

North Cascades Institute 2015

Outdoor Youth Connections provided \$3,000 in 2015 to fund three low-income students to participate in the North Cascades Institute (NCI) Youth Leadership Adventures. (two students are pictured below)



OYC has partnered with NCI for the last four years. We are inspired by the dedication and expertise the NCI staff foster in their student charges.

Our funding for the students this year meant three high school-aged students were able to participate in the highly rewarding Youth Leadership Adventures. This program takes the students on an 8-day outdoor expedition in the North Cascades, including Ross, Diablo and Baker Lakes. Beyond the skills they learn to make the trip, they also receive instruction in leadership, field science, communication and public speaking.

Mia Villaluz says, *"I made so many good connections with people who work for the park service, who care about our environment, and even better, who care about me."*

The students are inspired to pursue careers in the Forest Service, as well as continue backpacking and backcountry exploration.