

Getting Creative About Climate Change Training Report. July 2009

AYEA just wrapped up our 2009 Summer Training: *Getting Creative About Climate Change*. The training brought together 17 teens from 11 different communities across the state, including Akiak, Alakanuk, Anchorage, Big Lake, Dillingham, Homer, Kotlik, Nome, Port Graham, Seward, and Toksook Bay. We converged in Arctic Valley, high in the Chugach Mountains just north of Anchorage.



In addition to making new friends and learning about the diversity of cultures in Alaska, the group spent the week exploring issues of climate change, environmental justice, renewable energy, and activism. Participants also studied two art forms: spoken-word poetry and digital storytelling. In one week, they created art pieces in one of these forms, inspired by their personal connection to the environment and fueled by the environmental education sessions at the training.



Digital Storytelling

The participants in this art track learned media and technology skills to create digital stories about their connection to climate change. Teens wrote personal narratives and then combined them with digital images and a musical soundtrack. This track was led by trainers from AYEА's partner organization *Art in Action* of Oakland, California, Maryam Roberts and Xiomara Castro. Learn more about *Art in Action* at www.artinactionworld.org

Spoken-word Poetry

The other half of the group participated in an intensive poetry workshop, where they explored the history of oral storytelling, learned about poetic writing tools, and the role of recital in forming community. Each member of the group had the opportunity to create an original spoken-word poetry piece from idea, to writing, to memorization, and finally performance! This track was led by Mickey Kenny of *Inner Stage Poetics* in Anchorage.



Getting Outdoors

Part of AYEА and National Wildlife Federation's intentions with our trainings is to connect teens to the environment and the outdoors. Teens who had never been camping before survived a whole week sleeping in tents in the (windy!) mountains. We hiked up several nearby peaks, enjoying blueberries, wildflowers, and awesome views of the Chugach and the Anchorage bowl.

More Photos from the training are available on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ayea/sets/72157621743100235/>

Digital Stories and videos of the poetry performances are coming soon to AYEА's YouTube Channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/AYEA4LIFE>

Huge Thanks to all of the volunteers, donors & supporters who made it happen! Special thanks to the training team: Maryam Roberts, Xiomara Castro, Mickey Kenny, Russell Stigall, Joe Okitkun, Cheryl Ongtawasruk, Brittany Walker, and Milton Jones. You rock!