



# Environmental Youth Employment Symposium

## -Agenda-

**9:00 - 9:45 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:45 - 10:00 Welcome and Opening**  
Dawn Chávez, Boston Youth Environmental Network

**10:00 - 11:30 Breakout Session 1**

A. Standard Policies and Procedures: Round Table Discussion

This discussion will cover risk management, provide examples of policies and procedures, and related forms to take home. Members are welcome to bring examples to share with others.

Discussion Contributor:

Kent Jackson, Youth Programs Director, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy

B. Cultural Competency and Environmental Youth Employment: Roundtable Discussion

Many times there is a focus on diversity throughout the hiring process. What strategies support an organizational culture that is welcoming, supportive of everyone's professional development and helps to build a diverse green environmental workforce?

Discussion Contributors:

James Brantley, Director of Community Relations, Zoo New England

Maria Cabrera, Community Relations Program Manager, Museum of Science

C. Bringing the Youth Organizing Perspective to Green Youth Employment:  
Workshop/Discussion

There is a lot of excitement and public interest around green jobs right. How do we take that traction and connect it to youth jobs funding advocacy? Find out about the history of youth jobs advocacy in Boston and how our work in environmental youth employment connects and can have an impact on these efforts and youth leadership.

Facilitator:

Daniel Gelbtuch, Youth Force Coordinator, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

**11:30 - 12:00 Motivating Young People on the Job**: Panel Discussion

Dante Grice, Franklin Park Zoo, Youth Program Supervisor

Jodi Schmidt, Executive Director, Extras for Creative Learning

Dedra Moore, Floor Staff, Extras for Creative Learning

**12:00 – 1:00**    **Enrichment Resource Fair & Networking Lunch**

**1:00 – 1:30**    **Keynote Address**

**1:30 – 3:00**    **Breakout Session 2**

A. Connecting Youth Employees To The Why Behind The Work: Roundtable Discussion  
Environmental Youth Employment programs engage youth in a variety of settings. Some call for the creation or maintenance of trails others engage young people in advocacy. What strategies can help young people make a personal connection between their work and environmental sustainability? What is the role of environmental education in this process?

Conversation Contributor:

Kristen Wyman, Island Ambassadors Program Manager, Island Alliance

B. Supporting Youth As They Transition Into Staff Positions: Explore how organizational and program culture can better support youth that are transitioning into staff or other leadership positions. The workshop will cover:

- Challenges in switching from youth to staff (for the youth switching, for other youth not switching and for adults who “knew them back when...”)
- Ways to acknowledge, celebrate and respect the transition
- Boundaries (especially with other youth)
- Building leadership from a new perspective
- Sharing of strategies, successes and challenges

Workshop facilitator:

Lori Lobenstine, Youth Action Lead, The Design Studio for Social Intervention (ds4si)

C. Girls Participation In Environmental Programming: Roundtable Discussion

Are girls enrolling in our programs and participating in the long term? The discussion will include strategies to recruiting, engaging, and motivating girls in the field.

Conversation Contributors:

Rachada Hiranyaket, YES Academy Director, Youth Enrichment Services

Deborah Muscella, Executive Director, Girls Get Connected

Meghan Trombly, Director of Program Operations, Strong Women Strong Girls

Ryanne Filbey, Program Manager, Strong Women Strong Girls

D. Farm To Table: Roundtable Discussion

More and more young people are being employed to grow food in Boston. With the rise in farmers markets, urban farms and community gardens in the city come opportunities. What are the opportunities and how does this work connect to environmental sustainability and environmental justice?

Conversation Contributor:

Michael Cermak, EJAM

**3:00-3:30**

Closing Session

Kevin Doyle, Principal, Green Economy