

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

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Date: August 3, 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?

N/A. Not available or not applicable.

Discussion Question Y1-Y4	Comment
Y1	Swimming and canoeing at Welch Hidden Valley.
Y1	Hunting and fishing at nearby lakes and wildlife management areas.
Y1	Cascade Bay waterpark.
Y1	Running at Harriet Island.
Y1	Canoeing and hiking along city trails and the Ice Age National Trail in Wisconsin.
Y1	Baseball, archery, fishing, biking, softball, soccer, volleyball.
Y1	Sea kayaking at Apostle Islands National Park.
Y1	Anywhere outdoors I can go.
Y1	Walking and biking at Sweet Hollow Park near my home.
Y1	Minnehaha Falls and natural spring area.
Y1	Camping and hiking in the mountains with my family. I remember hiking up a mountain. At the top we saw mountains all along the horizon and a lake in a valley far below.
Y1	Seeing flowers.
Y1	Taylor Falls.
Y1	Being outside and watching clouds.
Y1	Going to the lake.

Y1	Swimming in lakes and being totally immersed in the wild. Especially swimming in a clean lake, which is an extra special experience.
Y1	Minnetonka.
Y1	Wilderness programs, our latest trip visited Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a week, paddling through the connecting waterways, fishing and enjoying evening campfires.
Y1	Prairie restoration with local organizations.
Y1	Skiing in beautiful snowcapped mountains.
Y3	Litter, even when trash cans are readily available.
Y3	Litter along roadway medians and shoulders.
Y3	Litter in rivers, lakes, and farmland.
Y3	In Madison, WI there is coal dust and ash everywhere. It dirties clothes, hair and all things outside. A once swimmable lake can no longer be used due to coal ash pollution.
Y3	The Mississippi River is unswimmable due to water pollution.
Y3	Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
Y2	Exhibition, an elementary school program, is aimed at introducing kids to environmental awareness and displays examples of water pollution, air pollution, etc.
Y2	Boys & Girls Club collects trash and has a compost bin.
Y2	Boy Scouts of America, biannually collects trash along the same stretch of road.
Y2	Community Design Center of MN is involved in prairie restoration and a rain-water collection/filtration project that prevents erosion by routing rainwater to a collection area.
Y2	Chalchiutlicue tribe seeks to reclaim traditions by putting tobacco in waterways to symbolize healthy water/earth. (Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc Multicultural Indigenous Academy, girls dance group).
Y2	Community compost collection for a community garden.
Y2	Monitor energy use and efficiency in living space.
Y2	Take batteries and cell phones to a recycling center.
Y2	Ride bike instead of driving car whenever possible.
Y2	Join clubs such as Boy Scouts and Pheasants Forever.
Y2	Boys & Girls Club give "Go Green" bags at Cubfoods and distribute flyers that inform people how to reduce their water consumption.
Y2	Pheasants Forever Leadership Council designed a youth village aimed at introducing youth to shooting and conservation principles.
Y2	Collaborate with friends, neighbors, clubs, cities, states to participate in a "day of service" where people choose a day to do an environmentally friendly activity. Perhaps add friendly competitions to see who can collect the most garbage.
Y2	Share with friends and family what is learned in school. Spread the word.
Y2	Give tours around the area regarding places of historic, cultural, recreational interest.
Y2	At home, turn off lights when not in use; turn off facets when brushing teeth. Don't overfill the bathtub.
Y2	Teach young people the ethos "Leave no trace."
Y3	TV, video games, computer, cell phones.

