

America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Youth Listening Session

Location: Chicago, IL

Date: August 31, 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

YHE1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "the great outdoors," and how does it relate to your life?

YHE2. How do you use the outdoors to improve your health?

YHE3. What are some of the biggest health issues in your community?

YHE4. What are some obstacles and challenges that prevent young people from engaging in healthy outdoor activity?

YHE5. What recommendations would you make to President Obama to help more Americans enjoy the health benefits of outdoor activity?

| Comments | Question (1-4) |
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| Woods and animals Where is outdoors? Springfield, IL | YHE1 |
| Fresh air , spring, having fun | YHE1 |
| Hard work, sun, like Eden's place we are familiar with the sun; camping, canoe, hunting , hiking biking | YHE1 |
| Safety problem, not safe n neighborhood; not a place to go. Parks are not cooperative, gyms are not open. Need a safe place to go | YHE4 |
| Trees bugs, flowers | YHE1 |
| Nicer environment trees, fresh air, birds chirping; going to beach, Where-Lake Mi- was fun , jet ski | YHE1 |
| Service more kids with trips; just playing basketball, where cool kids want to come. | YHE4 |
| Some kids stay in cause it is dangerous outside | YHE4 |

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| Flowers nice environment for children, WHAT WAS YOUR EARLY EXPERIENCE? Girl scout camping .WERE YOU AFRAID? Not a bug person, was distraught about it but dealt | YHE1 |
| Asthma harder to stabilize breathing, people who are littering are not helping to keep environment clean and is a problem | YHE3 |
| Basically everything we do at Eden's place is fun to do. | YHE2 |
| Bing in fresh air helps with the people who have asthma. | YHE3 |
| Makes me feel better because I am out of my element. Not my first choice. It improved me, playing garden doing different stuff. | |
| Most enjoy- Monarch, coop for chickens and eggs and farmers market- helps community buy organic | YHE5 |
| National program run by youth in certain radius picked them up and took then out of the neighborhood. Program run by youth and organized by youth and paid for by government. | YHE5 |
| People don't eat good, instead they go to fast food restaurants to spend a dollar for a burger and salad is \$5. Parents don't serve carrots or broccoli or if they do serve broccoli it is broccoli and cheese | YHE3 |
| Redefine the definition of our doors | YHE5 |
| Replicate what they are doing at Eden's place. | YHE5 |
| Would like to see: Drill team, dance competition, large screen video competition | YHE5 |
| Youth don't understand what is going on outside, going bike riding. | YHE2 |
| I take people on hikes to help with my psychology sessions. What a lot of people want to do is want to have fun. In this conversation, nobody is talking about having a good time. When I take kids out on a hike they have a great time. They giggle. What about introducing at Fed level a program that is fun where they go outside to learn and have fun. Could take young children outside and talk about trees. If you talk to kids about how amazing trees are, they are awed. We need to be creative. Go outside and move and have fun. | YHE4 |

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| <p>It is challenging to engage students, esp. urban, students. There is a tendency to use a language that is very elitist when talking about outdoors. This language does not have traction. It makes this "other place" seem so very far away. Language is crucial. Often when promoting the outdoors we harken back to our agrarian past when we were connected to the land, but this has no resonance to an urban child. This doesn't sound trendy. Sounds old fashion and hick. Needs to be sexy.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>No longer a time when can give 10 kids to park ranger for a day program. The law does not allow it. Also, he is not a youth development specialist. Many conservationists are not educated in youth development.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>There is also a challenge with managing risk. When work with minors have larger insurance costs. Transportation also presents insurance challenges. If I transport minors to programs or I take them out in kayaks, etc., my general liability cost is huge.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Interviews with kids at Botanical Gardens and Brookfield Zoo, I heard that one of the reasons that got them into programs focused on outdoors was the bad economy. They saw skill building and job development as an impetus to join these programs.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Perceived as "nerds" if they were interested in outdoor activities.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>We were talking to kids they told us they did not feel comfortable with the sounds. The silence and the hoot owls were unfamiliar to them and they were terrified. So to get them ready, they need opportunities to get familiar with sounds.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>As child I would just take off all day and only go home at night. Now as a parent, I need to know where my kids are at all times. I don't know if real or perceived but greater fear about leaving your child alone. Now my kids are more programmed. I drop them at event and then pick them up when done. So perhaps there need to be more structured programs.</p> | YHE3 |

