YES! Quarterly

11th Annual Fall Summits Prepare Students for Success!

The annual Fall Summits, held this year at Saint John's University on October 11th and Laurentian Environmental Center on October 16th engaged over 230 students and coaches. Sessions, speakers, and learning centered on the theme "Say YES! to Living Green". Students participated in team-building sessions, worked with staff from Climate Generation to learn what it takes to put on a community event, learned about energy conservation and devices from members of the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), and more! Read more about what students learned at sessions on The Climate is Changing, Are YOU??", "Water, Water, Everywhere. We Really Need to Care", "Getting Current with Saving Watts and Drops", "You are My Sunshine", and at the Northeast Fall Summit. It was a great kick-off to the 11th season of YES! and we look forward to sharing more stories of YES! success throughout the year!

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:

Sleepy Eye
Sleepy Eye YES! teams are partaking in the River Watch Program. They are working with experts to learn how to take various river and stream measurements and that information...
can then be added to the program database, creating a greater picture of Minnesota water quality.

**Glencoe-Silver Lake**

Currently planning and creating several solar-powered 120-volt portable charging stations, this team hopes to make these available to students to charge their portable devices during the school day. The intend to demonstrate how solar electricity generation can be utilized to lower the use of carbon-based fuels.

**Northern Lights Community School (NLCS)**

This team plans to build a large aquarium that they will use to raise trout for eventual release in a local stream. Since trout are one of the most sensitive fish species they will be working to make the water quality of their aquarium and the stream where they will release the trout as pristine as possible.

**Discovery Woods**

This team is hoping to do a project focused on energy efficiency energy by replacing the fluorescent tube lights in their library with LED lights.

We are proud of all of our YES! teams for their hard work and amazing projects and we look forward to seeing all that they accomplish this school year!

**Royalton YES! Team's Adventure Abroad**

This past spring, 12 students and instructors from the Royalton YES! team traveled to Italy to present about their YES! projects. In addition, the team wanted to learn about some of the alternative energies utilized in Europe and how other countries deal with their environmental issues. According to coach Marty Bratsch, "the group's mission was to meet with residents and share the idea of students taking an active role in their schools and communities to create a better environment". This tour resulted in lots of great memories for the group—they are even planning
Blackout Day for Charity

On October 25th, the Westbrook-Walnut Grove (WWG) YES! team carried out a Black Out Day at their school, shutting off lights and electronics to save energy, and donated the savings to a school in need. One student noted, "we got this idea from [YES!] class, because we are learning about power and electricity". A WWG alum is currently teaching art in Houston at a school that was directly affected by Hurricane Harvey, so the team thought it would be a great idea to send the money saved during their blackout day to assist those at this Texas school. The entire WWG school was excited to participate, wore all black, and participated in various games and activities. The team was able to save and donate around $70 to Eisenhower High School in Houston, Texas. Read all about their experience on our blog.

Say YES!

YES! is more than a Summit - it's empowered youth making a difference for their future, their community and the earth!

As we celebrate over 10 years of empowering youth, we're launching a celebratory giving campaign. Look for an email soon to learn more about supporting YES! or donate NOW!

We need you. Just say YES! and you can make a difference too!
Did You Know...

4 YES! students (Landin, Megan, Jaden, and MaKenna) recently presented to the 30 commissioners of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. The students, from the New London-Spicer team, presented in support of the proposed project "YES! Takes on Water Quality Challenge" which will work to improve water quality in watersheds across the state. The students spoke about their experience working on their YES! project: paddling on a lake, collecting plant samples, identifying them as invasive or native, and uploading their photos into the DNR database. The proposed YES! project has been selected to be presented to Governor Dayton for approval.