Welcome

Generation Green Staff

Northern California Consortium Students

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Students

Central California Consortium Students

Southern California Consortium Students

Selfies: “I am Generation Green” & Nature Journals

Virtual Action Shots

Generation Green Virtual Leadership Academy Partners
I am pleased to present the 2020 Generation Green Virtual Leadership Academy Booklet, which highlights students who successfully completed the two-week online leadership academy this July. We recognize and understand that COVID-19 has drastically changed and shaped the way the Forest Service operate. In order to adapt, we transitioned our Generation Green program virtually, to continue serving students in the state of California. We are dedicated to delivering a program that is both efficient and effective for the agency, underserved communities, participating employees, high schools, colleges, and universities.

As a leadership academy, the virtual program helps students to achieve their personal and professional goals. Generation Green recruiters serve as key liaisons between the agency and schools by attending numerous events with the goal of attracting talented and diverse applicants. The program serves as a bridge between the Forest Service and underserved communities. As a team, our goal is to make the Forest Service the employer of choice, diversify Region 5’s workforce to better serve the public, and retain our employees. We are committed to providing an all-inclusive nurturing, respectful, and positive work environment.

One of our program goals is to ensure that students receive valuable experience. They partake in professional development workshops on topics such as resume writing and public speaking. The staff takes the time to learn about students’ interests, capabilities, and goals in order to provide supportive services beyond the program. All students gain work and leadership experiences that will help them succeed academically, personally, and professionally.

We congratulate our students on their accomplishments and encourage them to reach their educational and career goals. We also thank Region 5 leadership and our community partners for their support.

Sincerely,

James Oftedal

James Oftedal
Outreach, Recruitment & Workforce Diversity Program Manager
James Oftedal began his career with the Forest Service over 37 years ago. As the Region 5 Outreach, Recruitment & Workforce Diversity Program Regional Program Manager, he oversees the California Consortium, the Mentoring Program, and Recruitment. He serves as a regional and national advisor regarding cultural transformation, outreach and recruitment, youth engagement, and workforce diversity. James is dedicated to providing leadership and employment opportunities to talented and diverse students, which lead to natural resources related careers. He passionately shares the Forest Service mission and works diligently to make the Forest Service the employer of choice among diverse communities.

As the OR&WD Program Specialist, Lily takes a leadership role in regional partnerships, agreements, and accomplishment reports. She also acts as the CCC Program Manager as needed. She has served the Forest Service for over 18 years and is most passionate about engaging diverse youth and communities in a meaningful way. Lily holds a Master’s in Public Administration and a Bachelor’s degree in Education with an option in Spanish.

As the Program Director, Natosha provides program leadership and direction. She facilitates the planning and coordination of projects with local community organizations, prepares and administers grants and agreements, and develops program marketing materials. Natosha has worked very hard to develop a Generation Green Program in Northern California, along with the Bureau of Land Management. She is most passionate about working with youth to awaken their interest in higher education and the outdoors. She has worked for the Forest Service for 25 years in a variety of departments including Human Resources, Timber and Special Uses.
Jonar provides overall program leadership and coordination for matters relating to the implementation of the SCC mission. He previously served as the Generation Green Coordinator for Benjamin Franklin High School and Anahuacalamec International University Preparatory and as the Urban Outreach Coordinator for the program. Jonar serves as main liaison between government agencies, non-profit organizations, local businesses, school districts, as well as colleges and universities. He provides environmental education and leadership opportunities to diverse, underrepresented youth in North-East Los Angeles. Jonar encourages higher education for the students and serves as a mentor in Generation Green. He currently holds a bachelor’s degree in Telecommunications Management from DeVry University and several associate’s degrees from Citrus College including, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Language Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Biological & Physical Sciences & Mathematics and a Certificate of Achievement in Wildland Resources & Forestry.

Megan Dee has worked for the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit for a total of 14 years, supporting Special Uses, Engineering, Interpretive Services, and Conservation Education. After working 10 years in Conservation Education, Megan finally achieved her dream of becoming Conservation Education Program Manager after being mentored by her predecessor Joy Barney, who retired in April 2019. Megan holds her Master’s in Teaching from Sierra Nevada College, her BA in Sociology from University of Nevada, Reno, and an AA in Spanish from Lake Tahoe Community College. She manages many conservation education and environmental education programs, working with the community and cultivating partnerships inbuilding environmental stewardship. Her passion is connecting youth to nature. Megan loves contributing back to the community she was brought up in and enjoys anything in the outdoors from camping, hiking, walking her dogs, backpacking, cross country skiing, and mountain biking.

