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# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 2022 IMPACT REPORT



APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY®

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# PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

**Georgia Mountains Childrens Forest Network programs:**

## **NEXTGEN FOREST AMBASSADORS (NGFA):** for youth ages 14-16 in Georgia

*"Last year I hadn't ever set foot in a National Forest, and now I can say that I'm the richest landowner on earth! But not just me, it belongs to all of us!"*

- NextGen Participant who has since been employed on Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest



## **A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM (FFEC):**

A program for formal and non-formal educators, providing place-based service learning fundamentals.

## **EMERGING LEADERS' SUMMIT (ELS):**

A national ATC program for young leaders ages 18-35



[appalachiantrail.org/summit](http://appalachiantrail.org/summit)

**READ  
THE EMERGING LEADERS'  
SUMMIT STORIES**

## **LATINX SUMMIT:**

A national affinity program hosted by Latino Outdoors, ATC, and University of North Carolina Asheville, Center for Native Health, Latinos Aventureros en las Carolinas, and the ATC NextGen Advisory Council.

**Latinx leaders gathered together to cultivate connections, and build community through a restorative and educational experience**

## NGFA OVERVIEW

The Next Generation Forest Ambassador (NGFA) program is a 4-day/3-night youth summit hosted by the Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network, a partnership between the ATC, the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Ambassadors ages 14-16 are selected through a rigorous application process to participate. Ambassadors camp, hike, and learn outdoor skills while lending their powerful voices to find ways to connect other young people to the public lands. Paired 1-1 with mentors in conservation careers, ambassadors complete stewardship projects and are awarded small stipends for successful completion. Every ambassador is also provided a backpack, sleeping bag, and headlamp.



### Program Leads and instructors:

Sarah Adams: Appalachian Trail Conservancy Georgia & Nantahala Regional Manager

Chris Doupnik: US Forest Service and Non-Profit expert

Forest Hilyer: Environmental Educator

Kelsey McNicholas: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Community Engagement Specialist

Stefan Moss: Environmental Educator and International Environmental Scientist

Blair Stephens: US Forest Service expert and NASA Scientist

### Special Guests:

Cassie Adams: Recreation and Diversity Equity and Inclusion focused employee from the US Forest Service Southeast Regional Office

Daniel Herron: Atlanta Astronomy Club

Rohan Wilson: Community and Diversity Equity and Inclusion focused Resource Assistant from the US Forest Service Washington Office

## IMPACTS:

120+ Ambassador stewardship project hours

6 School districts across North Georgia and Metro Atlanta counties

5 Countries and 17 languages represented

Alumni leadership codified

12 Ambassador driven stewardship projects, [Read MORE](#)



**WATCH**

Participant-Made Video!



# A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM: DECEMBER 1-2 2022 GEORGIA

A Place-Based Service-Learning Workshop for Educators

## Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will view trails, forests, and public lands as unique teaching resources within their communities;
- Participants will garner a foundation on which to build quality, equitable, place-based service-learning curriculum.
- Participants' perceptions of the region's forests, public lands, and trails will be expanded from a recreational resource to an educational resource.

**AMICALOLA FALLS  
STATE PARK**



&

**LEN FOOTE HIKE INN**



## Partners



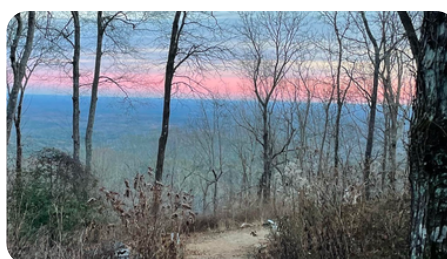
### Pictures

Resources, Rationale, Stories, Team, and Research can all be found on the

[FFEC Microsite](#)



15  
participants  
6  
partners &  
staff



# EMERGING LEADERS' SUMMIT

The Summit was a gathering centered on young people aged 18-35. The Summit strengthened connections between young leaders and their networks, sparked momentum for action at the intersection of inclusion and stewardship and provided a space for artistic celebration with storytelling by utilizing the outdoors and the Appalachian Trail as a muse.

