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**Goal:** Provide experiential and inclusive programs which reflect the interconnectedness and diversity of nature to inspire action.



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# Education and Climate Department Strategies

**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action (providing multiple entry points).

**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Strategy 3: Create and implement mission aligned programs that support career/professional development.**

**Strategy 4: Community engagement** designed to develop positive reciprocal relationship between the community and The Wild Center through sharing resources, content and events/program.

**Strategy 1:** *Engage a diverse public audience with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.*

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**Objective 1:** Provide **core weekly programs** a holistic daily schedule that includes a mixture of animals, science, and experiential learning utilizing Adirondack and campus resources that inspire action and foster connections to nature.

**Objective 2:** Host a series of seasonally featured and varied **public programs to support our mission** and drive visitation.



**Objective 3:** **Build and maintain relationships with schools and community groups** centering TWC as a community science resource by offering exceptional experiences including pre and post services to encourage long lasting community ties.



**Objective 4:** Support **visitor experiences and exhibits across campus** to ensure that high quality, sustainability and accessibility standards are commensurate with our programmatic and visitor services experience

**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

**Objective 1: Provide core weekly programs**



**928 Animal Programs**

**153 Drop in Science programs**



**62 trips/490 people canoeing**

**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

## **Objective 2: Seasonal Public Programs**

**Shanty Shenanigans** = 416 Attendees

**Pancake Brunch** = 304 Attendees onsite/2,918 views on FB

**Pollinator Week** = 2,688 Attendance/14 programs

**Get Outside Fest** = 2,438 Attendance/379 unique zip codes

**ADK Waterweek** = 6,981 Attendees/57 Programs

**Watts & Wheels** = 35 electric vehicles, 1300 attendees, 12 tabling organizations,

**Animal Club** = 2 programs/72 attendees

**Community Free Days** = 3,464 attendees



**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

**Objective 2: Seasonal Public Programs**

**Workshops/Programs**

**Carl Heilman** - 3 workshops

**Dan Spada** - 2 workshops/24 attendees

**Here Comes the Sun! Bill Mckibben** - 165 attendees in partnership with ADK Explorer

**Winter Week** - 4104 attendees

**Science Speaker Series** - 5 events/203 attendees/6.2% of the total museum attendance



# Family STEM Series

24  
participants

864 Teaching /  
Contact Hrs

NSF /High  
Desert  
Museum

ADK Mtn Club,  
PSC VIC, PSC  
AWI, TNC



**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

**Objective 3: Schools**

Schools Groups	Youth / Adults	# groups
In-Person:	5,764	163
Virtual:	179	2
Homeschool	543	4 days



**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

**Objective 3: Schools cont.**



<b>Program</b>	<b># Taught</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Animal Encounter	34	1,351
Wildlife Defenses	20	862
Naturalist Walk	13	307
Virtual River Otter Ecology	3	204
Creatures on Climate Change	8	415
Green Tech Walk	3	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3,184</b>

**Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience** with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action.

**Objective 4: Visitor Experiences**



9a - 12p ANIMAL CARE			1p - 2p	2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 5p			
9a - 12p ANIMAL CARE		1p - 2p	2p - 3p			4p - 5p			
	10a - 11a	11a - 12p		2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 5p			
9a - 10a	10a - 11a	11a - 12p		1p - 2p	2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 5p		
			12p - 3p		3p - 4p	4p - 8p WILD LIGHTS TRAIL ROVER			
9a - 11a TRAIL		1p - 2p	12p - 1p	2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 5p			
	10a - 11a		1p - 2p	2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 5p			
9a - 12p			1p - 2p	2p - 3p	3p - 4p	4p - 8p WILD LIGHTS TRAIL ROVER			



THE WILD CENTER'S  
**WILD**  
LIGHTS

<b>Wild Lights Attendance</b>	
January 3 - Feb 22, 2025	7763
Nov 28 - Dec 31, 2025	8464
<b>2025 Wild Lights Total</b>	<b>16,227</b>
Nights Open	37



