

YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM & CLASSROOM EDUCATION

2023 REPORT



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Young Conservationist Scholarship Program (YCSP)

Empowering Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders, Today



YCSP Overview

The Young Conservationist Scholarship Program empowers passionate youth to become conservation trailblazers. Each year, selected participants collaborate, attend an environmental conference, and spearhead a conservation project with BCWF support. At the conclusion of the program, the standout participant earns a \$1,500 scholarship toward post-secondary education, while the runner-up receives \$500.

Metrics

- Number of Applicants (2023/2024): 10
- \$2,000 in scholarship funds distributed in 2023
 - \$1,500 to Tanya
 - \$500 to Prabhnoor
- \$2,000 in scholarship funds to be distributed in January 2024
- Participants attended a 2-day virtual conference in April
- Facilitated four participant workshops and check-in sessions

Young Conservationist Scholarship Program (YCSP)

Empowering Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders, Today



What this cohort is up to:

- Invasive plant species removal and the re-planting of native species
- Nature-focused art workshops for other youth
- Creation and facilitation of an environmental-focused contest to encourage youth to develop and share solutions to climate change
- Nature-focused photography exposition and contest
- Public education on invasive plant species, ways to remove them, and what to plant instead



2022-2023 YSCP Award Recipients

In 2023, \$1,500 in scholarship funds were granted to Tanya (Grade 9). \$500 was granted to the program’s runner-up, Prabhnoor (Grade 12).

Tanya, the top winner of the 2023 YCSP scholarship, was driven to inspire children towards environmental stewardship. To achieve this, she adopted and nurtured the Pinewood Rain Garden at a local elementary school in North Delta for educational purposes. As students returned in the fall, she engaged a fifth-grade class

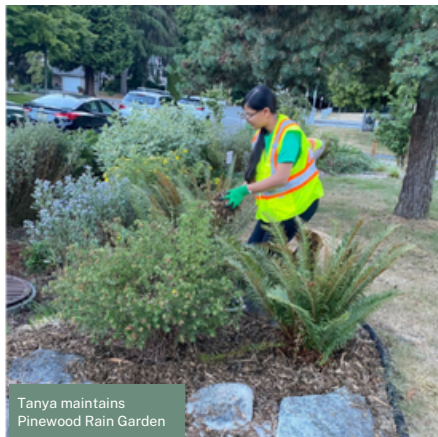
with a presentation about the importance of this green space.

Prabhnoor, the runner-up in the 2023 YCSP scholarship, dedicated her efforts to raising awareness about native and invasive species in Osoyoos. She collaborated with a local print shop to create and distribute informative pamphlets, educating the community on identifying and managing invasive species.

Additionally, Prabhnoor successfully fundraised \$120 for the Osoyoos Desert Centre and encouraged community involvement by gifting native yarrow plants from local greenhouses to those who donated.



Tanya teaches fifth graders about rain gardens



Tanya maintains Pinewood Rain Garden



Tanya teaches fifth graders about rain gardens



Tanya maintains Pinewood Rain Garden

“The main goal of my project was to get younger kids interacting with green spaces around them. Kids are so curious about nature. It gives me hope that we can fix the climate crisis, that we can solve this problem.”

— 2023 YCSP recipient, Tanya

Learn more about our 2022/2023 YCSP Recipients on the BCWF blog! →



BCWF Classroom Education



Classroom Education Overview

Our Classroom Education program offers 27 conservation and nature-focused lessons across seven themes: Climate Change, Leadership, Outdoor Survival, Oceans, Pollinators, Wetlands, and Wildlife. All programs align with the B.C. curriculum and inspire students to protect and restore the natural world. Programs can be delivered virtually or in-person to school and community groups.

Classroom Education Overview

Schools: Island Discovery Learning Community, Vancouver Hebrew Academy, Langley Scouts

Lessons/Programs: Winter shelters, archery, first aid, leadership & communication, climate change, ocean waste, fire building, pollinators, cetaceans, kayaking, fishing & crabbing, invasive plants, animal migration, wetlands.

Metrics

- Classroom Education
 - Number of groups: 3
 - Number of students: 376
 - Number of in-person programs: 24
 - Number of virtual programs: 0

BCWF Classroom Education





Program Funders

Thank you to the following funders for making these programs possible in 2023.



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

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