Y3	Facebook, social media.
Y3	Safety concerns: nearby parks, such as Hollow Park, are not safe at night. There are no lights and people are scared to go there. I will not go there alone.
Y3	Lazy people.
Y3	Traffic is too dangerous to allow kids outside. There is no park close enough.
Y3	The world is not safe enough to let children play outside, they might be kidnapped.
Y3	Hazardous waste and pollution concerns: Will not let children near places such as Harriet Island and old printing facilities for fear of toxic barrels and radiation in the area. Parents err on the side of caution and do not allow kids to play pell-mell and stumble upon a toxic barrel in the woods, or swim in the Mississippi River for fear it may be too polluted.
Y3	People will model other's behavior. The Mississippi River is safe for swimming and if some kids started swimming in it, other kids would join in. Same for other activities, there is a multiplying effect once an activity is initiated.
Y3	I recently relocated to the area and do not know anyone to play with.
Y3	My aging mother cannot take me to parks.
Y1	It is easy to find a park in Minnesota. In Minneapolis, there are several campsites along the Mississippi River.
Y1, Y3	There are several small local parks with a swing and playground, but a 20 minute drive to a hiking park is a totally different story. It takes too long to get there, and safety concerns are present. Will I get mugged there?
Y1, Y3	Hidden Falls is within walking distance of my home, but I need to cross a highway and I am concerned about the suspicious cars in the parking lot.
Y1	A lake is nearby my home and I bike around it.
Y1	I don't do much alone, but I do many outdoor activities with my dance club.
Y1	For the past 10 years, a youth dance club has organized an annual family camping trip. Evaluations of the trip uncovered that for 90 percent of participants, it was their first experience camping as a group, and for 75 percent of participants, it was the first time camping. Group camping excursions are difficult to plan and require lots of resources (van rentals, campground rentals, logistics, etc).
Y4	More programs to encourage kids, more parks and zoos.
Y4	Encourage kids to join a club or organization.
Y4	Spread a "Go Green" message.
Y4	Encourage outdoor activities in school. Ski club, camping trips.
Y4	School student councils are spreading the "green" message, having green parties, using green supplies, playing green games.
Y4	Get environmental issues into school curriculum. In Madison, WI, teachers take lessons outside. For example, groups of 30-40 students visit the Ice Age National Trail where teachers instruct basic lessons, blended into outdoor activities (i.e., trail distances for math lessons, science lessons on wildlife).
Y4	More physical education funding is required. Today some 6 year olds have no outside time while obesity is a growing epidemic.

Y4	Lessen the bureaucracy for grants, especially physical education grants. The paperwork is overwhelming and a major barrier.
Y4	Allow locally grown food into school cafeterias. Make it a community effort and/or school activity. Local gardening should be encouraged and is a family activity that kids should learn. Moreover local food is more healthful than processed cafeteria food. Hopefully schools can work around the safety issues that would allow local produce to be served at school cafeterias.
Y1	Get kids outdoors, not just high school students but elementary kids as well.
Y1	Outdoor activities help students/kids retain the concepts better and allow them to tie the concept to a memory. If we get kids starting at an early age, teaching them animals and letting them see them, they will start to care more especially about the world they live in instead of Western culture. They need to understand and appreciate the intricacy of how it's taken billions of years for atoms to arrange in a certain pattern to create offspring, plants, and fruit. We need to instill a sense of wonder and fascination. It would create better world. If we realize the immense odds that brought us to this place we would connect with other people more; we'd have a sense of common understanding. Use education (especially at a young age) as a tool for change. Overhaul the education system, it needs a complete 100% overhaul. Kids need to be more enlightened beings. Keep businesses as usual out of the classroom, especially standardized testing. Education should be utilized more than it is right now. Remove the strangle-hold that businesses have on government. Create more of a connection between students and natural systems instead of our made up systems. If the President wants to change the direction of the world, he needs to do it through education and start with the youngest generation because his generation is a dud. The President can be the one to create a stable vessel by setting up a better education system.
Y1	Increasing incentives for private landowners (private agricultural) to put good practices in place. More filter strips along rivers.
Y1	Get the younger generations outdoors. Tell the younger generations about it – need to reach the families that didn't do outdoor stuff growing up. Greater access. Provide free programs. More information and training to help people that don't know where to start.
Y1	Canoeing, sports, fishing, camping, picnics. I bike and drive to get to some of those places. I camp and hike with my family.
Y1	Canoeing and fishing with my family. The event leading up to today's listening session was the first time I went canoeing.
Y1	The event leading up to today's listening session was the first time I went canoeing.
Y1	The event leading up to today's listening session was the first time I went canoeing.
Y1	I meditate in the woods (I use it as a center for spirituality). Nature is a perfect example of balance and organized chaos. I really like learning outdoors (I'm in school at Rivers Edge High School) because it's hands on, and everything people need to learn can be learned through the outdoors/universe. I learn about it as I see it and have more of an opportunity to see the cause & effect relationship. I do things outdoors with school like biodiversity surveys and pollution testing. I get a deeper understanding of the concepts than just learning facts in a book and I can see what we are learning is actually happening outside.

