

This March, nineteen youth leaders from rural and urban Alaska came together for an action-packed week in the state capitol...



CCS 2011

The 11th Civics and Conservation Summit

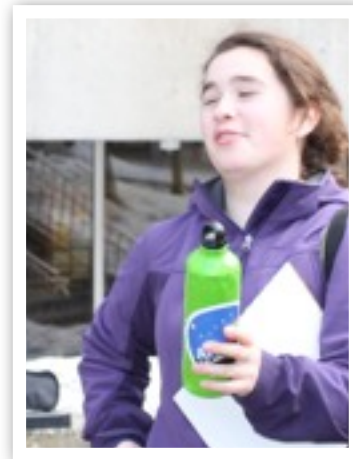
19 teens, 13 communities



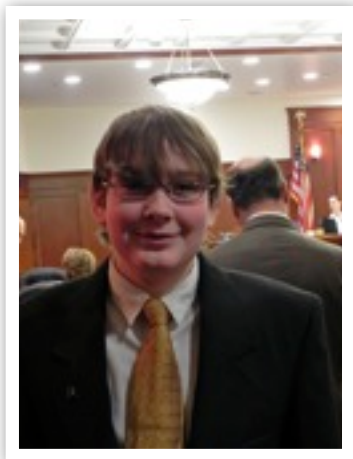
Lynette from Chevak



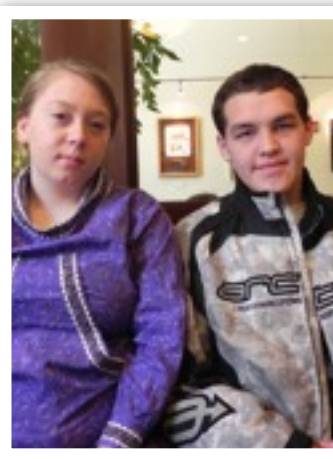
Katie from Fairbanks



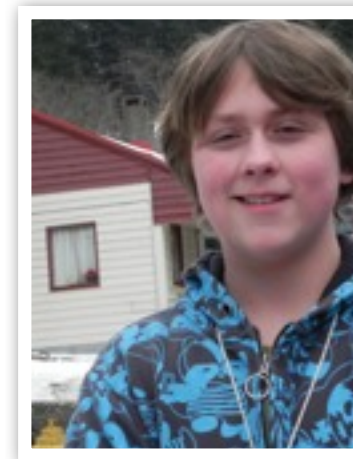
Ruby from Juneau



Taylor from Tok



Charli and Thomas
from Dillingham

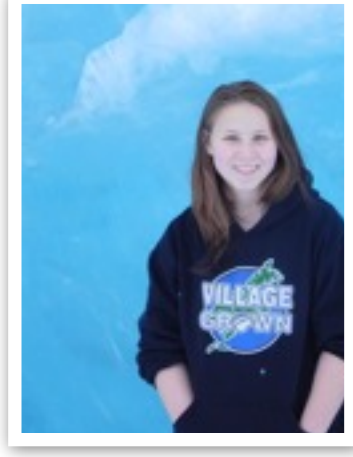


Hunter from Seward

“It’s kind of cheesy, but the best part of the summit was the encouragement of others. I live in a place where (not to diss on my peeps but) they don’t believe we have to do something to protect and strengthen our area... It’s comforting to know there are others my age that have the same feelings and desires that I do.”

