



The Youth-Led Revolution

Powering THE FUTURE OF Civic Action



FRESH TRACKS



Evidence of Impact

A formal evaluation, led by Dr. Sharoni Little of the Strategist Company and the USC Marshall School of Business, found that the Fresh Tracks regional trainings contributed to participant growth in their value of their personal narrative and cultural identity, confidence in their abilities and strategies to create a community vision and action plan as community advocates and change agents, and the cultivation of critical cultural competency, collaboration, and communication skills needed to achieve social justice and equity for themselves, and others.

Building Power, Taking Action

About Fresh Tracks

Since 2016, Fresh Tracks – a program of the Center for Native American Youth at The Aspen Institute, operated in partnership with the Opportunity Youth Forum and the Children & Nature Network – has empowered more than 200 young leaders from across the country and is now convening stakeholders to address systems of inequity, celebrate cultural heritage, and support action plans focused on social and environmental justice.

Pathways to Leadership

Fresh Tracks brings together diverse young leaders (ages 18-25) from urban, rural, and tribal communities for shared experiences that blend outdoor exploration, cultural sharing, and leadership development. Through interactive workshops, participants learn to develop personal narratives, identify their unique leadership styles, and create community engagement strategies.

After the Training

Fresh Tracks alumni join a national network of like-minded leaders. Strategic partnerships with tribes, local governments, philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, and youth development initiatives like My Brother's Keeper and the National League of Cities (NLC) support recruitment efforts, ensure trainings are relevant, and help participants implement community action plans.

Participant Outcomes

Fresh Tracks uses a cultural immersion and experiential program model to promote the following core participant outcomes:

- **Cultural Competence:** Participants will gain an understanding of cultural and emotional intelligence and implicit bias to lead and thrive in an increasingly diverse, global world.
- **Civic Engagement:** Participants will become more civically engaged, empowering them to become active change-agents within their home communities.
- **Workforce Empowerment:** Participants will leverage experiences into career skills through training provided by workforce education partners and universities.





Our Partners



Spotlight On Community Action

We believe leadership development is a collaborative, lifelong journey. During Fresh Tracks trainings, participants work side-by-side to enhance their leadership skills through cross-cultural workshops. Mentorship, peer-networking, and microgrants help alumni implement community action plans back home.

Right now, Fresh Tracks leaders across the United States are transforming their dreams of change into action through three intertwining pathways: Civic Engagement, Cultural Exchange, and Leadership Development in the Outdoors.

Civic Engagement

{ Actions that bring a community together to connect and understand the decision making process of that community. }

Devin Edwards

Devin's Community Action Plan brings together the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the office of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and other community leaders for a "Back To School" event. This event will bring together 150 youth and their families for an opportunity to engage with their civic leaders, receive educational support, have access to information booths and receive school supplies.

Henry Albert

The Ruby Free Little Library is a proposal developed by Fresh Tracks participant Henry Albert. After seeing his community lack access to a public library, Henry intends to build the Ruby Free Little Library with a local carpenter. The development of this library will provide local community members in rural Alaska an opportunity to access free books.



Spotlight On Community Action

Cultural Exchange

{ Actions that bridge cultures and communities by sharing knowledge and traditional values. }

Kyra Antone

As president of NAWA, Kyra works to bring awareness to issues indigenous people face, specifically indigenous women through cultural workshops on campus. In April, NAWA will co-host an annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) event to bring awareness to this issue.

Quinna Hamby

Quinna has actively sought out Indigenous artists who have agreed to design a mural in Boston, Massachusetts. Her project, Using Art to Bridge Cultural Connections, will allow for understandings to come through indigenous art and community involvement. Utilizing volunteers, individuals can join the installment of the mural. Quinna hopes this mural will show the significance of Indigenous peoples and culture.

Leadership Development in the Outdoors

{ Actions that use nature as a tool to address systems of inequity and injustice by offering a space to heal and hear each other. }

Ajee Witherspoon & Meno Jondreau

Ajee and Meno are partnering to provide the opportunity for inner city youth to experience the outdoors and camping in Scout Hollow, Detroit's only campground. These camping trips will also highlight the benefit of cultural exchange, making sure to partner with and learn from local tribes (Peoria, Anishinabewaki, Potawatomi, Miami).

Addie Brouard

Addie is currently developing her proposal, Racial Equity in Outdoor and Environmental Leadership. Her project will focus on scaling out an existing program by Children and Nature Collaborative of Austin. To further dialogue, Addie will establish a series of conversations and trainings related to social equity.

“ We were able to uplift the spirits of these college students. The change on campus was also visually beautiful but the internal change that happened was the most amazing. We were able to bridge cultural connections through art work and visual storytelling. We taught the history of the native people by sharing their pictures with the campus. ”

- Quinna Hamby





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