

**America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Youth Listening Session**

Location: Golden, CO

Date: July 16, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

Y1. Where do you go when you are not indoors?

Y2. What do you do personally to protect the environment?

Y3. What are some obstacles and challenges that prevent young people from spending time outdoors?

Y4. What recommendations would you make to President Obama to get more young people engaged in, and connected to, the outdoors?

Comments	Question (1-4)
Camping, fishing, National parks	Y1
Ride bike at Cherry Creek. Playing basketball at rec centers.	Y1
Forrest Land, Hiking fishing	Y1
Camping, hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park	Y1

During the week walk dog in city park, go to mountains at least once a week.	Y1
Limited access to public lands through private land owners.	Y2
Seeing the different things public lands have to offer encourages more to do more to help and protect the environment.	Y2
Making time to get somewhere	Y2
Transportation costs. Permission through school system to get kids off campus. Curicullums in schools. Electronic industries have overpowered the outdoor industries.	Y3
Youths are programmed a certain way. Schools, etc, programmed to wake up, go to school, go home and do homework and go to bed. There's not enough time to go outside. Schools should have gardening program to grow their own food and not have to buy the other stuff. Funding that schools receive create challenges to making an outdoor program. Wildlife and outdoor programs are not up, because there has not been an emphasis on them. Pick a few schools and test the outdoor programs to see if they work. Ask the kids how they feel about it.	Y3
Lack of knowledge and fear hinders kids from going out at camps or just out to see the outdoors.	Y3
Don't have young people's attention of the outdoors.	Y3

Making outdoors part of the curriculum, instead of optional.	Y4
Awareness factor is a big start to bringing people together	Y4
Have schools to give more trips outdoors, and less involved with electronics.	Y4
Making more time for going to the parks as a family or just with friends. Maybe more groups focused on outdoors.	Y4
Make Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) a national "figure". I never did anything outdoors, and didn't really care about all that before I joined the group. Gets kids to go out who never really did before the group	Y4
Educate more on social networking. How it takes up most of our time. (Myspace, Facebook, etc.) Educate kids to take time for other things other than social networking. Talking face to face rather than over the computer. The traditional way. You can play and hit someone in person, but not over the networks! Create a literal chat room to let people interact and learn more.	Y4
Take money from things we don't need and give and support the organizations that can help our environment. Many times money is spent on things that are thrown away and end up in a wildlife reserve. Help prevent pollution. Not so many crowded areas	Y4
Less crowded areas. Communicate the opportunities to the people so they know what is out there.	Y4

Focus on local Communities. Educate and showing kids where their food comes from, and what is outdoors that we don't always see. Transportation. Go out where there is not a lot of people to really enjoy the outdoors.	Y4
Go out away from technology and see what else is out there. Improve maintenance in the National Parks.	Y4
Transportation, less pollution.	Y4
Fear of lawsuits keep people from allowing many to go to the parks and from the desire to go. Convince parks and others to not worry so much about suing over a twisted ankle and hindering and scaring others to not go out.	Y4
They have resource but lose money and don not have the funding. Financial stability. Life science needs to be addressed due to health issues (overweight). Earth sciences to help with the knowledge of our earth.	Y4
Work on transportation that does not pollute. Convince people that they shouldn't use lawsuits as an excuse to not get out and enjoy the outdoors.	Y4
Make lands more accessible to the public. Many are taught that government lands are government lands and we can't do anything on them. Let people know what is out there that they do have access to.	Y4
Colleges take their Masters programs out to see and view the lands. Make this a possibility for smaller groups of kids as well.	Y4
Transportation, Programs, Education, Funding.	Y4

We need to education people from a very young age.	Y4
More exposure programs and more programs.	Y4
Transportation to public lands.	Y4
Camping trips, Grand Canyon, Fishing, Parks, Bike paths, Volleyball	Y1
Non-profit mentor, fishing, hiking, Identifying types of insects and trees	Y1
Field hockey, hiking, backpacking, camping, environmental education	Y1
camping, hiking, biking	Y1
Racing (?)	Y1
volunteer to clean rivers, keep trash empty	Y1
Never went outdoors much until joining ELK, camping	Y1
out with family, visit reservoirs, mountain biking, Colorado has made big impact on my outdoor activities	Y1
Moved from Connecticut to Colorado, complete change in outdoor activities, biking, horseback riding, triathlons.	Y1