**RAQUETTE** →  
**RIVER ROLL**



**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

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**Objective 1:** Host, develop and implement nature-inspired, climate science and relevant community convenings to elevate our work and those of our trusted partners to reach new audiences



**Objective 2:** Expand our support of educators and teachers through professional development and providing science resources



**Objective 3:** National and International leadership work on climate change education through connecting with existing networks to elevate and position our work



**The Youth Climate Summit Network**



**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 1:** Host, develop, and implement **nature-inspired, climate science, and relevant community convenings to elevate our work**



## 2025 Adirondack Youth Climate Summit

- Annual 2 day event
- 23 school districts (3 new!)
- 22 workshops
- 70 community organizations
- 6 plenary sessions
- Sewing, Suzie & Sheep!

**250 people / 5500 Contact Hours**

**Objective 1:** Host, develop, and implement **nature-inspired, climate science, and relevant community convenings to elevate our work**

**Youth Climate Connections Retreat**

- 4-day summer retreat for teens
- Theme of climate health
- Field trips to North Country School, The Wild Center & John Brown Farm
- Student leaders from Phipps & TWC led 5 workshops & daily activities

**31 participants / 1560 contact hours**



**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 1:** Host, develop and implement **nature-inspired, climate science and relevant community convenings to elevate our work**



## Adirondack Climate Conference

- Participants included community members, indigenous leaders, regional experts and students
- Rollout of the Adirondack Climate Resilience Network (ACORN) Rural Resilience Roadmap.
- Goal of Conference: Develop an inclusive network of stakeholders to make the North Country a better place to live, work & play.

**160 people/1280 contact hrs**

Partnership between Paul Smith's College, The Wild Center, and Adirondack Research Consortium with support from NYSERDA & the Adirondack Foundation

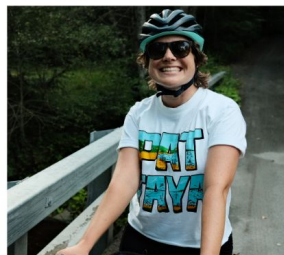
**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 2:** Professional Development and science resources

## *Ignite the Change! Sparking Action through Youth Climate Summits*

*NYS Cohort Lead*

### Meet the Speakers



**Cedar Barg (they/them)**

Climate Network Manager  
The Wild Center  
Cyclist, Reader, Singer/Songwriter



**Zarela Gulli (she/her)**

Youth Climate Program Alumna  
First Year at Columbia University  
Climber, Activist, Storyteller



**Emma Venarde (she/her)**

Youth Climate Program Alumna  
MARACOOS  
Musical ocean defender



**Don Haas (he/him)**

Program Partner  
Paleontological Research Institution  
Talk about fire.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**July 14-15**  
+ New York cohort day  
on July 16

**SUMMER INSTITUTE**

New York Sneak Peek May 21 @7pm EDT

CLIMATE GENERATION  
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION  
THE WILD CENTER

**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 2:** Professional Development and science resources



## Climate Week NYC 2025

- Tabling & attendance at Art and Science of Climate Storytelling & Event
- Tabling & attendance at Climate Week Assembly
- Building/ strengthening partner & funder relationships
- Engaging with YCP Alumni in NYC region & beyond

**2000+ participants/2100 contact hrs**

**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 3: National and International leadership work on climate change education**



Smithsonian  
Institution



unesco

Man and the Biosphere  
Programme



POWERSAINS  
Creating STEM Smartness®



NATURAL  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM  
OF UTAH

American Museum  
of Natural History



YALE PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change  
Communication