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| <p>Among ethnic groups and urban areas, there is a belief that certain kinds of activities don't fit into their culture. Other people do that. They think: "We don't rock climb. We don't ski." We need to change thought. Needs to start with schools in very early age. Also get parents involved with PTA, etc. When watch Olympics you don't see minority populations represented. That is why it was such a hit when the Jamaicans had a bobsledding team. You don't normally see black people competing in bobsledding competitions. It broke the stereotype.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>When I work with young people, I have to get fingerprinted and give \$65 per person to get background check at local police department. This is a barrier for volunteers. It creates a hurdle to volunteer. Most programs don't pay for this and it falls on the volunteer to pay this money.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>It is a challenge to define what youth is and how we talk to a segmented demographic. Is a 16 or 17 year old a youth? Sometimes youth incorporates up to 30 year olds. How do we send the proper messaging to different segments of "youth"? Biggest distinction is between adult vs. minor. If a minor, then have to talk to families too.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>We demonize youth when we say kids today spend 6 hours a day in front of a screen and now we are saying get outdoors. When I try to get my teens outdoors they are upset that their iPhones are going to be taken away from them. Should we try to mesh technology with the great outdoors? The kids will not turn off. We need to be welcoming.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Technology is something you can do when you are outside. How do we use screen time to promote going outdoors and then cycle back to the screen.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Chicago established an Outdoor Bill of Rights for children. Also, Chicago had programs in city parks so people don't have to go too far. Can change perception by starting in local park. Then if people have a good time, they might think about going to the national parks.</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Physical education is only a theoretical requirement in public schools. In practice, gym time can also be study hall or other things. The Feds can make physical education a requirement in all public schools in US, K-12. If it isn't we send the wrong message. We relegate exercise and going outdoors to something you have to fit in, after a full day. If Fed is committed and serious, then they should support gym in schools.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Heard a lot of innovative things being done by park districts in Illinois and Chicago. They have been able to do these things because they have funding. Many other states they are cutting services. One of the first to be cut is parks and recreation. So Feds need to provide leadership, they need to boost funding for current programs. Also need to look at other types of funding mechanisms, like granting mechanism to state such as State match grant or a challenge grant. Great way to provide incentive for local communities to participate. With match grants the match the state or local government ends up putting in typically exceeds the minimum requirement.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Most land managing agencies have professional staff with degrees in conservation or law enforcement or history or biology. They are not trained to work with kids. If the volunteer cannot work with the people, you have created a huge invisible barrier to accomplishing your goal. Need to make room in our agencies for people who can work with people and kids.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>The adults I know were taken to national parks when we were kids. Now the challenge to getting kids outdoors is to get their parents to take them out. So must appeal to the adults to take the children out. Appeal must go out to families.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Adults also spend a lot of time in front of computers too. Not just kids</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Feds could make it easier to hire people. Very hard to hire kids into the federal government; so easy in private sector. Need to do this to get new people into the work force.</p> | YHE4 |

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| Sometimes being the great outdoors means ATV and hunting to kids. Is this how we are defining it? Are we minimizing their definition of the "great outdoors?" By not accepting this definition (hunting and motor sports) are we perpetuating the conflict of different ways to enjoy the great outdoors? Youths have a variety of ways of defining how use outdoors and we should be open to them all. | YHE3 |
| We requested to improve physical activity among adults at our Federal agency. They told us that we could take time during lunch break to exercise. We could take a full hour if we were exercising, as opposed to the 1/2 hour normally given for lunch. But, they told us we wouldn't get paid for the additional time taken. This is a barrier. The Federal Gov't can start encouraging kids to get outdoors by encouraging adults in our agencies to go outdoors. | YHE3 |
| Climate controlled culture- people are uncomfortable in warm, cool, or wet weather | YHE4 |
| From working outdoors this Summer- it was hot and sweaty but fun | YHE2 |
| Get kids excited about the outdoors, opportunities close to home | YHE5 |
| Learning things while working outdoors has aided her mental health | YHE2 |
| Likes marketing idea- point out benefits of outdoor activities | YHE5 |
| Market scheme- can sell the outdoors (to youth) | YHE5 |
| Most youth do not know ecology, need to understand more about it to enjoy wilderness | YHE1 |
| National parks, far off places, not accessible | YHE1 |
| No child left inside- many schools cannot afford bus costs for field trips | YHE5 |
| Obesity- friends buys lots of candy and junk food | YHE3 |
| Once you start walking, you keep moving, nature pushes you | YHE3 |
| Programs that travel to schools/communities introducing outdoor activities | YHE5 |
| Safety- she does not feel safe cycling | YHE4 |
| Support organizations that run youth programs | YHE5 |
| Violence- it is safer to stay home | YHE4 |

