EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
2022 IMPACT REPORT

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY®
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

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.

READ THE EMERGING LEADERS' SUMMIT STORIES

appalachiantrail.org/summit
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.

Resources, Rationale, Stories, Team, and Research can all be found on the FFEC Microsite.
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
Osprey

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.

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

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:

State

- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

Arizona District of Columbia Delaware New York Pennsylvania

Ethnicity/Race:

- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

Asian Arab Hispanic In-Dwelling Other

Thank you Sponsors:
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

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.

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