hatching, shocking fish to measure and weigh them, planting trees	Y2
Clearing wetlands	Y2
educate people to conserve and protect what they have, staying on trails because off trail can damage sensitive areas, more recycling	Y2
pick up trash to protect wildlife, clean up old/used fishing line because want to leave land as it was for next people,	Y2
leave public lands public, BLM owns much land in CO for animal grazing, gas/oil projects, need to leave some for public	Y2
social media, computer, TV, people are unaware of what they are missing, not enough media attention on what is available outdoors	Y3
video games are a habit	Y3
lack of transportation, parents not getting kids out, money not available, 16+ year olds need license to fish, rides, lunches not available, parents too busy to be around for new outdoor experiences	Y3
peer pressure, other kids not into going outside as much	Y3
lessons not available	Y3
ECO week at school no longer available at school, funding not available in schools, outdoor programs are not available at schools	Y3

people don't know where there food comes from, no gardening, not always have to be camping or hiking, needs garden, etc.	Y3
clinics mentors need to come to schools	Y3
more funding for current programs, funding for schools for more programs within the schools, making people aware that outdoor programs exist	Y4
Start early with kids, must have a lot of opportunities, take care of smaller local city parks, not always the large state parks	Y4
more community based organizations, helping more diverse groups, the census shows that the population growth in diverse areas are growing and nothing has anything about diversity in their programs	Y4
fund projects that have ended, no need for new programs fund programs that already exist, so they can grow to other communities,	Y4
Find individuals who can make a difference, empower individuals to mentor, add volunteering/mentoring to gov employees along with mandatory training such as paid days off	Y4
start young to develop appreciation early, there is an awareness issue, people don't know what's out there, make programs accessible and post at schools, such as sign ups, like for sports, make information easy to find, so not spending a whole lot of time researching,	Y4

Give teachers more freedom with curriculum to allow for more field trips, recess, unstructured play time, integrate outdoors activities in daily curriculum in schools	Y4
Buses are over committed, plus can't take school buses off city property need coach buses for that, that costs money, more access to transportation	Y4
nature classrooms, field trips	Y4
more commercials on television	Y4
convince kids that the outdoors is a lot of fun	Y4
Tell kids that being outdoors will change their lives	Y4
improve basketball, tennis, volleyball courts, keep clean and nets on, maintain local parks	Y4
make camping sound fun, word of mouth is important	Y4
I go to the park to play sports and take walks	Y1
Fishing, hiking, and having fun	Y1
I spend time in the Rocky Mountain National Park, and ride bikes	Y1
I traveled to Alaska national park for hiking and backpacking	Y1

I like to jet ski, plant trees, and maintain trails for the Larimer County Youth Conservation Corp	Y1
I plant plants in the National Forest, and repair fences	Y1
I went to the Grand Canyon this summer to watch the sunset	Y1
I teach kids how to fish	Y1
I trail run in the Fort Collins natural areas, and I like to hike and go backpacking	Y1
trail restoration, trail build, hiking and mountain biking	Y1
I help out the community by picking up trash	Y2
I recycle at school, and plant plants during ecology class	Y2
I clean and maintain trails	Y2
I recycle and support bicycling and carpooling	Y2

I practice Leave No Trace, pick up trash, and am part of the student organization "Society for Conservation Biology"	Y2
Not enough people recycle	Y3
Littering is a problem	Y3
Not enough resources and recycling	Y3
Too many people do not care enough about the environment	Y3
Too many electronics	Y3
Drugs are a problem	Y3
Parents are working, which makes it tough to get outdoors	Y3
Safety is an issue, compared to the old days	Y3
The media is an issue. When we were kids, we didn't hear about all the issues as much as we do these days. Movies that are being made are so violent, which are scaring us. It also costs money.	Y3

We don't hear enough about the positive benefits of being outside	Y3
Lack of access to the outdoors. With parents working, they cannot take their kids outdoors.	Y3
There is a lack of funding for outdoor youth programs. This seems to be the biggest barrier in the last few years.	Y3
Video games keep kids from going outside. Parents should limit the time kids can play video games.	Y3
Availability and access to knowledgeable mentors who can get kids outside. Have people who are willing to dedicate the time to share their knowledge with kids.	Y4
It can't be boring, it has to be new. The new approach should be kid-friendly and exciting. Fun.	Y4
Instead of creating more organizations, we should get more funding for existing organizations in order to make them stronger.	Y4
Make it easier for younger generations to get federal jobs in order for them to make a difference.	Y4
Funding. Specifically social media that youth are engaged in. Use it to promote getting youth outside.	Y4
Get more classes in science for kids, to learn about the outdoors. More after-school programs	Y4