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| Weight issues, people need to know about active lifestyle and food that provides good energy | YHE3 |
| In my neighborhood. Programs for little kids, not teenagers my age. Just anything to do that gets me out of the house that is fun, not boring like chess. Interacting with other kids, animals, gardening. | YHE4 |
| Thinks woods, sun and sky in the springtime. Going to the park, monkey bars. | YHE1 |
| I'm exploring, science, wildlife and a lot of opportunity outdoors. | YHE1 |
| Obesity why? When younger it was bad for your kids if go outside, video games instead. Rather be playing X-box or Nintendo games than going outside tossing around a football. More interesting to be in front of the TV. Aren't really any places to go is huge. People hear about gardening is work. Could be inside watching cartoon network. Outdoors not what used to be, the park district doesn't open up with lots of programs like used to be. Not a lot of parks close to us. | YHE3 |
| Camping was fun in a tent with a sleeping bag. No bears. | YHE1 |
| Planting stuff improves your health. Fruits and vegetables and walking around improve your health. | YHE2 |
| Being in the outdoors, see new things and people. How the real world might be it improves. | YHE2 |
| Place to get out and have fun with friends outside at the lake or wherever you are at. | YHE1 |
| Forest and mountains but not really a camper person or nothing like that. | YHE1 |
| Grass and at the park and basketball court. Fun and playing. | YHE1 |
| Drill team in the park. Dance team in the park. Large screen video games competitions in the park. | YHE5 |
| More money for movies in the parks. | YHE5 |
| More programs like Eden's Place, where I love the monarch garden for butterflies, coops for raising chickens, and a farmers market to sell/buy organic food in the community. | YHE5 |
| National program run by the youth in the neighborhood to take them out of the neighborhood to areas where able to experience the outdoors and be safe. Funded by the government. | YHE5 |

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| Adults need to recognize that they need to use social media to get kids involved. | YHE4 |
| Getting kids something in return; giving them life skills in return | YHE4 |
| Getting parents and families involved; need to get families engaged to get kids outdoors. | YHE4 |
| The way adults talk about it- does not encourage kids to get outdoors | YHE4 |
| What is outdoors? Parks or walking outside of the house in the neighborhood and feeling safe | YHE4 |
| A lot of people can't get to programs; why don't we send programs to schools/communities. Bring animals to schools and show kids what they can see if they go outdoors. | YHE4 |
| Are so climate controlled, that kids don't know how to be comfortable outdoors. Prevents people from going out when it is hot, cold, and buggy. Kids are just kind of wimpy to these things because they are so climate controlled | YHE4 |
| Crime and Violence- not just automobile accidents. Needs to be addressed in communities | YHE4 |
| Education and awareness. Not a lot of kids in her community know where to go. It's not easy to get to places that are safe. Safe travel is not there to get to safe places. Cannot afford transportation to get to safe parks. Can't go to local parks because | YHE4 |
| Focus it towards communities. Have parents coach their children to get outdoors; have community clubs get kids involved | YHE4 |
| Gang violence. Is easier to stay indoors and watch TV than going outdoors and risking being shot because wearing the wrong colors. Need to take the extra step and fix gang violence so kids can feel safe walking 3 blocks outdoors | YHE4 |
| Have organizations at a local level that can provide opportunities, and access to funds/resources. Transportation is an important issue, getting kids to places. Use media to create funds. Create something global on a marketing scheme to get funds. | YHE4 |

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| Her mom walks on the lakefront each day. Once you start walking long distances, you have to find a way to get back; can't just jump off the treadmill- you build up endurance. Better way to get exercise is outdoors | YHE3 |
| How special exercise is- you have to take time out of your schedule to go to the gym. If there was a safer environment to incorporate walking into your day, it would seem like a lot less of a challenge to get in the time to exercise each day. | YHE3 |
| Kids are constantly terrified of trails, snakes, bugs. Have never been outdoors long enough to know they won't be attacked by coyotes. Kid cried when she picked up a toad and showed it to him- kids spend so much time inside, instant gratification from i | YHE3 |
| Let this message go home, and get parents and children involved. Get the message in the community. People need to start thinking out others, and not themselves. Give kids something that will be fun outside, other kids will see that there are opportunity | YHE4 |
| Lot of outdoor work, sweaty, nasty; arms got big cutting invasive plant species, burns calories by working outside. Feels good to get outdoors, get exercise. | YHE2 |
| Loves trails very much, and loves having trails to run on. Has hugely contributed to long term health by having places to run; burn off stress, has helped her appreciate the outdoors. | YHE2 |
| Marketing is great idea- promote benefits of being outdoors. Hard facts. Give kids a good reason to go outdoors. | YHE4 |
| Nice to have access to playground, outdoor space to stay off the couch, especially in the summertime | YHE2 |
| No child left inside act-covers what kids do in schools. Most of the field trips to the arboretum are cancelled because the school can't afford school busses. If the Federal Gov't can provide \$\$ to schools for field trips to outdoor spaces | YHE4 |
| Not out there that it is safe to go to forest preserve and be outdoors and have fun. Young kids are not going outdoors to have nature walks, go there for family outings | YHE3 |

