



A Season of Impact: Reconnect Earth's Summer 2019 Report

2019 was Reconnect Earth's first year running eight-day back-packing trips for students, focused on exploring environmental issues, social justice, and grassroots activism. **Fifteen students** came from **eight colleges, universities, and a high school** in **three states** to join this one-of-a-kind experience on one of our two trips into the Mount Baker National Recreation and Wilderness Areas. Students participated in workshops, trainings, and facilitated discussions on topics including:

- *Indigenous history
- *Dismantling oppression
- *Grassroots campaign planning
- *Nonviolent direct action
- *Lobbying elected officials
- *Ecological identity
- *Colonialism and sovereignty
- *Perspectives on wilderness
and much more!



"I learned being out of my comfort zone was okay because it allowed me to be vulnerable, learn, and grow."
-Samara Mejia, trip participant

Reconnect Earth trips provide students with the chance to:



Experience wild landscapes



Interact with the natural world



Make friendships that can last a lifetime



Study strategies for creating grassroots social change



Reflect on their relationship with the environment



Stay involved with activism post-trip



Diversity and Accessibility

Reconnect Earth strives to make our programs **accessible** and **relevant** to students from diverse backgrounds. We still have much work to do in this important area, but we are making progress. This year, participants on our summer trips identified as:

- ***66%** female or non-binary
- ***33%** students of color
- ***26%** LGBTQ+

Assessing Results

All summer trip participants filled out a post-trip feedback form. **93% or more** responded they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the following statements:

*“This trip increased my knowledge about **natural history**”*

*“This trip increased my knowledge about **environmental issues**”*

*“This trip increased my knowledge about **social justice issues**”*

*“This trip increased my **understanding of how to take action on important issues**”*

*“After this trip I feel more confident **engaging in outdoor activities**”*

Attracting Participants From Across the PNW

Our Summer 2019 trips included current students and recent graduates from the following schools in three Pacific Northwest states:

Washington:

Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, University of Washington, Evergreen State University, Gonzaga University.

Oregon:

Pacific University, University of Oregon.

Montana:

Hellgate High School.

Help us continue empowering young leaders to sustain grassroots social movements for years to come!

Reconnect Earth works hard to remove financial barriers to students joining in our trips. 74% of participants on our Summer 2019 trips received partial scholarships. **We couldn't do this work without the support of our donors.**

Donate here to make future seasons a success:
reconnectearth.org/donate



“I feel so much more ready to go out and do things, to be an advocate, and to be more confident within myself.”

**-Devin Vandergriff,
trip participant**