Show kids how fun it is to be outside!	Y4
Educate kids and their families about fishing and camping, in order to show them how fun it is.	Y4
Create more opportunities for kids, advertised through facebook	Y4
Use twitter and facebook to educate kids about the outdoors	Y4
If the President takes his kids outdoors, maybe it would influence the country to get outside.	Y4
If kids were able to get their friends involved, the perception would be that getting outdoors is cool.	Y4
hiking, skiing, biking, rivers, camping, fishing, snowboarding, skiing	Y1
in front of the computer, white water rafting, sand dunes	Y1
walks in the neighborhood with dog	Y1
trails, camping, fishing, walking	Y1
fishing, camping	Y1
state parks are great for camping, easy access and great facilities	Y1

mountain bike, snowboard, skate, swing, baseball, basketball	Y1
went to border of Utah. Loves hiking but it is expensive, loves sand dunes, playing in the sand	Y1
rock climbing	Y1
horseback riding, extreme mountain bike	Y1
pickup trash	Y2
get people to eat less fast food, bad for the environment	Y2
pulling weeds, learned about how important it is to keep hiking trails clean	Y2
make sculptures, ride bike	Y2
group has been sending clean-up supplies to help with the oil spill	Y2
Dad uses composter to make fertile dirt and doesn't use water for lawn	Y2
trash collection while camping	Y2
trash collection while camping, cutting down on car pollution (running cars in idle), conservation of energy	Y2
pulling weeds on trails, trail preservation,	Y2
trash pickup, park cleanup	Y2
lay own eggs, raise animals, conserve resources	Y2

hanging murals, helping out homeless shelters, planting gardens at schools, help clean up Denver	Y2
people aren't motivated enough to go outdoors, too much internet/facebook time, need to spend more time outdoors with friends,	Y3
nobody exposes people to the outdoors, not talked about enough	Y3
too expensive to use the trails, some younger kids can't afford the fees at the more expensive parks/trails,	Y3
kids use phones/internet for everything, even when outdoors... no easy access to many parks	Y3
access to outdoors is needed for the youth, too many boundaries	Y3
living in apartments, takes too long to get outside if you live in urban environments	Y3
kids want to stay home and watch TV, not many folks realize they have the option to go outdoors	Y3
can't drive, hard to get to the outdoors if parents aren't willing to drive	Y3
some kids aren't encouraged by their parents if their parents didn't grow up in the outdoors	Y3
need balance between outdoor/indoor activities for kids, too much homework	Y3
too much homework, sun is down by the time he's done	Y3
6 hours of homework at night, too tired/too dark when he's done to do anything but watch TV	Y3

suggest that homework assignments include outdoor activities	Y3
Japanese have more homework, tougher schools so homework is good, but they balance with more outdoor activities	Y3
more homework for her son than when she was a kid, needs to be a better balance	Y3
Too many states have taken outdoor activities off their agenda, too much childhood obesity, agrees with incorporating more outdoor activity into school work.	Y3
emphasize educating girls on outdoors because they will have the most impact on their children/household as moms, have more influence than men	Y4
use educational system to coordinate/encourage outdoor exploration, bring educational groups together by actually getting kids from schools to take advantage of the programs that are already established	Y4
emphasize outdoor appreciation in schools/educational system	Y4
advertise outdoor activity more towards parents so parents will get their kids involved... teach them why its important for their kids	Y4
Affordable fees for national parks, ditto on educating women (women helped establish sand dunes and other outdoor activities). Get more women active in government	Y4

parks need more options (ie hockey)	Y4
proximity of parks to vast majority of population	Y4
Barbeques, camping, go to the lake, hiking, fishing, snowshoeing, jet skiing, snowboarding, basket ball, football, soccer, pool, hunting and fishing, sleeping, biking, jogging, group fishing, camping - group, boat ridding, amusement parks, go cart racing. Four wheel driving, skateboarding, hanging out in the park, relaxing, talking, meetings, get together.	Y1
Use renewable water bottle, recycling on campus city, ride bike as much as possible, biggest problem is waste, aluminum cans go right into trash. One of the easiest things to do is recycling	Y2
Cut water when teeth brushing. Problem is trash and litter. Help pick up trash	Y2
Walk everywhere I can, recycle. One of the biggest problems is neighbors riding atvs, eroding the land	Y2
Set example, encourage recycling. Biggest problem is resource use. The way we use the resources, managing waste. Best thing I can do is be an example and a leader and pass on the knowledge	Y2
Water conservation, turn off water when teeth brushing, watering timing. Set example for the neighbors, tell people it is better to turn water on at night, outreach	Y2