## GOALS

**Connection:** ATC Leaders & Cohort  
**Education:** Trail Skills and Safety  
**Inspiration:** Reflection & Expression

## THANK YOU SPONSORS:

**L.L.Bean**



### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Provide an educational experience for a diverse cohort of emerging leaders -- ages 18-35 -- looking to expand their skills and stewardship for the outdoors.
- Offer meaningful experiences, mentorship, and outdoor leadership opportunities.
- Inspire the next generation of trail stewards and conservation leaders.

### Special Speakers:



Stephanie Sherman-Barr  
 Director of Education, Pocono Environmental Education Center

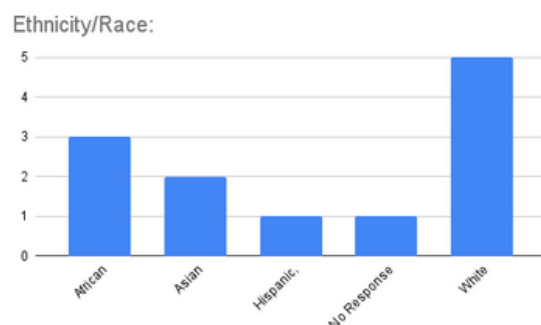
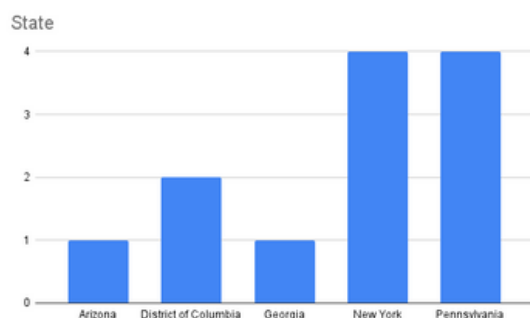


Amath Diouf  
 Writer & Outdoor Storyteller  
<https://copyfol.io/v/amathdiouf>

### Skill Based Sessions:

- Trail Maintenance, Construction, Tools, and Safety
- Visitor Use Management & Monitoring
- Trail Based Education with Ridgerunners

## 12 Participants:



## SUMMIT AGENDA

For Eight of the participants, this was their first time on the Appalachian Trail!

### ATC Staff and Support Team:

Rachel Lettre, Hawk Metheny, Monica Mogilewsky, Kristen English, Julie Judkins, Jen Edmond.

### New York New Jersey Trail Conference:

Zac Cole

### Ridgerunners from NJ:

Kevin, Julie, Danny

# APPALACHIAN TRAIL LATINX SUMMIT

MAY 28-30, 2022  
GEORGIA

## AGENDA

### Saturday, May 28

#### Amicalola Falls State Park

- Noon - 5:00 pm Arrival & camping set-up
- 6:00 pm: Dinner & Welcome
- Evening Fire Circle

### Sunday, May 29

#### Len Foote Hike Inn

- Morning: Hike Leadership, Lands History & Healing
- 12:30 - 4:30 pm: Hike & Group discussions on Partnership & Collaboration
- 5:00 pm: Len Foote Tour
- 7:00 pm: Programming & Ceremony

### Monday, May 30

#### Amicalola Falls State Park

- 9:00 am: Group discussions for Hike Out
- Trail Lunch: Advocacy Through Play
- 2:00 pm: Next Steps, Evaluation & Closing Circle

## GOALS:

Partnership Engagement,  
Cultural Heritage,  
Outdoor Leadership,  
Advocacy & Connection

## PARTNERS INVOLVED

Latino Outdoors  
University of North Carolina  
Asheville  
Center for Native Health  
Latinos Aventureros en  
las Carolinas  
ATC NextGen Advisory Council

Read Alex Garcia's, ATC  
Latinx Partnership  
Coordinator, story on Insta:



## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT for Education and Outreach programs:

1. Protect the A.T. Experience: Visitor Use Management and Monitoring was a skill session during the ELS Summit.
2. Engage New People and New Partners: Create an engagement program for younger and more diverse audiences. Create a culture oriented toward justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.
3. Strengthen Shared Stewardship: Make volunteering open to all and easy to do.