Y1	I like to be outdoors, running on trails. Access is sometimes available in urban areas and sometimes not. I discovered the outdoors on my own and from friends.
Y1	I like to participate in sports leagues managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. I search for quiet places in the city. I discovered the outdoors on my own (my family is more likely to rent a boat) by getting into gardening. Gardening was my gateway into the outdoors.
Y1	Programs like Earth Club at school that got me into the Green Team. I was attracted to the outdoors by flowers which made me interested in Earth Club. Need more hands on education - learn about pollution by seeing pollution.
Y1	I feel a little out of touch because I'm in a classroom too much.
Y1	Need to engage the parents since parents influence young people. Find a way to instill personal responsibility. Some of my family members say it's too trashy to go to a park and they wouldn't want to go there and they want something to be done about it but it's not necessary for them to necessarily do it. Create more nice places where people could come and enjoy without all the trash. Getting the younger people to see what the outdoors actually means (not just forests and stuff) but what's around them here. More youth programs. Kids love to play outside and love parks and the outdoors. Try to get them to see what they have around them and how to protect/save it or restore it.
Y2	I think of it as somewhere far away that offers camping, fishing and canoeing.
Y2	I think of the Boundary Waters, of isolated places. I wish there were more protected places that feel isolated near where we are.
Y2	I think of it as a place that is far away with waterfalls, cliffs, and scenic overlooks over natural landscapes and trees.
Y2	I think of the Grand Canyon even though I've never been there.
Y2	It's not necessarily a place that is far away, I find places here in the metro that I consider to be the "great outdoors" but I'm from the suburbs.
Y2	I think of it as a place that is far away.
Y2	Giving young people jobs in the environment.
Y2	Invasive species like trefoil. Not enough planting of native species that have roots which grow deeper and are more sustainable. Learning about places other than yours is hard to do. It would be nice to be able to get out more for school trips.
Y2	There are not enough small steps to help the environment recover. One of the biggest issues is lawns – over-watering and the use of pesticides. If every lawn could cut down on those two things could make a big impact.
Y3	I found out about Green Team from my brothers and sisters but otherwise I wouldn't have known about such a great program to get involved in.
Y3	Invasive species. Pollution is a problem and biodiversity (micro-organisms) is important even though we didn't find anything to be a huge problem when testing the river for school. Ponds are really gross (filled with garbage). There is not enough regulation on big businesses like Monsanto. There are too many special interest groups getting what they want from people on the EPA board. Lack of a bigger (more aggressive) and faster steps to a better energy policy. We need to cut down on big business – put more restrictions on them.

Y3	Invasive species. Ponds have trash near where I live. There are not enough native plants. Birds use the native plants we've planted them after removing invasive species. We saw bald eagles when we were out working that we didn't see before. A company along the Mississippi River pollutes the river but they pay for the Green Team to clean up the environment. There is a conflict of interest, they shouldn't be allowed to pollute in the first place.
Y3	Invasive species like thistles.
Y3	Need to sweep up grass clippings before they end up in the surface water. It's a small step that any individual can do. Education is a huge aspect - everyone here has an environmental background. We need to share that knowledge with others.
Y3	Access. It doesn't seem like a lot of places that are accessible without a 45 minute drive to get away from concrete or maybe I just don't know about the areas close to me.
Y4	The ad culture and image obsession as a by-product of capitalism. It needs to be combated by making kids care early on about what's really important by engaging them in hands on activities, especially outdoor activities.
Y4	I've never taken a bus to swim anywhere. I would like to be able to swim in a lake closer to where I live.
Y4	Access is right around where I live so that's not a problem but the space is trashy. There is a lack of responsibility in helping clean up. I jog in a regional park and there was a dead animal washed up and I wanted to clean it up but was afraid of disease. I was very sad about the environment, we polluted and that may have caused the animal to die.
Y1	Fishing on the Mississippi River.
Y1	Walking around area lakes.
Y1	Parks and fields to play baseball.
Y1	Backyard – safe feeling.
Y1	Some place I haven't been, because there is the new feeling of discovery.
Y1	A lot of trees.
Y1	Flowers.
Y1	Camping out.
Y1	A place without distractions.
Y1	Sunshine.
Y1	Nature and excitement.
Y1	Biking or hiking.
Y1	Sleeping under the stars.
Y1	Fishing.
Y1	Swimming.
Y4	Pollutants ("bad stuff") in the Mississippi killing the fish.
Y3	Mercury and iron in the river.
Y4	Litter and graffiti in our neighborhoods and local parks.
Y4	Invasive species – it's overtaking the green space, seeds spread quickly.
Y2	Picking up trash, and trash on the bike trails.
Y3	Stray animals are common and dangerous.