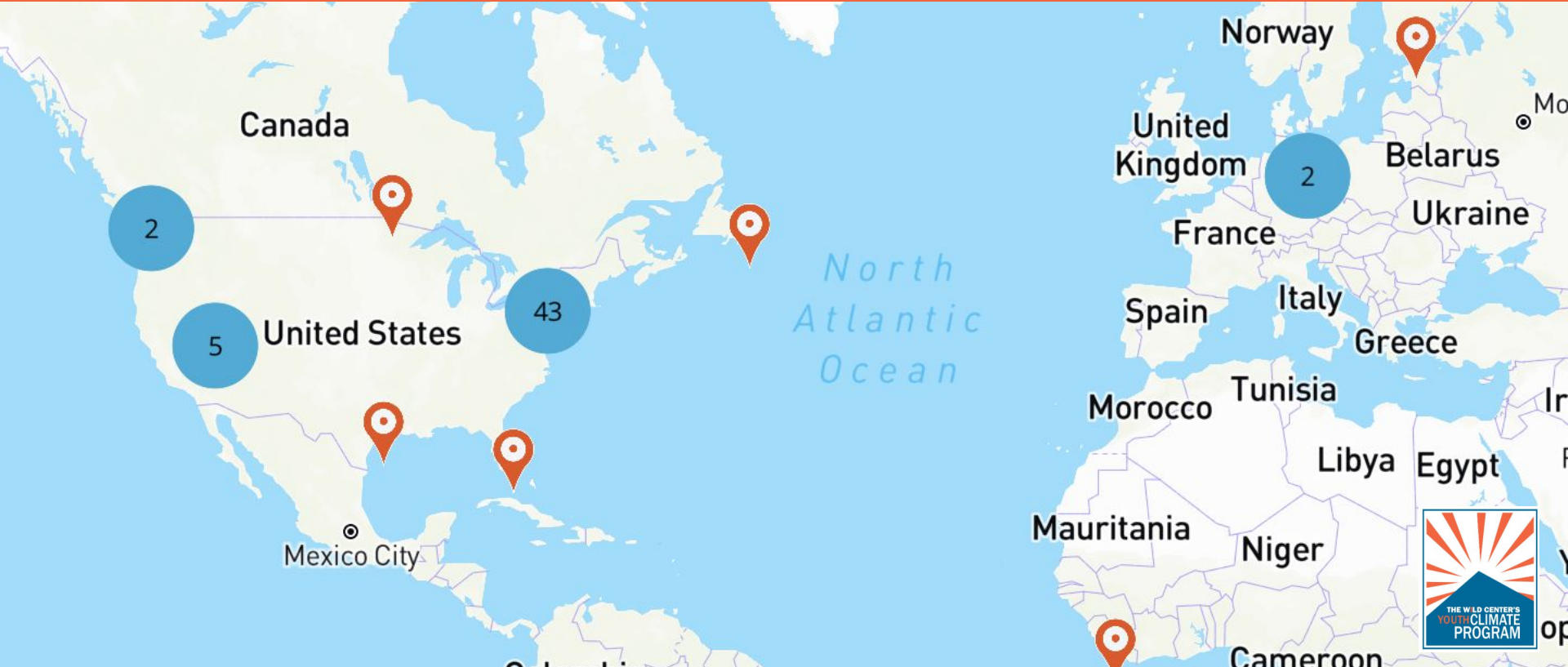


Climate Smart  
Communities



CRETf  
CLIMATE & RESILIENCE  
EDUCATION TASK FORCE

# The Wild Center's Youth Climate Summit Network



# Summit Network By the Numbers



Utah Youth Climate Summit



**265** total Youth Climate Summits at **89** Sites



Summits in **11** countries\* & **29** U.S. States



**41** Youth Climate Summits in 2025 reaching over 4,000 youth



Mass Audubon Youth Climate Summit

# 2025 Summit Stats



North Carolina Youth Climate Summit



**41** total youth climate summits at **39** sites



Summits in **18 states & 4 countries**  
(including 5 new states!)



**7** new summit sites joined our Network



**9** summits in New York State



Our events reached **4500+** youth!

