

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE





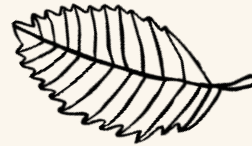
It's Giving **Green** Vibes: Inspiring **Eco-Action** in **Gen Z**



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Youth Forest Council



Program Structure

- Recruit, hire, and train 12-16 interns annually
- Priority given to young people coming from disfavored communities with lower tree canopy
- Interns are paid part-time/temp employees with CoA and receive specialized training & education throughout year

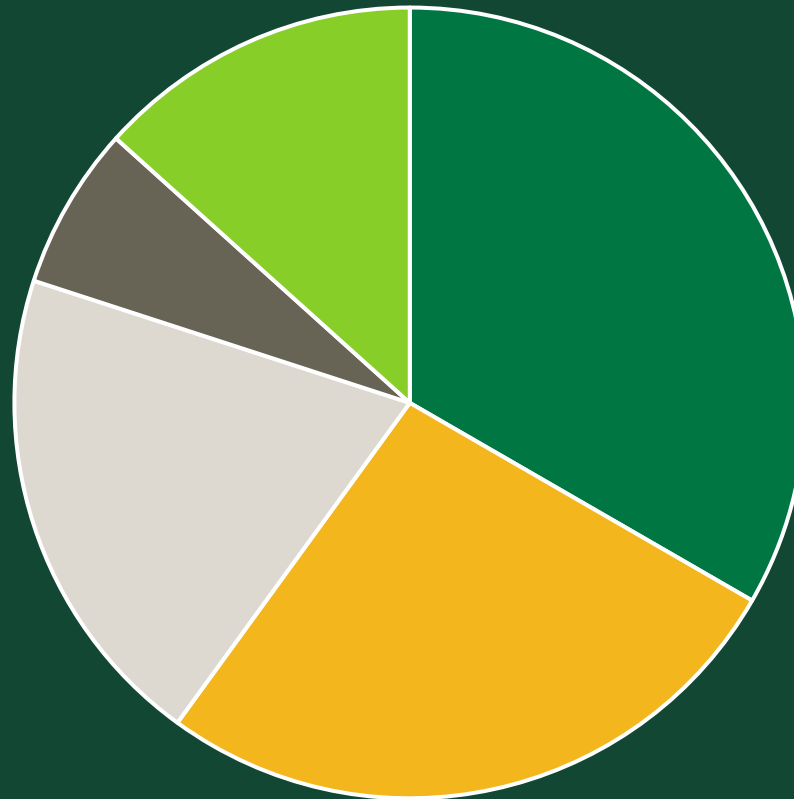


2024-25 Participant Demographics



Race/Ethnicity

- Hispanic/Latinx
- White
- Black
- Asian
- Multi-Racial



100% of participants between 16-20 yrs.