Y3	People are ignoring the problems.
Y3	It feels overwhelming because you are just one person.
Y3	There is a lack of knowledge because issues aren't consistently in the news media and people aren't outside that often.
Y3	People don't have the knowledge or resources to respond to issues.
Y3	Kids don't realize how easy it is to get outside; they don't have to take an extreme trip.
Y3	School and social time takes up so much time that there isn't free time for them to spend outside, and schools have stopped taking them outside for coursework.
Y3	Bugs and outdoor allergies are excuses people use.
Y3	It's dangerous and so parents don't want their kids outside when there is criminal activity or gangs.
Y4	Clean up the Mississippi River, so kids can learn to swim somewhere natural, not just a pool.
Y4	More programs, such as sports, ways to volunteer with nature, and other ways to get involved.
Y4	More school field trips that allow for hands-on experiences because that is the best way to learn.
Y4	Better communication and advertising because there already are great programs out there, people just don't know about them; pass information through the schools and commercials on television and the internet.
Y4	Create more camps – "I love camp!"
Y4	Create more recreation centers and have transportation to and from these places.
Y1	City park.
Y1	Lakes.
Y1	Harriet Island.
Y1	Back yard – parks nearby but choose to stay home.
Y1	Rec center.
Y1	Main activities.
Y1	Sports - tennis, rugby, biking, rollerblading, kayaking, canoeing.
Y1	Alone or with friends.
Y1	With friends or during school.
Y1	Family.
Y1	Whoever is available.
Y1	Sports teams.
Y1	How much time do you spend outside? 4 times a week – football 3-4 hours at a time.
Y1	How much time do you spend outside? As much as possible, doesn't like staying inside.
Y1	Do you like to be outside? Staying home is boring, likes to get out and see the world, found the Mississippi River and waterfall.
Y1	Dance at Lake Phalen at the stage, bring music and practice.
Y2	Conservation corps, Bruce Vento rehab, rain gardens.
Y2	Remove invasive species with the school .
Y2	Part of the adopt a highway program and clean up trash.

Y2	Why do you like to do this, what keeps you going? Trips on the gun flint trail to plant trees and see progress from year to year, see own impact, reusing bottles.
Y2	Are you alone in this or do you have friends or family that help you outside of a group? Easy when in school or job to recruit people with the same interests, but hard to recruit friends.
Y2	Are you alone in this or do you have friends or family that help you outside of a group? Triggers for action include teaching them what effect invasive species have and see results of work later.
Y2	Do you do anything in your own yard? Vegetable garden, small farm.
N/A	Is gardening outdoor recreation? A little.
Y2	Growing own food is important because the big companies take the environment for granted.
Y1	BWCA.
Y1	State and national parks, complete wilderness, no motors, no sound pollution.
Y1	Big national parks, trees, wilderness, animals (bears, deer, other stuff not usually seen in urban environment).
Y1	Fresh air.
Y1	Flowers.
Y1	Indoors = artificial light, stuffy.
Y1	Outdoors = sunlight, moonlight, fresh air.
Y1	Preferred way to get outdoors is tennis and biking.
Y1	Interesting to see what effects there are from going outside to indoors, eyes need to adjust, not enough sunlight or fresh air, very confining, many walls, not enjoyable. Even the backyard is preferable to indoors.
Y1	Being outdoors you feel more free, just being there is better than inside.
Y1	Would like to spend more time outside in school and try not to be a couch potato.
Y1	Some schools have taken away outdoor recess. It takes convincing at some schools to let students go outside.
Y1	Seasons because each offers something different. Canoeing, skiing.
Y1	What you see on a post card from a national park, a grand landscape, untouched places of the country.
N/A	Are these more satisfying or is the urban outdoors okay?
Y1	It depends on what exposure you have had. If you go to BWCA as a child that is what you think of. If you have never left the metro area, a city park is the great outdoors.
N/A	Is there a threshold?
N/A	Outside = outside for the most part
Y1	People don't know that the great outdoors could mean the Mississippi River or a city park or a place close to the city. You have to know about it to want to use it.
Y4	Litter in parks or in the water, in lakes, in the Mississippi River.
Y3	Air pollution because I have asthma.
Y2	Are there other ways one can engage with environmental concerns?
Y4	Plant more trees. Trees are removed for buildings and are important for oxygen in yards or parks.