Community compost, one of the problems for community is access to recycling and resource centers and flexibility to help people out.	Y2
obstacles is TV, games, computers people would rather use them then go outdoors	Y3
Laziness in general	Y3
People would rather stay indoors. People are scared of getting shoot	Y3
Minorities hard for the parents to focus on getting kids outdoors, they are focused on just getting by. Snowboarding, skiing is looked at as a typical outdoor activity, they don't see some on the less expensive activities	Y3
Transportation is an issue, a lot of times public transportation does not get there	Y3
Go to the mall instead of the outdoors.	Y3
a lot of the places to go becomes developed and no longer available	Y3
Single parents have difficulty balancing just the regular live, live style and energy to spend on the weekend to take the kids out doors.	Y3

Resource, families do not know what is available, and what programs are out there. There is a perception the outdoor programs cost money. The schools could do a little better getting the information out there about the programs and have more available	Y3
Money, lack of funding for youth corps, and complicated requirements. To build trails and enjoy and participate.	Y3
People think it is to hot they stay indoors.	Y3
Overcoming the barriers (ages 14-18) partnering with other groups to help fund the program. Group of kids have pitch in a small amount per kid and apply to grants. Snowmobiling and mountain biking, with the Rotary Club, REI Etc	Y3
SOS outreach go into schools get grants and scholarships to get kids outdoors. They teach kids the skills necessary and the equipment.	Y3
Environmental Learning for kids have programs for families and kids to get them outdoors and trips, camping, fishing etc. Free clinics for fishing for city families. To help break the cost barrier	Y3
Outdoors and nature is a backdoor to nature. Nature is where you live too.	Y3
Air pollution may be a barrier	Y3

Most neighborhoods have parks. Maybe have neighborhood events to encourage community outdoor events.	Y3
Parks are not adequate, the water stinks, there trashed. Parks are well used. People are scared to use the parks with some of the people who use them.	Y3
Parks water is full of mercury; you can look but don't touch.	Y3
Gang member parks, not very inviting. Not in a safe neighborhood. Only child cannot go to the park by themselves. Safety.	Y3
Don't learn that in school, that there is a national wild life refuge in the city. Don't see it on the news. People are not getting the message that the parks are out there	Y3
In reality teenagers do not watch the news, don't read the paper. The news is focused on the bad things.. Internet is a big thing but there is so much information out there and they are not searching for the outdoor news. There is not people populating the popular sites	Y3
Signs in the buses and the streets people can see in the high visibility places in the city.	Y3
Recommendation: Utilize outdoor public transportation to get the word out	Y4

recommendation: Wyoming extreme	Y4
Recommendation: education and exposure, once you are out there you will have ownership in the outdoors	Y4
Recommendation: exposure, get them excited they will want to go more.	Y4
Recommendation: national kid outdoor day, now just one day. Can expand with different activities as a start. Change the pyridine, shift perceptions about how accessible the outdoors are	Y4
Recommendation: more investment into the youth corps. Kids can work, get exposure and have more to do.	Y4
Recommendation: government funding, need the money	Y4
Recommendation: preserve more parks, don't build over them.	Y4
Recommendation: start locally in the community first. Continue to actually use them, take care of them and add new ones close to the user.	Y4
Recommendation: In the cities many of the parks are very polluted, we need to clean up the outdoors before we encourage outdoor use. Do not want to expose our kids to toxins	Y4

Recommendation: increasing access in the local communities.	Y4
Recommendation: make the parks free to open access to the public. Maybe just one free day to give more access.	Y4
Recommendation: Street fairs, events in the local area just get people outdoors	Y4
Recommendations: kids that are in the programs are 14-18 we need to start younger to build the experience and comfort level. Example takes them to the zoo. Limitations (rules) on programs is inhibiting the access to the outdoors.	Y4
Recommendations: get the word out better on the local events. Having the information easily accessible on what is available.	Y4
Recommendation: Youtube, is there a website that is easy to access for local information. Utilize the current media that kids are use to.	Y4
Recommendation: develop a website that kids can use to find out cool stuff.	Y4
Recommendation: currently there is a National web site to link to local area codes on outdoors (planetexplorer.org) find a way to get the word out to face book or twitter.	Y4
Recommendation: use social networking to get the word out. MySpace, twitter, Youtube, etc.....	Y4