# New Summits in 2025 (\*= new state)



Youth Climate & Me Summit | Orono, ME\*



Chicago Youth Climate Justice Summit | Chicago, IL\*



Colorado Youth Climate Summit | Carbondale, CO



Montana Youth Climate Summit | Missoula, MT\*



Alabama Youth Action for Sustainability Summit | AL\*



Rhode Island Youth Climate Conference | Providence, RI\*



## Youth Climate Summit Network

- 10 monthly YCS Network meetings
- Site visits to Colorado, Maine, Ashokan & Finger Lakes YCS
- Climate Newsflash - 10x a year
- 200+ Toolkit downloads
- 2025 update to Climate Action Planning resources

**Strategy 2: Convene and engage people** with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

**Objective 3: National and International leadership work on climate change education**

### Climate Workshops & Presentations:

- Association of Science & Technology Conference
- NYS Adaptation Conference
- Mid-Atlantic Museum Conference
- Phipps Climate Toolkit Conference
- ACORN Presentation to APA Board of Directors
- Climate Ready Workforce Presentation

**4,677 people / 13,015.5 contact hours**



**Strategy 3:** Create and implement **mission aligned programs that support career/professional development.** These integrated aspects are a key part to our comprehensive programs that mentor, support, and deepen participant knowledge, understanding, skills, and professional development to thrive in a 21st century (and climate-ready) environment which add to TWC professionalism and leadership reputation.

**Objective 1:** In coordination with Human Resources & working across departments, create a robust and cohesive suite of professional development opportunities for staff that support learning, growth, capacity building, and staff wellbeing



**Objective 2:** Develop, implement and maintain strong **career development & mentoring programs/initiatives and pathways** that offer multiple entry points into The Wild Center, support positive youth development and offer opportunities for leadership and growth.

# Strategy 3: Create and implement **mission aligned programs that support career/professional development.**

## **Objective 2: Career development and mentoring pathways**

### **Climateens Program (January-May)**

- 10 youth from 4 school districts
- Museum events & education as well as Community Outreach

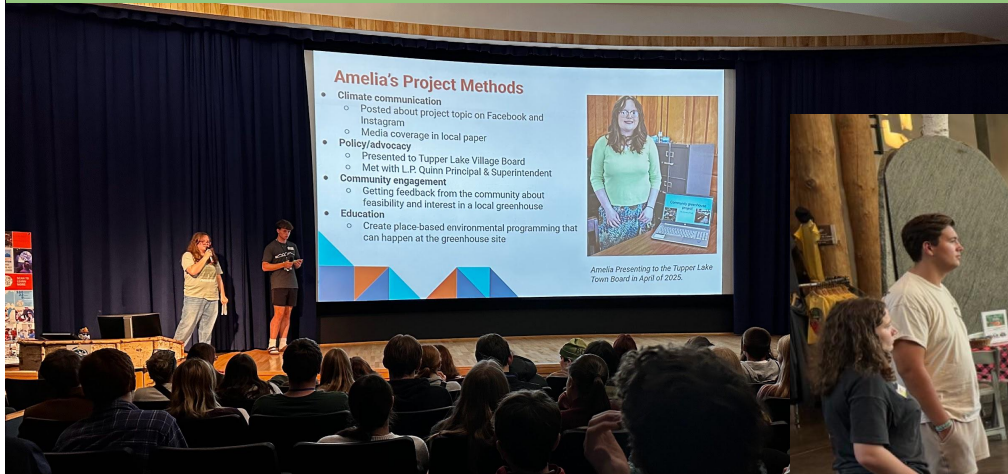
### **Summiteer Planning (September-November)**

- Weekly planning meetings on Sundays for the Adirondack YOUTH Climate Summit
- 12 youth from 4 school districts

### **Critical Action Lab (CAL) Fellowship (October-Present)**

- 6 regional youth from 3 school district

**20 people/ 3,123 contact hours**



**Strategy 3:** Create and implement *mission aligned programs that support career/professional development.*

**Objective 2:** Career development and mentoring pathways

**Timbuktoo Institute Site Visits to The Wild Center**

- 1 session of staff, 3 sessions of NYC students
- ½ day visit to The Wild Center
- Content focus on climate careers & climate justice

**68 people / 272 hours**



**Strategy 4: Community engagement** designed to develop positive reciprocal relationship between the community and The Wild Center through sharing resources, content and events/program

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**Objective 1:** Provide multiple opportunities to connect and build relationships with the Tupper Lake Community throughout the year including attending Tupper Lake hosted events.