Y4	Leave no Trace. Leave places better than you found them. Includes parks or city street. Pick up trash. Leave a smaller imprint.
Y4	Have more education so there is less to deal with in the first place.
Y4	Easier when schools teach about invasive plants and other related subjects.
Y3	Family restrictions due to safety, gangs and fighting.
Y3	Trail building is hard to do on your own and friends who are interested work a lot.
Y3	No car to get to some places.
Y3	To many other things in the way, jobs, school.
Y3	Are you okay going by yourself or do you not want to do it alone?
Y3	Some people don't want to go because friends are busy, watching TV is more important
Y3	Some things like canoeing or tennis take more than one person. They are a lot more fun with someone else.
Y3	Some things are team sports like soccer and football.
Y3	Equipment is an issue, if you don't have a canoe or boat.
Y3	Are facilities an issue?
Y3	Transportation again. Most state parks take a car to get to.
Y3	Are fees an issue?
Y3	Licenses are expensive and time consuming to get.
Y3	Need to build more parks and playgrounds close to people's houses, especially for small children.
Y3	Larger equipment for taller, larger kids at playgrounds like teenagers. Chutes and ladders park is great but it's a 40 min drive.
Y3	A place where larger, older kids can play with younger siblings.
Y3	How far are you willing to go for park or trailhead?
Y3	10-15 miles biking.
Y4	Need more classes outside, field trips to open spaces not buildings so we can experience wilderness firsthand (like a 3 day canoe trip).
Y4	Need more programs in schools to experience what is out there, to develop skill and orientation, clubs that focus on things kids can do.
Y4	Trips to state parks and more rural places, overnights = more outdoors and more community in a school, you get closer.
Y4	More outdoor education and activities.
Y4	More flexible requirements for outdoor education classes.
Y4	Do you feel constrained?
Y4	More community programs in the communities, more availability for local outdoors, Organized classes for communities.
Y4	More advertising for opportunities that already exist.
Y4	How do you get ads for activities?
Y4	Friends, planners, calendars, write on hands.
Y4	Electronic ads are more important than paper, paper wastes trees.
Y4	Learn about it in school, do it in school then want to do it on your own. If it's on paper you forget about when you set it down. Enroll in a reminder.

Y4	Using technology in the outdoors, geo-caching in state parks is great.
Y1	Appalachian trail (Kentucky) as a child.
Y3	In my neighborhood, a Somalian community, there is too much pollution in the air around the University of MN. Children have asthma. In South Minneapolis, people are looking for a cheaper place to live but have to suffer from the pollution. The history of the area is that it was a dump for trash. Need more funding to clean and regulate the pollution in this area.
Y3	How would you push someone who is connected to technology to experience the outdoors? Take them out to the middle of nowhere, get them on a river, that's how we did it when I was 15 or 16. They put me out for 30 days and I went 50-60 miles hiking and down the river. It brings you back to reality.
Y4	Advertising to make kids more willing to leave their houses.
Y2	Be cautious of what you use on your lawn. People need to be a little more conscious of what they are putting into our environment.
Y4	Get stronger environmental protection on our resources so that they are actually going to be there when our youth grow up.
Y3	Getting kids transportation to parks and outdoors.
Y4	Healthy body creates a good brain. Promote model for leaders to promote sports and getting people outside. Tell our young people to create running tournaments and biking tournaments.
Y3	How many people had their parents take them out to a park when they were little? Maybe that's why they are here?
Y4	I come from East Africa and it's tough to live in Minnesota! The snow, you don't know how to walk, how to dress, it is a very tough environment in MN. We should work together as a community to support and encourage each other. We should work together and help each other. We could achieve great things.
Y3	I don't think my parents would be able to pay for my whole family to go out. It's too expensive to take my whole family.
Y3	I think there is a desire to go outdoors, but there is a lack of priority for it when people are so busy. In their time off, they don't want to spend so much time to make the commitment to go outside. We are all so busy that we don't have time to get out anymore.
Y4	I would encourage President Obama to lead the example of his wife who has encouraged gardening, healthy eating, getting outdoors. If the President invited people out with him, that would encourage people to go out too. They need a role model and he could be that role model.
Y3	Now that there is more and more technology available, parents have even more challenges to get their kids outdoors. They need to take responsibility and take their kids outdoors.
Y3	There is a lack of knowledge about where our National Parks are and where our State parks are especially in an urban environment. We need more advertising to tell people where places are and how they can get there.
Y4	We could identify people in our neighborhoods that like going outside and then encourage them to invite people to go out with them, invite their neighbors to go with them. Share the costs as a community.

