



YES! Quarterly

Fall 2016

## YES! Fall Summits a Success



This year, YES! hosted two Fall Summits-the 3rd annual Northeastern YES! Fall Summit on October 3rd at Laurentian ELC in Britt and the 10th annual YES! Fall Summit on October 12th at St. John's University in Collegeville. The Summits combined engaged 300 students and coaches and provided teams with information, inspiration, and ignition to pursue meaningful and impactful projects this

year.

At both events, students learned from experts and their peers as they explored ways to mitigate climate change, engage their communities, fund their projects, and track their results throughout the year.

Read more about the Fall Summits at [Saint John's University](#) and at [Laurentian Environmental Center](#).

## Give to the Max on November 17th



Give to the Max to support YES! teams

We're excited to participate in this year's Give to the Max Day on November 17! Help show your support for YES! by giving through our [GiveMN page](#), which helps raise funds for our Regional Winter

Workshops. All gifts made between now and November 17 count toward Give to the Max. [Read more about what this means to YES!](#)

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YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects.

YES! provides a unique opportunity for students to learn by engaging

## YES! Teams in Action

YES! teams are involved in a bunch of great projects this year. Here are a few highlights from around the state:

### **Cherry**

Their team is designing an electric go-kart. You can find out more information about that project [here](#).



### **Discovery Woods (Brainerd)**

The Discovery Woods YES! team is learning how to teach water conservation to younger students in the school and will provide tips on how to conserve water at school and at home.

### **Yellow Medicine East (Granite Falls)**

They officially broke ground on constructing an LED green house at their school!



### **Forest Lake**

The Forest Lake YES! team is focusing heavily on waste reduction this year through education, recycling, and reducing plastic utensil use in the cafeteria.

directly in community efforts that lead to dramatic demonstrations of renewable energy technology and conservation practices and exposes them to how science is applied in real life.

## YES! Program Partners



## New Staff and Partner

We're excited to announce our newest YES! Coordinators, Ali and Erin! Ali Dahmes will be working with the West Central teams as well as at Prairie Woods ELC. Ali is excited to share her love of animals and nature with the YES! program and students. [Learn more about Ali here](#).



Ali Dahmes

Erin Nordquist will be working with the Central teams out of our newest partner, the Sauk River Watershed District. Erin is passionate about maintaining and protecting clean waterways through projects and public education. [Read all about Erin!](#) We're excited to have the Sauk River Watershed District on board as a partner. The mission of the Sauk River Watershed is to apply their unique abilities and authorities in ways that protect and enhance their watershed's resources for today and tomorrow. [Learn more about their projects and impact.](#)



Erin Nordquist



[www.lcsc.org](http://www.lcsc.org)



## YES! Named Bush Prize Award for Community Innovation Finalist!

The Bush Prize for Community Innovation honors and supports innovative organizations with a track record of making great ideas happen. YES! and Prairie Woods ELC are among the 16 finalists from a pool of 68 applications being recognized for being a difference maker in the communities that host YES! teams.



The Bush Prize Award is noted for lifting up organizations that think bigger and think differently about how they address community problems. YES! is proud to be lifted up as a program that has been doing that for 10 years!

### Did You Know...

Support  
Prairie Woods Environmental  
Learning Center.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

The Amazon Smile logo, which includes the word 'amazon' in its signature font and 'smile' in a smaller font below it.

You can now support YES! teams by purchasing items on Amazon through [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com), a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. So, how does it work? Simply click [here](#) and follow the

on-screen instructions, choosing Prairie Woods ELC as the charitable organization (since YES! is fiscally hosted by Prairie Woods ELC, donations through Amazon Smile are received by PWELC and directed to the YES! Program).

### Major Program Funders



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Do you know a school that would like to host a YES! team?

[Contact us](#) to connect with a coordinator in your region and become a part of the YES! network!