Recommendation: Post environmental opportunities on your personal face book	Y4
Recommendation: How can federal government help. The federal government is always trying to create new initiatives, instead the feds should be supporting what is already out there and help getting the word out and use and support the current programs.	Y4
1. Recommendation: Use popular Media-getting the word out, advertise on local buses,	Y4
2. Recommendation: Keeping the outdoors clean	Y4
3. Recommendation: Support the existing organizations and providing more access.	Y4
4. Recommendation: Start people younger.	Y4
Fishing clinics, play sports (volleyball, football) - 1.	Y1
Snow shoeing and skiing, rock climbing, and hiking -1.	Y1
Video games keep kids in all day and they don't want to be outdoors - 3.	Y3

Not a lot of public programs aimed at conservation - 3.	Y3
The subject of conservation is just not brought up a lot in his community - 3.	Y3
Restored a trail, pick up trash - 2.	Y2
People don't recycle. We are imposing on the land that animals use. Misperception about how fun outdoors can be - 3.	Y3
Not outside because of video games and watching T.V - 3.	Y3
The opportunity doesn't present itself and parents don't want to take them outdoors - 3.	Y3
Not a lot done to spread the knowledge about the conservation programs - 3. Kids don't have the motivation to go outdoors - 3.	Y3
Hiking after work, walking their dogs - 1.	Y1
People misperceive what the outdoors has to offer them - 3. You must expose people to the outdoors - 3.	Y3
Hard to get the kids from the city into the mountains; transportation going into the public lands needs to be improved - 3.	Y3

Teaches youth how to camp, fish, and use the national parks - 1. Recycle things - 2.	Y2
Not a lot of willingness for people to get involved with cleanup projects - 3. Programs need to be more accessible to members of the community - 3.	Y3
No can or bottle return program in Colorado - 3.	Y3
Camping, Rock climbing - 1.	Y1
Street waste, and water runoff goes into our water ways - 3.	Y3
Some public lands aren't not safe (urban area/gangs/drugs) - 3.	Y3
Lack of people to show you how fun it is to be outdoors - 3.	Y3
Play Basketball in Washington Park	Y1
Bikes the Cherry Creek trail	Y1
Outdoor activities at Sloan's Lake	Y1

Frequents Montbello Rec. Center, and Utah park near her home	Y1
Running in Cheaseman Park	Y1
Camping with family in surrounding national forests	Y1
Educate and teach others, mentoring	Y2
"Leave no trace" ethic, works with Denver water to install high efficiency toilets, energy work with Xcel to promote use of CFL light bulbs.	Y2
Encourage the Hiring of environmentally conscious youth, mentor youth.	Y2
Pick-up trash, trail maintenance in the summers, remove fencing at local urban parks.	Y2
Pick-up around the lake near his home, watch out for local wildlife.	Y2
Be a steward, "Leave no trace" ethic, help communities with bike paths, etc.	Y2
Pine Beetle Observation	Y2

Sen. Udall committed to environment at the state and local level.	Y2
Lack of mentoring both from peers, and adults	Y3
No standardized way to promote outdoor activity to younger people, lack of transportation.	Y3
Peer pressure, caring about the environment is not "cool" to do.	Y3
More urban parks and gardens. Boost Americore.	Y4
Community based outreach, planned "walk to river," "walk to garden" trips to connect people.	Y4
Transportation. "Build Your Own Bike Program" If people can see fruits of their labor, more apt to act and help.	Y4
Channel funding to groups such as Americore, people want to serve but need an outlet to do so.	Y4
Starting children's interest at a young age in the environment. 1st impression is everything.	Y4
Public transportation to state parks and wilderness.	Y4

Give schools environmental tasks to serve community, incorporate into curriculum. Not just picking up trash, but something you could actually learn from.	Y4
Gov. Programs, working to gather on local and regional level. Mentorship programs, collaboration.	Y4
Get families involved in outdoor activities.	Y4
Positive peer pressure to go outside and enjoy outdoors.	Y4
When I go biking, I go on the Cherry Creek Trail.	Y1
I go to the Colorado parks, to Golden Gate for hiking and to Castlewood.	Y1
I play basketball at Washington Park, and go to Rocky Mountain National Park.	Y1
I go to Montbello Rec Center, and any kind of park or city park.	Y1
I recently went camping at National State Park and did lots of work helping around campsites, mulching and cleaning up Lake Agnes.	Y1
Help restore and create urban gardens around Denver.	Y2