Y4	What if we encouraged each elected official to go out to a park?
Y3	When we were kids, we didn't have iPod Touch or PS3. Now it is even harder than before to get kids to go outdoors and be active.
Y3	Algal blooms.
Y1	Caterpillars and insects.
Y3	Coal companies, standards on pollution and regulations with what happens with the stuff after it gets burned.
Y3	Could kind of have to do with treaties and how the land should not be trespassed on, the importance to the Park Service is that the land is worth a lot of money but they need treaties to protect it.
Y2	Eating local organic food, to prevent fuel and pollution. A change in lifestyle.
Y2	Education for the youth and building green.
Y1	Fort Snelling, because I like to throw rocks into the river.
Y1	I like going fishing, but we need more advertisement to get people outdoors, to get people reignited to spend time outdoors.
Y3	If all the kids in my neighborhood went to the parks then they would care about them more. Getting kids out to parks will spark an interest in learning about issues and caring about their resources.
Y3	In our Native American community of about 1,000 people, poverty prevents them from going to the city all they have is a muddy basketball court so they turn to video games to entertain them. Need money to get the youth outdoors, they're open to going outdoors but don't have the money to do it.
Y2	It is also very important that television and computer waste is properly recycled. That is a secondary issue from technology. There is always something new and better coming out so we have all this waste. If old electronics are not recycled, it becomes another source of waste for the environment
Y3	It's hard to know how to stop it. People want their green lawns; a viable alternative is necessary, maybe like rain gardens.
Y3	Lack of funding for this kind of care.
Y3	Lack of funds, funding goes to large corporations and doesn't make it to the Native American communities.
Y1	Lake Calhoun, the lakes, sailing and biking. I don't use my car anymore, I like to bike on the Greenway.
Y1	Living by the Greenway, it really encourages people to bicycle and you see all these people biking, they look so free.
Y1	Minnehaha falls to walk down the stream and go hiking.
Y1	Mississippi river to connect with the Native American people.
Y4	More involvement in schools to get involved with conservation efforts. Have people educate them and have them experience something for one day. Build getting outside into their curriculum, they will bring their knowledge home and share it with their families.
Y3	Native American Conservation Corps, maybe creating a Native American specific conservation corps who could be trained to take care of their own lands.
Y2	Need help from the government to lower prices on local food.

Y2	Need help to lower prices of local foods, why are local foods more expensive than mass produced foods? I guess it's because small farmers and food producers can't compete with the big corporations.
Y4	Need money to start a Native American Conservation Corps, to get our kids outdoors. Funding is needed to go on bike rides, snowboarding or canoeing. Conservation Corps is good way to teach people how to care for their environment, to maintain trails, to take away trees that are in the way, to build bridges over swampy areas. It gets people outdoors and teaches them how to care about their land and the history of how our cultures have used the land for centuries.
Y3	Now we see such a great difference: everyone is on their cell phones, hanging out peering around their MySpace. Around urban areas you lose your identity because of technology.
Y3	On our land, things are taken out of the ground. Toxins in the land and water are causing cancer in young people lately.
Y3	On the Reservation, as a child on open plains, after technology and electronic entertainment hit, it didn't matter. There was no cell phone reception when I was a kid. We had more time to play outdoors and get in touch with nature. We created memories and stories. Now that we live in the city it's a lot worse, no one has the money to go anywhere and everyone wants to be online and playing video games.
Y2	Preventing chemicals from runoff into the river.
Y2	Ride shares could help everything.
Y2	Show up to stuff like this, hear people talk, share your voice.
Y4	Start involvement at the neighborhood level, work with small communities to get people outdoors. Encourage small, local scale efforts to protect the environment and educate youth.
Y1	Steam boat tours but the steam boat burned down.
Y3	Stuff is still being dumped into the Mississippi, like garbage or other wastes.
Y2	Teaching kids. You don't need a huge organization or have to take them way out of the city; we can do it in our own neighborhoods.
Y3	There needs to be some kind of funding allowed to people who don't have the means to pay for trips to parks or don't have the equipment. It's too expensive to go to a park with seven kids and have to pay to get in.
Y1	Traveling in the west, through the US.
Y3	Water milfoil problems.
Y3	Why is technology preventing kids from getting outdoors? They need to be more in touch with their roots and their environment; everyone is disconnected from their ancestry. People that are in touch with their ancestry are more easily connected to their environment and their outdoor spaces.
Y3	Working collectively with people to use greener lawn care solutions.
Y1	Would like to learn to survive outdoors, self-sufficiency.
Y1	You can canoe and camp and hike by valley fair, just thirty minutes away. I just discovered it which shows that advertising might get people out more. I drive there. It's 30 minutes away.