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| Obesity, kids eating lots of candy; if only they knew more about getting out and getting healthy. IF they knew about the forest preserves, they wouldn't be getting unhealthy | YHE3 |
| Outdoors helps keep you fit; helps women because it helps let off stress, and helps her throughout the day better, and is very helpful | YHE2 |
| Portions of foods are important. Choosing healthier alternatives gives you more energy; after eating heavy, greasy foods, your body does not feel as good. Life will kick you in the butt, and you need to think before you do something | YHE3 |
| Safety. She doesn't feel safe biking in Chicago on the streets; you can't without having practiced doing that a lot. If you haven't been brought up that way, you never feel comfortable doing something like that. | YHE3 |
| SCA intern. Kids did not drink water the first few weeks of the internship, would eat chips, pop. Noticed that after a while, they converted to eating healthier, lighter foods, and drinking a lot more water, because your body does better when you are ac | YHE3 |
| The outdoors is always going to be there, and we need to take the initiative to protect it, need to see what's out there, how mankind messed it up, and be out there and have fun. | YHE2 |
| To get kids excited about going outdoors, because now they are not. Until they go out and see/learn things, they aren't going to know how great it can be. Also to have opportunities closer to home. | YHE4 |
| Would like to change the perception of how youth view outdoors. Chicago has 68,000 acres of forest preserve, and sees it as a place to recreate, want to see that perception go from recreation to preservation and conservation. Need to be in different language | YHE4 |
| Obstacles and challenges are kids are not excited; need to get youth excited & make it appealing; talking about going on nature walk is not fun, instead focus on experiences great hikers have had, tell stories; show that while appreciating nature you can be excited about it | YHE4 |

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| <p>Have clubs to get kids and parents together – show what we can lose from invasive species; show how fun forest preserve is</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>Make sure there is accessibility to outdoors; the outdoors is not accessible for many; some can walk near the forest preserve, or it might take 3 CTA buses; suggest more buses that to straight there or even PACE buses; Chicago crime rate is high; need it to be ok to walk outside door, security – those who don't know don't feel secure</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>Recommendations are that everything starts at home & parents need to encourage kids; need to focus on security & safety – be conscious of where going; this is also a community issue – the community needs to think about youth & needs to make a change; during this summer was the first time she was actually out there doing work – it felt good</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>There is a lack of actual programming; outreach & offer them something – give pay or show something they get at the end; be in 1-1 contact & in their face & show what they can gain; Young Life was a great organization working with Chicago school systems that allowed students to earn points to go on trips – fishing, canoeing; if had budget or funding could do more</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>Thanks for having this; suggestions include 1. Continue education and awareness at local level, support not-for-profits and make funds available 2. Marketing – this is what's hot; use media and promote being outdoors and holistic benefits; youth are addicted to electronics, so use that as forum to educate; lots here because of these programs</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>His recommendation is that if students can't go to programs, provide funding to make programs go to students; go to schools and be in the auditorium or gym to show what's outside like forests & plants</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |
| <p>Barriers can be not having a safe, clean environment; might not be able to travel to downtown to enjoy a cleaner environment, or barriers because of asthma; recommend helping to bond with outdoors – have competition and tournaments; do Wii tournaments on big screen outdoors</p> | <p>YHE4</p> |

