



Youth Backcountry Camps

In 1982, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) was founded to build a trail that would circumnavigate Lake Tahoe and enable ordinary people to step into the extraordinary. Over the past 24 years, the Tahoe Rim Trail has grown into a 200+ mile trail system that welcomes more than 750,000 people each year by foot, hoof, and tire.

Today, the TRTA exists to enhance the Tahoe Rim Trail System, inspire and practice stewardship, and preserve access to the natural beauty of the Lake Tahoe region. Central to fulfilling these commitments is building and enhancing connection to place, and preparing the next generation to care for the places they will inherit. That means creating meaningful and equitable pathways into the backcountry where young people can experience the trail as a place to learn, explore, and belong to something bigger than themselves.

Since 2007, Youth Backcountry Camps (YBCC) have been at the heart of TRTA's

youth programming, bringing the organization's mission to life through meaningful time together on the trail. During these immersive four-day backcountry adventures, teens ages 12-17 explore sections of the Tahoe Rim Trail while developing outdoor skills, learning how to care for one another and themselves, make thoughtful decisions outside and in a group, and become stewards of the landscapes they experience.

Since YBCC began, 1,471 young people have had the opportunity to experience the joy and challenge of the backcountry: to explore new places, push beyond self-imposed limits, build confidence, and gain a deeper understanding of themselves, one another, and the natural world.

This 2026 Impact Report celebrates what we made possible together this year and the lasting impact these experiences have on the young people we serve. We hope it piques your interest and leaves you eager to learn more.

2026 Impact Report



128 Campers

Attended the program from the Reno-Tahoe region, the Greater Sacramento area, the Bay Area, and even the east coast.

53%

of participants attended at **no cost**

26%

of participants attended at **reduced cost**



12 Camps



In the Tahoe backcountry, engaged teens in over 48 days of programming.



6

Partner Programs with youth from Latino Leadership Council, Nevada Urban Indians, SOS Outreach, and Girl Scouts Heart of Central California



2026 Impact Report

89%

of participants felt that YBCC made them feel more self confident

96%

of participants felt that YBCC allowed them to connect more with other people

92%

of participants felt the environment is something they should protect and now they know how to protect it



43%

of participants identified as female or non-binary

92%

of participants said they learned how to overcome difficult challenges

Participant Testimonials



“Participating in this experience made me feel so much more grateful for the beautiful nature we are surrounded with.”

- Kylie, 14



“At first I was really nervous about sleeping accessible to bugs and no showers, but now I find it doesn’t matter. The world of life can be so fun when you put your fears aside.”

- Angelica, 16



“Many of us arrived feeling overwhelmed by the fast pace of everyday life, making this trip a much-needed opportunity to disconnect, recharge, and prioritize our mental health. By the end of the trip, we were exhausted, dirty, and excited to return home, but we also left with a deeper appreciation for nature, stronger relationships with one another, and memories that will stay with us for years to come. This experience was truly a blessing and meaningful opportunity that strengthened our bond as a group while reminding us of the importance of resilience, teamwork, and the healing power of the outdoors.” - Estela, Latino Leadership Council

Participant Testimonials

“I learned that nature was teaching me more than school can.” - Alek, 13

“Something that will stick with me is the views and just how amazing life away from a screen is. - Phoenix, 14

“Aprendi hacer cosas que nunca pense que podria hacer, y que puedo ser yo misma con otros.” *(I learned to do things I never thought I could do, and that I can be myself with others.)*
- Naomi, 13

“I felt more relaxed and calm compared to when I’m at home or doing other activities.” - Demitri, 14

“Some youth talked about overcoming their fears with the hike, one mentioning that “I am a lot braver than I thought”.

We had a rich discussion about the power of mentors and group support for being able to accomplish goals in our lives.” - Steve, Nevada Urban Indians



Thank You to Our 2026 Supporters



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