

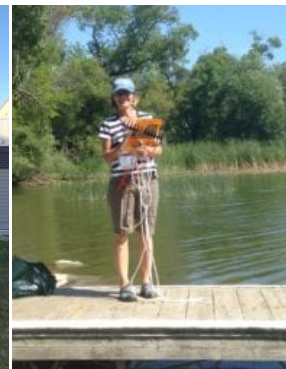


YES! Accomplishments 2018-2019

12th Season of YES!

We are excited to celebrate the 2018-2019 season, which included 22 teams and 339 students working on 96 projects across the state. This school year, YES! students directly worked with 590 additional students, local businesses, organizations and community members to impact an additional 9,500 students and 19,518 community members.

Since its inception, YES! has supported nearly 4,000 students in working with over 7,000 local businesses, organizations and community members to impact an additional 120,000 students and 160,000 community members.



During the 2018-2019 season, teams:

- Volunteered for over 4,100 hours
- Organized and participated in 76 educational events in their schools and communities
- Completed 43 community events



YES! empowers youth to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through community-based hands-on projects to fulfill community needs and build life-long skills.

www.yesmn.org

2018-2019 YES! Teams

Carlton

4th year team

Placed compost bins in their cafeteria. Installed auto light switches and LED bulbs. Worked to switch from plastic to reusable silverware. Ran a poster contest regarding recycling, threats to pollinators, and water quality. Planned and ran spring clean up. Put together “Save the Bees” fundraiser. Influenced teachers to assign projects that include water conservation.

Discovery Woods (Brainerd)

4th year team

Planted a school rain garden. Exhibited at the Environmental Education Exhibition. Made environment-related posters for the local Art in the Park event.



DREAM Technical Academy

3rd year team

Worked to construct a rain garden on the Minn West Technology Campus.



Forest Lake

3rd year team

Stenciled “Dump No Waste; Drains to Lake” on 15 drains. Hosted lectures on wastewater engineering. Expanded and continued to run the school’s recycling program. Collected 215 pounds of holiday lights for recycling. Consulted city architect to plan expansion of their pollinator garden and potential school rain garden. Hosted a free screening of *Wall-E* to alert others to the dangers of ecological crisis. Planned a public climate convening event via Youth Convening Minnesota.

Glencoe-Silver Lake

8th year team

Learned how to maximize gas engine efficiency and reduce emissions through building 3 Supermileage vehicles (modified, electric, and E-85) for the 31st annual Supermileage Challenge.

Lac qui Parle Valley

11th year team

Continued to plant/harvest in their deep winter green house. Partnered with Pheasants Forever to restore 35+ acres of school grasslands into native prairie.

Mankato West

8th year team

Ran the numbers for a potential LED lighting retrofit for the school. Focused on monitoring water quality and water data collection from a local watershed.

Minnetonka

1st year team

Designed and constructed a scale model of a Deep Winter Greenhouse to inform the design of a school greenhouse. Designed and constructed a small scale aquaponics station for growing lettuce and basil all winter long. Demonstrated to homeowners and renters how to grow starter plants and seasonal crops at the local scale.

Moorhead Youth Educational Services

2nd year team

Completed water quality assessments with local experts. Designed and built native plant planter boxes to attract pollinators and to illustrate how native plants can improve water quality.

New London-Spicer Middle School

12th year team

Continued to plant and harvest in their deep winter green house where greens get served at lunch. Raised money to install LED lights in the district office entrance.



Recycled over 200 pounds of holiday lights. Hosted an energy week. Taught outdoor science to 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. Participated in Aquatic Invasive Species surveying and education.

New London-Spicer High School

2nd year team

Helped 5th graders plant 500 native prairie plants. Donated \$500 to the New London-Spicer Middle School team for LED bulbs. Participated in Aquatic Invasive Species surveying and education.



New Prague High School and ALC

3rd year team

Collected water quality data from 4 different taps in their school. Based on these results, they designed and built water filters and tested how this changed the water quality. Used hydroponics to grow over 80 pollinator plants and natural insecticide plants, which they sold at their Community Green Day. Amended soil and planted 3 Agriscape Landscapes. Hosted their 2nd annual Community Green Day. Completed a school energy audit. Built over 20 bee hotels. Designed and built vertical gardens.

Northern Lights Community (Warba)

5th year team

Implemented a water hydration station. Educated their peers about water topics. Tracked water usage in their schools. Completed a shoreline restoration project on Ice Lake. Sent all school food waste to a local farmer. Worked with the DNR to raise and release Rainbow Trout into local waterways. Continue to aid their school in recycling as many materials as possible.

Parkers Prairie

4th year team

Designed and planted a native plant school garden. Completed a human impact study on Lake Adley, including water testing and a biodiversity index of the health of the lake.



ROCORI

7th year team

Installed a 4-panel solar system. Continued school wide recycling and education. Collected 417 pounds of shoes for reuse and donation. Installed a hydration station.



Royalton

7th year team

Placed signs on trails in their school forest and eradicated buckthorn. Learned how to properly transplant a tree. Cleaned the walking paths in their school forest. Maintained their used oil collection site.

Sartell-St. Stephen

4th year team

Created 6 peer educational lessons on water quality and aquatic invasive species, which were used in classrooms. Assessed learning by their peers after these lessons. Continued their efforts to reduce waste at their school.



Sleepy Eye

8th year team

Continued their prairie restoration. Collected 737 pounds of holiday lights for recycling. Educated their community about light bulb options. Started milk carton recycling in their school cafeteria. Hosted Earth Week activities in their school using the MN Energy Center's energy trailer. Collected water quality data for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Researched, received money for, and built mason bee houses. Continued B3 benchmarking for all the buildings in Sleepy Eye that the city owns. Built a 600-plant pollinator garden. Collected money for a clean water project in Zambia.

Springfield

11th year team

Grew lettuce and spinach using hydroponics in their school greenhouse. Collected 341 pounds of holiday lights for recycling. Worked to add two more hydration stations to their school.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

10th year team

Collected 70 pounds of clothing from 64% of the student body to donate. Hosted a blackout day. Continue to recycle bottles and cans from their school. Planned a rain garden at their school. Received a \$3,000 grant from the Remnick Foundation to build their rain garden and upgrade their recycling center. Collected holiday lights for recycling. Gave presentations about recycling. Hosted a community on ways to save money on heating, energy, and water.

Wrenshall

3rd year team

Created a Super-mileage vehicle, which reached an estimated 100 MPG. Created a solar boat for the solar boat regatta. Presented both vehicle and boat at various community and school events.



Yellow Medicine East

9th year team

Installed a hydration station in their gym. Continued to plant and harvest in their community garden and help elementary students plant there as well.





The Third Annual YES! State Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 12th, attended by over 100 YES! students, coaches, staff, and supporters. YES! works hard to bring opportunities like these to its students where they can showcase the hard work they do throughout the school year!

Diana Siebels of Waste Management presented awards to the students near home base during the Twin's pre-game show. **New London-Spicer Middle School** was awarded the 2019 State Champion All Star Award and **Northern Lights Community School** was awarded the 2019 State Champion Water Stewardship Award.

"Kids do have good ideas. And with YES! we get to act on them. I believe we have a really big impact on our community and it's fun!"



"The best part of YES! is being able to engage with our community and our school to help solve problems."



A big focus for YES! during the 2018-2019 season was water quality and conservation. YES! teams completed 25 projects related to water. YES! also hosted 9 workshops for teams focused on water issues and led by regional experts on topics such as native prairie/shoreline restoration, aquaponic design and construction, rain garden design, water quality testing techniques, soil health, native gardens, and more!



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