Adilene Negrete was born and raised in Tahoe she started with the Forest Service as a Volunteer with the Lake Tahoe Generation Green Club in 2008 teaching local students about Tahoe, she was later an intern for the Generation Green program in 2010. After her internship she worked with the local Boys and Girls Club from 2011-2014 working her way up from a Program Aid to the Bijou Site Coordinator working with local elementary youth. Since then she has explored various positions within the Forest Service such as Trail Crew, Wilderness Ranger and Interpretive Services and was a Generation Crew Leader from 2014 to 2017. Since 2014 she has been working in Conservation Education teaching K-12 grade students about the environment and has been the Coordinator for Generation Green in lake Tahoe for 3 years now. The Generation Green program has a very special place in her heart because it helped transform her life and helped her find her passion for the outdoors, working for the local community and educating youth. She feels very fortunate to have the opportunity share her passion and to give back to her community and help provide opportunities for students. She hopes to one day be an amazing role model to others just like Joy Barney was to her.
Lupita Solano graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a bachelor's in Environmental Studies and an emphasis in ecology. She has experience in biological surveys, natural history, and environmental education. Lupita is currently our Generation Green Program Coordinator for the John Muir High School campus located in Pasadena, California. In the future she hopes to work for the Forest Service in Los Angeles and obtain a graduate degree in Natural Resources Management.

Xang Lor is the current Generation Green Program Coordinator at Grant Union High School. He is a Grant Union High School alumni with a mission to create opportunities for high school youth from an under-resourced community to gain exposure in various careers in government agencies such as the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Xang leads the Generation Green Club at Grant Union High School to cultivate environmental stewardship and connect youth to natural resources through year round outdoor recreational and community service activities. He is passionate about educating and connecting high school youth to opportunities they may not know exist. He also provides homework tutoring services for all club members. He enjoys taking high school youth on college campus tours and mentoring students. Xang graduated from the California State University of Sacramento with a degree in Biological Science with a concentration in Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation.

Lisa was recently hired as a Program Assistant for the Outreach, Recruitment and Workforce Diversity (OR&WD) program. She provides assistance to the Central California Consortium staff, communicate and provide administrative support, and assists in trainings for summer interns. Lisa holds a Bachelor's in Kinesiology from California State University, Fresno and is currently pursuing an associates in Biology at Fresno City College. On her free time, she loves to visit and explore national forests and parks, try out new cuisines, and draw.
Name: Eduardo Manuel Ortega
School: Grant Union High School
Grade: 12
Career Goal: Anthropologist

Name: Jovana Navarrete
School: Grant Union High School
Grade: 12
Career Goal: Registered nurse

Name: Kenny Yang
School: Grant Union High School
*Attending University of California, Davis
Fall 2020
Grade: Graduated Class of 2020
Career Goal: Doctor
Name: Pa Vang
School: Grant Union High School
Grade: 11
Career Goal: Pharmacist or Manga artist

Name: Sabela Tekle
School: Grant Union High School
Grade: 12
Career Goal: Psychologist

“Bloom where you’re planted.”
Michiko Martin - Director of Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Services
Name: Dustin Sanders  
School: South Tahoe High School  
Grade: 9  
Career Goal: To establish and go into as many career paths as possible when the time comes to choose one.

Name: Jasmine Gonzalez  
School: South Tahoe High School  
Grade: 11  
Career Goal: Teacher or lawyer

Name: Sarai Negrete  
School: South Tahoe High School  
Grade: Graduated  
* Attending Lake Tahoe Community College Fall 2020  
Career Goal: Neonatal nurse
Name: Bella Munson
School: South Tahoe High School
Grade: 9
Career Goal: Wildlife Biology

Name: Ngoc Nguyen
School: South Tahoe High School
Grade: 10
Career Goal: Nurse or a Professional chemist

“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.”
- Lao Tsu
Name: Mary Shannon
School: Edison High School
Grade: 12
Career goals: Veterinarian

Name: Vincent Moua
School: Sanger High School
Grade: 10
Career Goal: Bachelor’s degree in Psychology

“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than one seeks.”
  - John Muir
Central California Consortium

Students

Name: Kloey Chang
School: Sanger High School
Grade: 10
Career Goal: Criminology

Name: Celina Vargas
School: Orange Cove High School
Grade: 10
Career Goal: Doctor

“In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they’re still beautiful.”

— Alice Walker
Name: Aidan Argueta
School: Benjamin Franklin High School
Grade: 12
Career Goal: Political science and international affairs

Name: Ella Uriu
School: John Muir High School
Grade: 11
Career Goal: Neuroscience

Name: Jesus Vilchis
School: Benjamin Franklin Senior High School
Grade: 12
Career Goal: Physics and Mathematics
Name: Natalie Sanchez  
School: Benjamin Franklin High School  
Grade: 12  
Career Goal: Studying abroad and minor in Italian language while focusing on international business.

Name: Enrique Rivera  
School: Benjamin Franklin High School  
Grade: 12  
Career Goal: Computer science

Name: Luis Silva  
School: John Muir High School  
Grade: 11  
Career Goal: Law enforcement, fire fighter, or a veterinarian
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Sabela Tekle

Kloey Chang

I am Generation Green

I AM GENERATION GREEN

Jesus Vilchis

Dustin Sanders
Selfies: “I am Generation Green” & Nature Journals

Ngoc Nguyen

Natalie Sanchez

Kenny Yang

Jasmine Gonzalez
Selfies: “I am Generation Green” & Nature Journals

Jovana Navarrete

Enrique Rivera

Vincent Moua

Ella Uriu
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Celina Vargas

Sarai Negrete

Mary Shannon
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Eduardo Manuel Ortega

Bella Munson

Aiden Argueta

Pa Vang
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