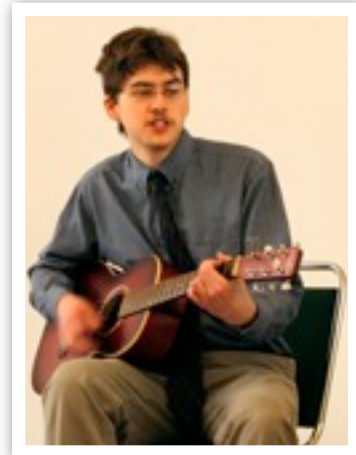


Emily from Healy



Katie from Old Harbor

... ideals that defy geography



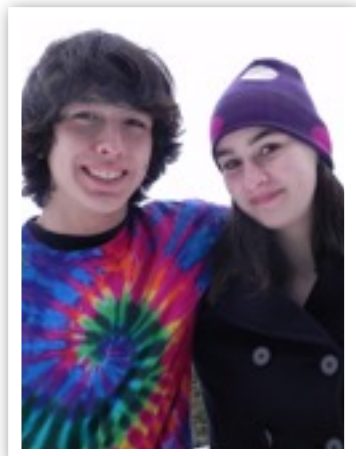
Joe from Fairbanks



Nicole and Juliun
from Napakiak

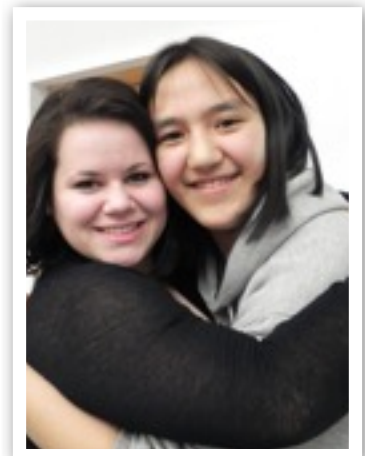


Wendy from Galena
Heidi from Dillingham



Justice and **Adella**
from Homer

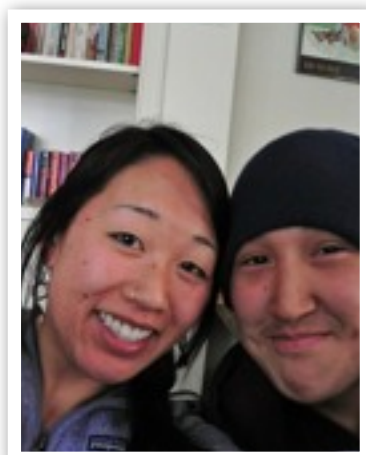
“I liked getting to know the issue and doing research and discussing it with peers first. I was comfortable before I went to talk to [a legislator] about it. That was probably the most helpful part.”



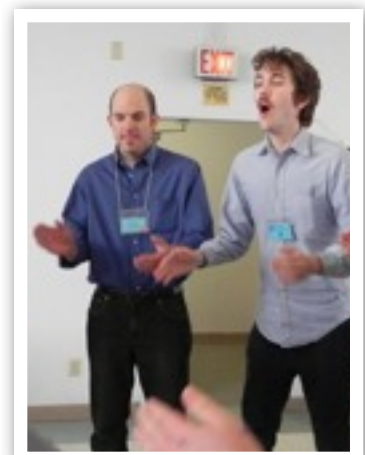
Tracy from Yakutat
Beverly from Elim



Megan from
Anchorage



Shannon from Anchorage
Matt from Napakiak



Jed and Brian from
Anchorage

Defending your values is hard!



The theme for the Civics & Conservation Summit was protecting wild Alaskan salmon, building on AYEAs year-long, youth-led campaign.

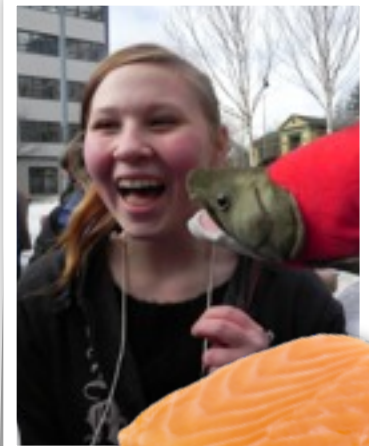
During the training, we learn: how to talk with the media, how to communicate with elected officials, how to read a bill, and **how to impact decisions our leaders make about our environment and our lives.**



After three days spent researching issues, meeting with experts, and learning about the legislative process, the Summit culminated with **a full day of meetings in the capitol.** Teens met with senators and representatives to advocate for issues they care about, like the three “focus bills.”

Teens also presented AYEAs *Youth Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon* which AYEAs teens drafted last October to voice their concerns about **proposed mining projects like Pebble Mine that run through major salmon habitats** and the threats from genetically modified fish.





This year AYEA partnered with the **Bristol Bay Working Group** to launch a capitol steps barbecue. Lawmakers and live music, salmon and smiling staffers set the stage for the delivery of our annual “Legislator of the Year” awards. Peer leaders chose to award politicians who have protected wild fisheries.