Community Tree Priority Map

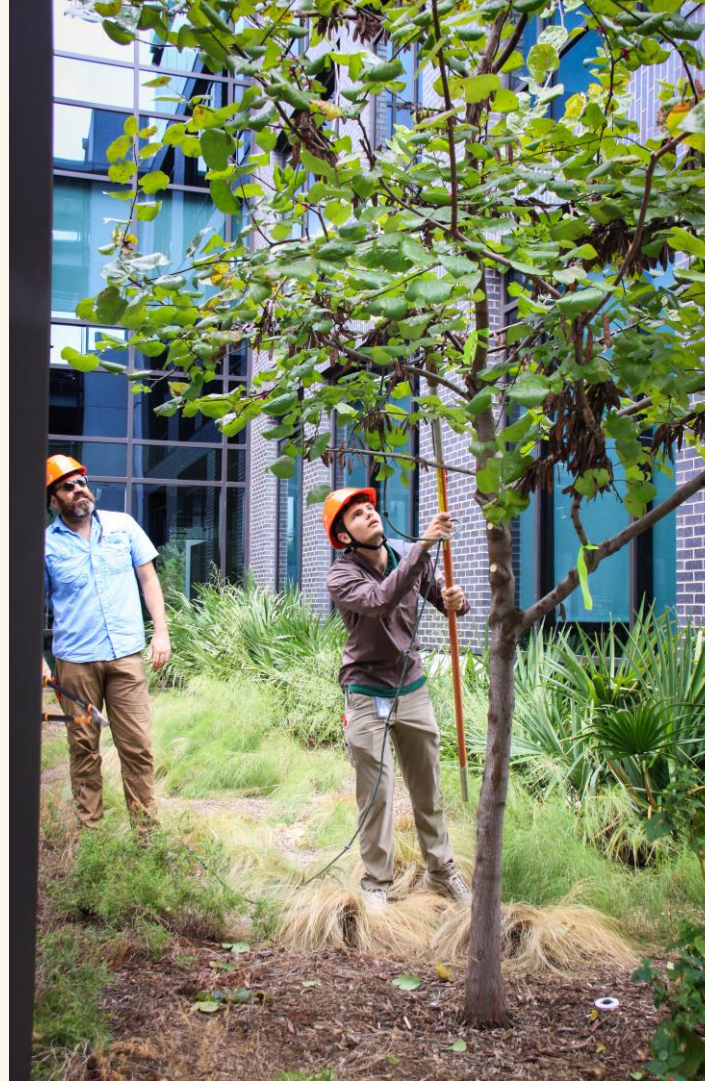


71% of participants
from High Priority
Areas

- Environment
- Social Vulnerability
- Health & Well-Being
- Community Investment

YFC in Action

- **Field Work**
 - Tree climbing
 - Structural Pruning
 - Tree ID
- **Meetings & Mentorship**
 - Monthly 1:1
- **Community Action Projects**
 - Education
 - Reforestation
 - Arts/Communications
 - Community events



Program Impact 2023



552 Community members engaged by YFC interns in environmental service



479 Trees planted in local parks, greenways, and school campuses



129 Hours spent performing eco restoration, environmental education, and community service

How **to** Achieve Deliverables



Tips and Advice



- Over-recruit/Over-hire
- Compensation
- Workforce development trainings
- Focus on relationships
 - People OVER Projects
- Flexibility (up to a point)
- Over-communicate
 - Text is best
- Multiple reminders (Time management is hard)
- Project-in-a-Box
- Hold staff accountable
- Don't be afraid to let employees go! Do it early
 - *“I don't think this is a good fit”*
 - *“Our expectation is X, this is a non-negotiable”*
 - *“I'm wondering if X opportunity would work better with your schedule”*



Digital Storytelling & Social Media



Best Practices

- **Training & Workshops**
 - “Your story matters”
 - Visual Communications Workshop
 - Nature in the City
- **Tools & Resources**
 - Canva
 - ArcGIS Online
 - Storymaps
- **Social Media**
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
 - Communications Platform

Making Austin a greener,
cooler place to live.



Cultivate Connections

@NatureCityATX

Youth Contributors



Zane Williams

[Propagate Texas Ebony Tree](#)



Anish Palley

[Tree Planting on Campus](#)



Cain Ly

[Food Forest at High School](#)



Esme Moreno

[How to Plant a Tree Video](#)



Briseidy Alfaro

[Bilingual Support for Social Media](#)



Wholistic Integration with Staff





Inclusive Intergration

- Diverse Pathways
- Community Connection
- Shared Experiences
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Youth Leadership
- Equity Focus





Thank you.



Urban Forest Youth Education
Youth Forest Council
[@NatureinthecityATX](#)

CEUs

For ISA CEUs, record the code to the right for each session.

Post conference, you can submit all Your CEU codes within the Conference app.

Sign-in sheets for Society of American Foresters (SAF) CFE credits are available at the registration desk post conference.

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Speakers:

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