



Youth Environmental Leadership Fellowship Overview

10 1.5-hour Zoom sessions (5:30- 7 pm on Tuesdays in Benicia, Thursdays in Vacaville)

4 in-person hands-on workshops (10 am-2 pm Saturdays, unless otherwise noted)

1 local food/cooking class over Zoom

1 final presentation

The Youth Environmental Leadership Fellowship creates an opportunity for young leaders to develop the skills needed to shape change in their communities today. Through this program, youth will become knowledge ambassadors within their communities based on their research and hands-on experience. Community members and local leaders will benefit from engaging with Fellowship youth, learning about environmental challenges, and learning ways to take action locally. We hope that the benefits of this program will stretch far beyond the three-month commitment to foster a lifelong dedication to environmental justice and community activism.

This program could be a great extracurricular activity connected with local high schools, homeschool students, youth programs and more!

Details: <https://sustainablesolano.org/environmental-leadership-fellowship/>

Session 1: Introduction

Students will set community expectations for the program. Students will understand the goals and schedule of the course and get to know the other participants. The students will start Awakening the Dreamer with the first video and discuss what to expect.

Session 2: Awakening the Dreamer

Students will discuss the rest of Awakening the Dreamer and the questions it raises, what it does well, and where it falls short. Students will discuss what is theirs to do and how environmental justice fits into the conversation. They will start to discuss living within the resources of one planet and One Planet Living principles.

Session 3: One Planet Living

Students will discuss basic permaculture principles, One Planet Living principles and personal actions as they relate to environmental and social justice and get the youth started on creating their five-year personal action plans. Class can be held outdoors in a natural environment if possible.

Session 4: Environmental Justice Research

Students will integrate the AtD and OPL discussions into researching Environmental Justice data (environmental hazards and social/health factors).

Session 5: Environmental Justice Review

Students will review the Environmental Justice data (environmental hazards and social/health factors) researched through the previous class, look at city and county plans and ways these are currently being addressed (or not) and cover next steps. Students will be prepared for their meeting with city leaders. At least part of this discussion can be held outdoors.

Session 6: Policy & Leadership

Students will meet with city leaders to discuss the EJ data and issues and existing policies — what has been done and what can be done. Students start to consider what policies they would like to see and how they can have a voice in local government. They will start shaping their presentations.

Session 7: Policy & Practical Solutions

Students will reflect on their meeting with city leaders, their hands-on workshops to date and creating their presentations. They will form into groups for their presentations.

Session 8: Reflection

Students will reflect on what they have gained from looking at the challenges and different paths to solutions. If there was a testing component as part of their program, they will discuss those findings and how they fit in with the conversation. Students will work on their presentations in light of this reflection.

Session 9: Preparation

Students will have time to work on their presentations in their groups with support and assistance.

Session 10: Practice Presentation

Students will have time to work on their presentations in their groups with support and assistance and do practice runs on their presentations. Class reflection will include an exit survey.

Final Presentation

The final presentation will be done publicly, with city and community leaders invited. Students will give their presentations and commit to giving another within the community after the Fellowship program ends. This event will also be a celebration of their work.

Hands-on Workshops

See attached file for description of the hands-on workshop experiences, which will be specific to the Fellowship city.