Our 3 teen-selected “Focus Bills”

Opposing the sale of genetically modified salmon
HJR8, sponsored by Rep Kawasaki

Providing funds for researching ocean acidification
HJR10, sponsored by Rep Kerttula

Eliminating Alaska’s use of toxic flame retardants
SB27, sponsored by Sen Wielechowski

2011’s Legislators of the Year

Sen. Bill Wielechowski (*D-Anchorage*)

Rep. Alan Austerman (*R-Kodiak*)

Rep. Bryce Edgmon (*D-Bristol Bay*)

Rep. Scott Kawasaki (*D-Fairbanks*)

Rep. Beth Kerttula (*D-Juneau*)

“It was amazing.”

thomas hoeth, dillingham

The Civics & Conservation Summit is just one of AYEA's annual trainings. The goals of the summit are to...



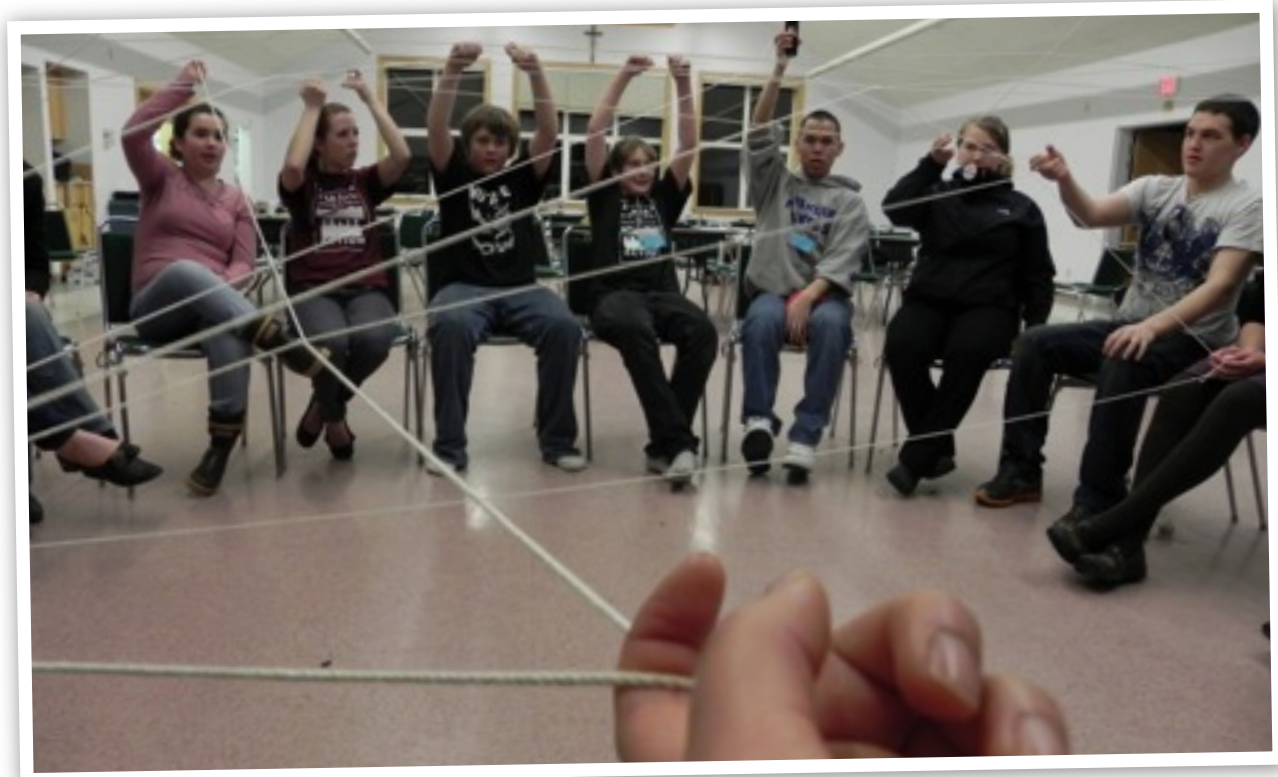
Provide opportunities for teens to advocate for issues they care about and effect change in public policy,



... connect youth from diverse cultural backgrounds to form a statewide network of young Alaskan leaders,



... and build teens' skills in leadership and civic engagement!



Encourage teens you know to apply! Alaskans age 14-18 are eligible to attend. Check back in January 2012 for an application.

More info is online at www.ayea.org

