

Youth for a Change: the promise of a student-centered, community-based pedagogy

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About Earth Force

Earth Force engages young people as **active citizens** who improve the *environment* and their *communities* now and in the future.

Need

Environment

In this era of rapid global change, we face what may be humanity's greatest challenge. The rate at which humans are changing the environment dwarfs all previous experiences in terms of its speed, the scale of its consequences and in the numbers of people who will be affected.

Education

Alarmingly, the generation of Americans that will soon be called upon to address these challenges—those currently in our schools—have a limited understanding of environmental issues, our civic system and/or how to develop and implement balanced solutions to natural resource challenges.

The problem is not a shortage of environmental information. There is plenty of information with media saturation of environmental stories at an all time high. The problem is that we have not fostered young people's ability to critically assess that information and use it to make sound choices.

National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education points to the center of issue when they said "in the coming decades, the public will more frequently be called upon to understand complex environmental issues, assess risk, evaluate proposed environmental plans and understand how individual decisions affect the environment at the local and global scale."

Our Response

Now is the time to foster a scientifically capable and civically engaged populace. Through Earth Force young people get hands-on, real-world opportunities to practice civic skills, acquire and understand environmental knowledge, and develop the skills and motivation to become life-long leaders in addressing environmental issues.

Earth Force achieves these results by training and supporting educators as they implement our unique six-step model for engaging young people. Thanks to 10 years of rigorous evaluation, we know that our model positions young people to use their creativity and passion to play a meaningful role in environmental decision-making.

Earth Force knows that little can be accomplished by working alone. To meet our goals, Earth Force partners with businesses, schools, community-based organizations and civic leaders nationwide.