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10th Annual Fall Summit Prepares YES! Students for Success with Interactive Sessions

Collegetown, MN, October 20, 2016— The 10th Annual Fall Summit, held at Saint John’s University on October 12th, engaged over 200 students and coaches from 16 Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams from central and southern Minnesota. Students participated in sessions like “Measuring Your Project’s Success,” “FUNdraising 101,” “Intro for New Teams/Students,” and “Project Sharing” that connected them with peers, engaged them in tools for success, and demonstrated funding ideas as they head into the 2016-17 YES! season.

The theme for this year’s Fall Summit was “Say YES! to Youth-Led Water Solutions.” YES! was fortunate to have Dr. Kate Brauman, Lead Scientist for the Global Water Initiative at the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, present her topic on “Why Global Water Matters” as the keynote. One student commented, “I thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speaker. She introduced many new ideas and issues that I had never even thought about.”

Two of the big highlights at the summit this year were the climbing wall and 34-foot Voyageur canoe from Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. YES! works hard to bring opportunities like these to its students at events to further engage them in alternative ways of learning.

YES! was also fortunate to have regional experts, Jon Morales from the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District and Mark Haugen and Cassidy Martin from the University of Minnesota 4H Extension, assist with sessions.

ABOUT YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT

YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, recycling, composting, local foods, and more. The YES! Program is a collaboration between Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, Lakes Country Service Cooperative, and Ney Nature Center. Major funding for the 2016-2017 season is provided by the McKnight Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, a constitutionally-established permanent fund for protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). For more information, visit www.youthenergysummit.org

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