

Engage Students & Help Your Local Environment Start a YES! Team!



Mission: YES! empowers youth to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through hands-on action projects.

- Unique opportunity for students to learn about energy, waste, local foods, habitat restoration, water quality issues, and more through hands-on projects
- Students become community advocates and leaders
- Students solve real-life challenges, fulfill community needs and build lifelong skills

School administrators, teachers, businesses and community members play a key role in the success of YES! team projects. So far, over 6,500 local businesses, organizations, and community members have been involved with YES!

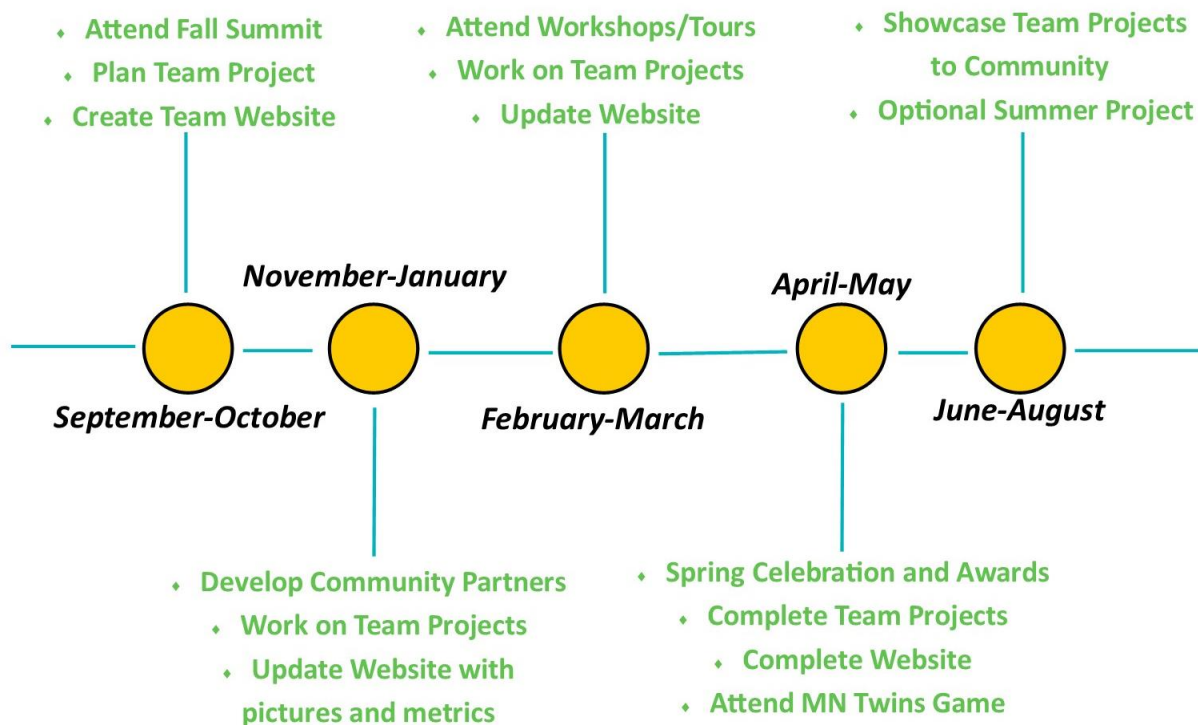
“You can think about saving energy or you can talk about it, but you really need to just get out and do something to protect the environment. I think that YES! is a great way to do that!”
–YES! Student

“YES! benefits are not temporary; the skills stay with you for a lifetime!”
–ACGC Student

Teams have the opportunity to participate in various collaborative activities with other teams. Opportunities include the Fall Summit (a kickoff for the year), customized workshops, and Spring awards.

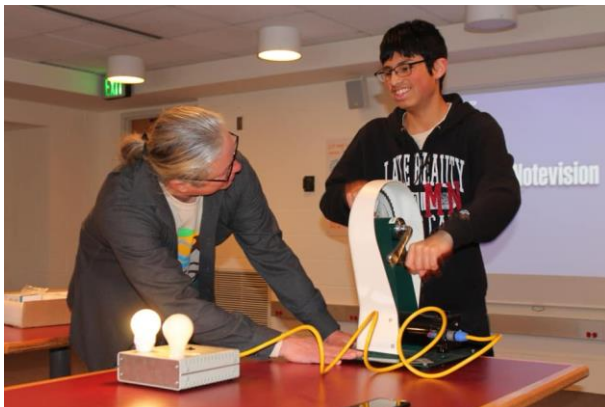


A Year in the Life of YES!



Funding resources available to YES! Teams

- The YES! program provides project seed funds to teams. Each team is eligible for district expense reimbursement (transportation & substitute teacher fees). *Funding varies.
- By participating in the YES! Program, teams compete for YES! awards and cash prizes regionally with the opportunity to progress to the state championship.
- YES! coordinators assist teams in seeking additional support from local organizations and businesses, fundraisers, grants and the One + One = Change campaign. For more details see “YES! Team Opportunities for Funding Support.”



Through YES!, students are learning by doing. Projects have included: building solar panels, conducting energy audits, designing and building compost bins, tiny houses, supermileage vehicles, solar boats and wind turbines, growing local food, shoreline restoration, water quality reporting, and much more!

YES! teams have:

- Restored local lakeshores, cleaned up local lakes and rivers, built rain barrels, and planted rain gardens
- Completed a \$25,000 school tree trench installation
- Reduced school electricity costs by \$5,000 annually
- Reduced cafeteria food waste by over 50%
- Operated a passive solar greenhouse
- Restored native prairies and shorelines
- Created a vehicle that achieves 425 miles per gallon
- Educated elementary students and community members on ecological literacy
- Impacted an additional 110,000 students and nearly 140,000 community members
- Hosted community events including Youth Convening Minnesota



Teams must complete at least one project on the yearly theme and can choose from any of the pillars for additional projects:

- Water Quality & Conservation
- Living Green/Education
- Environmental Innovation
- Waste Reduction
- Climate Change Solutions
- Land Restoration and Gardening
- Energy Conservation
- Renewable Energy



Possible options for offering YES! at your school. Do what works best for your team and be creative!

- **YES! as an Individual Class:** Offer YES! as an elective class at your school, can be tailored to meet STEM requirements and/or other science graduation standards. Flexibility available to offer class for a quarter, semester and/or the entire year.

- **YES! As Part of an Existing Class:** Enhance a current class by adding project based learning into the curriculum. YES! can be tailored to any discipline to include science, technology, math, social studies, language arts and business.
- **YES! As a Club:** Teams have found creative ways to form a YES! club before or after school as well as during lunches and study halls. Some teams meet once a week, others may meet monthly or bi-weekly. There is flexibility based on the needs of the coaches and team members.
- **YES! As a Community Council:** Teams can pair with other community groups or members to form a council that partners in YES! initiatives.

To register, complete the **YES! Team Registration Form** at yesmn.org

Contact a YES! Coordinator closest to you or contact Shelli-Kae Foster, Program Director, shelli-kae@yesmn.org or call 320-354-5894.

- **Deb Groebner, YES! Southern Coordinator**
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- **Tom McDougall, YES! Metro Coordinator**
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Visit www.yesmn.org for more information and to register!

