



2022-23 Team Accomplishments

16th Season of YES!

During the 2022-23 school year, 210 students on 11 YES Teams across the state of Minnesota worked on 45 eco-action projects. Their projects impacted an additional 19,245 students and adults from more than 100 communities.

Since its inception in 2007, YES has supported over 4,910 students in working with more than 7,303 local businesses, organizations and experts to impact an additional 365,093 students and community members.



Harbor City International YES Team with food web props. Taken during their Many Rivers Montessori Water Workshop.



Mankato West YES Students cleaning up campus.

During the 2022-23 season, students:

- Volunteered for over **1,733 hours**
- Developed and provided **84 educational events** in their school or community
- Interacted with **53 experts** who provided them with training, project support, and exposure to green careers



YES empowers youth to create solutions to today's ecological challenges through hands-on action projects. www.yesmn.org



2022-23 YES! Teams

Discovery Woods (Brainerd)

4th year team

Focused on recycling and its connection to air pollution. Due to the efforts of the 2022-23 YES Team, the school now has a better overall recycling program as well as a successful air-quality monitoring project around the neighborhood to study the impacts of plant growth on air quality.

Harbor City International (Water Stewardship Award)

2nd year team

Protected water quality in Minnesota's Great Lake Superior. Completed their Many Rivers Montessori Water Workshop in which the YES Team provided young students with education about the environment, habitat creation or restoration and water conservation and quality.

Lac qui Parle Valley

15th year team

Engaged the Lac qui Parle Valley community in a conversation about climate, specifically addressing local impacts. Continued this conversation with young students and partnered with these young students to restore prairies. Highlighted Earth Day with prior week's events and even adopted a highway!

MACCRAY

2nd year team

Created a safe walking route for both people in the school and in the community; the goal behind this project was to encourage personal movement and mental and physical well-being.

Mankato East

1st year team

Successfully replaced the plastic forks and spoons in the school cafeteria with metal, washable forks and spoons. In order to complete this project, the YES Team built meaningful relationships with the school's head cook, head custodian and head of nutritional services.

Mankato West

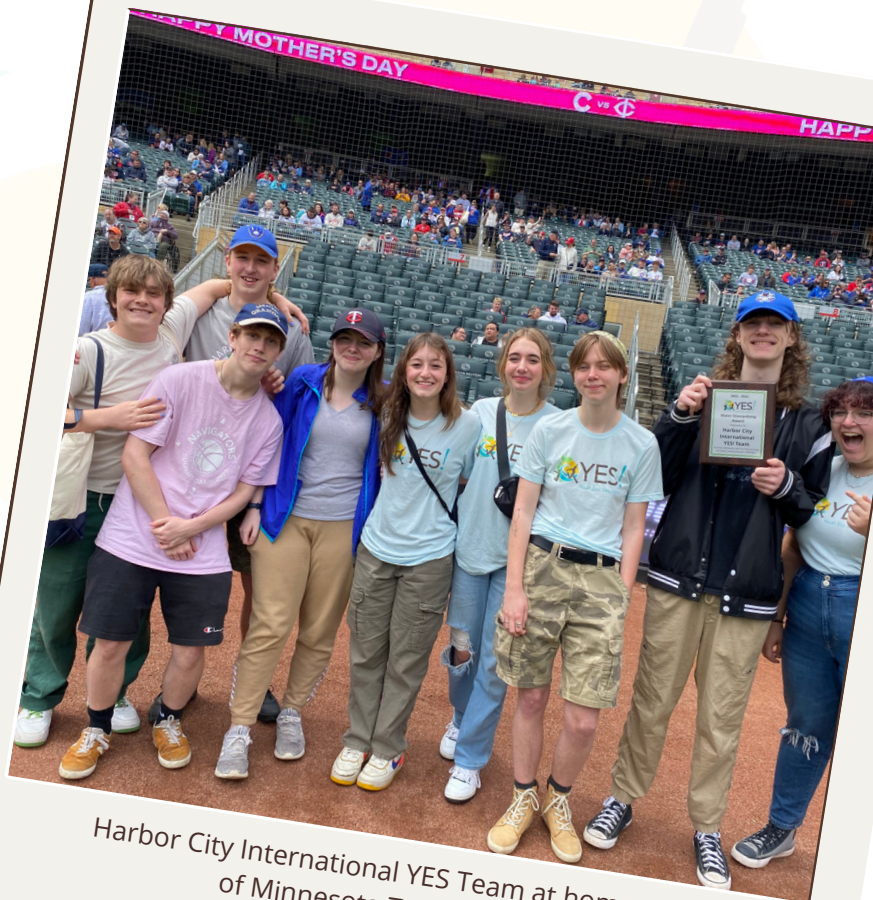
12th year team

Continued to support and improve the composting project brought in by a previous YES Team as well as completed a campus wide clean (collecting more than 150 pounds of waste throughout the year) and implemented a new, more efficient system of composting in the school cafeteria.

New London-Spicer

15th year team

Worked with local green career expert to learn more about pollination and pollinator plots. Used this information to provide environmental education to the 5th grade classes and partner with these classes to spread seeds in the YES Team's pollinator plot.



Harbor City International YES Team at home plate of Minnesota Twins Stadium receiving the Water Stewardship Award.

2022-23 YES! Teams

Royalton

(State Champion)

11th year team

Built community throughout the YES Team by providing monthly projects including installing a solar light source to illuminate the school sign, preventing water erosion, using water runoff to water school garden, working with 8th graders to create a plan to restore their school's prairie and educating preschoolers and kindergartners on the importance of trees.

Sleepy Eye

(Runner-Up State Champion)

11th year team

Cultivated prairie restoration areas at the Sleepy Eye golf course as outdoor learning spaces. Collected and repurposed broken crayons to be used by local pediatric patients. Cleaned the school locker rooms and implemented the use of eco-friendly products and natural air fresheners.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

11th year team

Studied solid waste reduction by upcycling flowers; completed this project by creating "flowers" from plastic bottles and newspapers. The YES Team continued maintenance of the school gardens by winterizing plants, installing new solar lights, cutting back dead growth and cleaning up mulch and rocks.

Yellow Medicine East

10th year team

Created a pollinator garden and established a bee hive in order to educate elementary students on the importance of pollinators. Continued to maintain and protect their school garden by putting up permanent poles, using a water tank and partnering with 3rd through 5th graders in order to plant and maintain the gardens.



Sleepy Eye YES Team photographed with T.C. Bear on the Minnesota Twin's home plate; they were announced 2022-23 YES Runner-Up State Champion.



Royalton YES Team just seconds before walking to home plate of Minnesota Twins Stadium and becoming the 2022-23 YES State Champion.



The YES! State Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 14, 2023. YES organizes the Spring Competition and Awards so that students can showcase their accomplishments and be publicly recognized for their hard work on projects during the school year!

YES Director Kalley Pratt presented awards to the students near home base during the Twins pre-game show. Royalton was awarded the 2022-23 State Champion and Sleepy Eye was named Runner-Up State Champion. Harbor City International was recognized with the 2022-23 Water Stewardship Award. Congratulations to all of our amazing students and coaches for a successful YES season!

In your opinion, how important is it that programs like YES are available to students? Why?

"I think that it is very important. Because so many people do care about environmental issues, but often times they don't have the outlet or don't know about the resources available. If they know that there is something like the YES club available it gives them the outlet to make a positive impact."

- Graduating Senior



Photos taken by Eric Koser - Coach of Mankato West YES Team - during Waste Management workshop.

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