer Learning Association
New Day for Learning
Nextcourse
Outdoor Foundation
Pacific Coast Science Learning Center
Pacific Leadership Institute
Point Reyes National Seashore & PRNSA

Presidio Community YMCA
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THANK YOU FOR GROWING CRISSY FIELD CENTER

Our deep thanks go to the founding supporters of the Center through their gifts to The Campaign for Crissy Field.

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