<p>Need to mentor people, intern youth to see how can make living doing things we all love outdoors – create jobs for young people.</p>	Y2
<p>Pick up trash, help clean up campsites, go on trips every summer and to Rocky Mountain nearly every year, help redo trails, grab logs and bring them over to the trail to eliminate people from going off the trails, remove fencing so animals (elk, deer) don't get caught (I'm part of a group that does this).</p>	Y2
<p>I promote biodiversity, learn more about forests, ecosystems, pick up trash; issues – lack of awareness of where products, resources come from, which allows things to get devastated, polluted; need education, be aware of where things come from, help people make that connection.</p>	Y2
<p>Recycle as much as possible, CFL lights in house.</p>	Y2
<p>Promote and practice Leave No Trace, work with Mile High Youth Corps, phases of conservation (energy work, go into multi-family homes to install light bulbs; work with Denver Water to install high-efficiency toilets; in Golden Gate State Park chopping trees to prevent pine beetle, build fire breaks)</p>	Y2
<p>Educate kids on environment, how to protect it and yourselves.</p>	Y2

<p>Take groups of kids out fishing, teach how to fish and walk around the lake and pick up any trash we see.</p>	<p>Y2</p>
<p>Try to practice Leave No Trace ethic, do the best I can every time I'm outside to be a steward of where I am, what's around me, and how I impact it, whether it's community parks, city parks, national forests, etc.</p>	<p>Y2</p>
<p>I recently went camping at National State Park and did lots of work helping around campsites, mulching and cleaning up Lake Agnes.</p>	<p>Y2</p>
<p>Transportation – access, being more mindful of how we transport ourselves.</p>	<p>Y2</p>
<p>Our culture has shifted - we used to live off the land but now people don't have the same opportunities. We have to find a way to introduce people to the world they just read about.</p>	<p>Y3</p>
<p>People think about how other people view them. In the city other people think it isn't cool to go outside, go camping, etc.</p>	<p>Y3</p>
<p>People need that first outdoors mentor – if not parents, there nowhere to find it. Youth corps, jobs are so great, opens a lot of eyes; change transportation, educational programs, Youth Corps, having jobs there, let kids know they can make money doing this, it will be easier to break down the barrier.</p>	<p>Y3</p>

<p>The Senator is very committed to environmental issues and does whatever he can to help out at state and federal levels.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>I never had way to get around until I found out a way to build my own bike. Biking is free, now I can get around.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Obama can channel funding to organizations like Youth Corps, AmeriCorps Vista. Grow these programs and spread them out into communities.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Connectivity. The federal government can think of how to get from the White House to neighborhoods. There's a lot of emphasis on storm water, link to Green Infrastructure Movement; need more neighborhood parks, gardens, places for people to get to.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Peer mentorship.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Get people involved (siblings, family, classmates). First impressions are a big thing, make sure first trip is a fun time.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Transportation – encourage trains, buses, etc. to get up into mountains, hike into local towns, etc. – people need to be able to get out where they want to go.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>If people started using solar and other powered things, it would be easier to get around and wouldn't use up earth's resources.</p>	<p>Y4</p>

<p>Obama: put environmental task force (monitored) into school so kids can go hiking, fishing, pick up trash – make it part of the curriculum. Take kids on trips sometimes during school hours, camping, hiking; inside that program, teach them about animals, etc. (not just a free pass - trips would be educational.)</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>On a community level, reach out with trickle-up effect; all these great programs have their own challenges, need to find ways to work together in local, regional levels and move up to federal; mentorship idea is a way we can possibly break through 20th century stewardship idea; what I'd like to see and do is bring some of these groups more closely together working toward a common goal.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Get more families involved. People will go, feel comfortable, start telling other people about it, get more involved; have a class just about what kids want to learn about; not just regular courses, what about wildlife? How the environment works?</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>When just a couple of people encourage others to do outdoorsy stuff, people won't want do. Need get more people, groups, involved to encourage others.</p>	<p>Y4</p>
<p>Walk to stores, garden, river – need a more inclusive view of how we connect people so we can walk, bike, get outside without it being such an effort or having to take a long trip. Make communities more accessible to just get outside.</p>	<p>Y4</p>

If people saw outcome of what they can do, they would be more likely to get out there (example: for me, cleaning sand dunes was hard, but I didn't know I would be able to see the sunset afterward!

Y4