### FAMILY SCIENCE SERIES



**Objective 2:** Participating in regional events outside of Tupper Lake as it is appropriate and advances The Wild Center's relationships with key community partners and our mission. This objective would align across other departments (ie. communications/marketing/development)

**Strategy 4: Community engagement** designed to develop positive reciprocal relationship between the community and The Wild Center though sharing resources, content and events/program

**Objective 1: Tupper Lake Community**



## **Tupper Lake Community**

### **Tupper Lake Public Library**

Reading Series programs

Tupper Teens Programs

Youth movie nights

### **LP Quinn Elementary**

School programming - 3-5th grades

Faculty Meeting student support

Family Art and Nature Art Night

## **Town of Tupper Lake**

Winter / Spring sport assistance

Summer Camp field trips

## **Tupper Lake Middle High School**

Earth Day programs

Tupper Lake Green team

## **Tupper Lake Food Pantry**

Supplies, shelves and restocking food donations.



# Tupper Lake Central School District



**692 students**

**74 adults**

# Community Maple

40 families participated

1 Full Time Staff

4 AmeriCorps members

2 Volunteers

Facilities Staff as needed

147 gallons of syrup

Maple School Programs



**Strategy 4: Community engagement** designed to develop positive reciprocal relationship between the community and The Wild Center through sharing resources, content and events/program

## **Objective 2: Regional events and partnerships**

### **Examples:**

#### **Northeast Climate Change Collaborative**

Shelburne Farms network across the northeast on climate change education

#### **Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)**

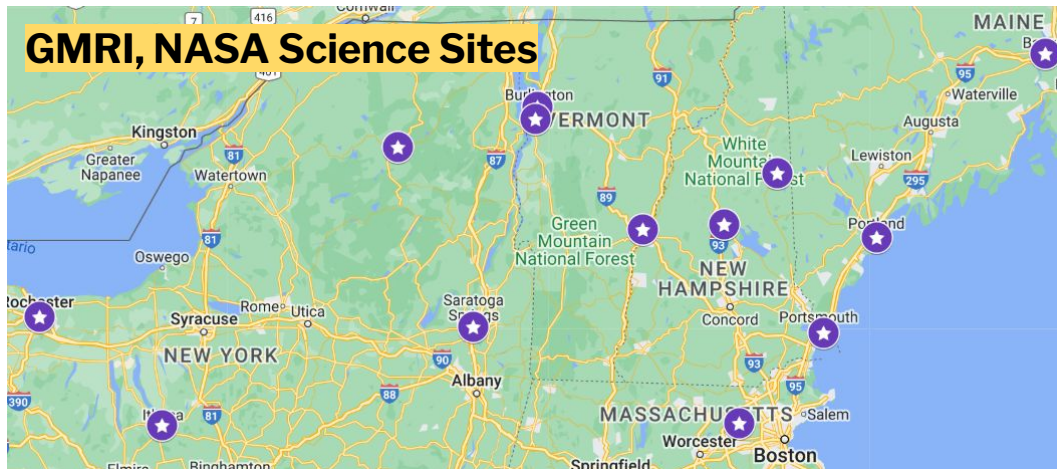
NASA funded partnership project on Connected Learning Ecosystems

#### **Northeast Resiliency Consortium (NERC)**

Network with Climate Resilience Organizations to build capacity & impact

#### **NYSED Statewide Steering Committee**

Group that has been working on new NYS Guidelines for Climate Literacy



(and **MANY** more!!)

# ADK Adventure Trip: Community Foundation/Junior Frontiers



**23 Youth**

**5 Adults**

**2 days**

**Partner:  
John Brown  
Farm**





# Ahmad Butler Foundation Virtual Hospital Program

**1 hour virtual  
program for  
pediatric cancer  
patients**

**3 hospitals**

**711 hospital beds**

**400 livestream  
viewers**