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| <p>In talking with coworkers at Arboretum learned that field trips are opportunities for kids to experience nature; often what holds many back is that programs don't have enough money for a bus to bring kids; suggests providing federal funds to schools/programs to pay those transportation costs; for a lot of kids that's their only opportunities to get outdoors</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Get excited about the outdoors, making outdoors appeal to kids. Share stories/great experiences with kids- get anyone who has had good experiences to share this so that kids can have a better attitude about the outdoors</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Clubs that get kids and parents into being outdoors, getting them to know what we could potentially lose, and showing them what the forest preserves really is.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>In Chicago, there is a lack of programs. Need to have programs that offer them something- pay, something they will receive. Need one on one contact, and show them what they will gain. Young Life= great organization working with kids on after school pro</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>They have a lot of field trip opportunities to get kids out to outdoor places like arboretum or national parks, but schools don't have money for transportation. If there could be federal funds to pay for this. For a lot of kids, their only opportunity t</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Message needs to start at home and get the parents involved. Have parents kick kids off Facebook and get outdoors. Safety awareness; community needs to take heed and invest in youth and invest in future. No one will make a change if kids aren't encourage</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Accessibility: getting parks closer to home and making them more accessible In Chicago, the outdoors aren't very access able to a lot of people. To take 3 City busses and a train takes a lot of effort. If there could be stops for outdoor</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Keeping parks cleaner, keeping a safer environment. Kids don't want to go out because it's not clean or safe. Kids have asthma and air is bad. Getting WEE tournament outdoors on big-screen.</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Continue education and awareness on a local level/ supporting grassroots efforts, letting them educate. Marketing- in this country we can market anything- use the media to promote getting outdoors, and showing the benefits of being outdoors. Youth are s</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Funding is an issue. If we can't get students to programs, bring programs to kids. Send anybody to schools and show students what is outside, in forests-plants, animals.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>A park manager is not a youth development specialist; there is a void between park managers and youth development specialists – park managers have a lack of skills to do group activities; youth development specialists are often young people themselves; conservation people are hard to train about working with kids</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Noticed that in working with students, especially in urban programs, programs are using elitist language to refer to out of outdoors; youth connect to their environment & this "other place" seems far away and foreign; risk is also an incredible barrier; he has a youth conservation program & is charged \$10/100 worker's comp rate because his program is classified as a lawn care program – even though it is an experiential program; he has to deal with other risk management issues like transportation, liability; anything using bikes or rafts or near water is complicated; using terms evoking an agrarian "connection to the land" can be a barrier – a student in a high rise may not have that connection & that language doesn't speak to them, it sounds hick, it isn't "sexy"</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Offers a program where she takes groups to go hiking to get through stresses; today in talking about programs, have noticed that we haven't discussed what people want to do – have fun; when she is with kids on hikes, they go outside & they giggle; we aren't talking about or modeling that in these sessions; suggests the federal government be involved in introducing the outdoors at day cares, programs that offer fun while kids are learning; can be simple like taking kids to look at a tree; look at being creative & fun</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Left Shedd Aquarium after 17 yrs; now starting Youth Muse – an organization leveraging museums, etc. to get youth involved in social change; worked with young people at Botanic Garden and Lincoln Park Zoo – heard that youth got into programs because they were concerned about getting into college and job opportunities during recession; recommends focusing on job training and skill building aspects of programs; many kids involved in her programs noted language used about them – they were perceived by their friends as nerds and they don't like that; helping youth overcoming perceptions of friends is important</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>In meeting with an urban group learned importance of understanding sounds of country before going on other experiences; sounds of silence, owls, etc were unfamiliar and scary; consider getting youth ready & familiar to hear sounds, not just educating with words</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Is also a parent – have 2 kids now & need to know where they are at all times; perception of danger is a challenge; kids are very programmed – with people all the time because of such concerns; maybe needs more programming to have safe supervision for younger kids</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>In sessions yesterday and today & defining what it means to be in the great outdoors for some means riding a motorcycle or ATV, or firearms use; need to define it as how people actually use it; it's not cardiovascular exercise, but it is a way of enjoying outdoors; not recognizing this leads to conflicts – this kind of use ok , this kind is not</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>One suggestion: Make it not so hard to hire people!</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Language can contain a lot of "elitism" – creates among ethnic groups and especially in urban areas; must address cultural expectations – perceptions that "we don't rock climb/ski/etc." & that only certain people from certain cultures do certain things; should start with schools in early grades, parents, PTAs to get exposure</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Made a request within FNS to improve physical activities in adults; response was can extend lunch break but cannot be paid for it – start inside agencies to encourage people to go outdoors & endorse it; allow people to go outside during day</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>There are barriers for adults who want to work with young people: the costs of getting fingerprinted & then having a background check – maybe the federal government could subsidize this in some way?</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>There needs to be a sea change in how to sell youth on the outdoors; right now the language being used is demonizing youth; in all the talk about kids today, speakers have highlighted that kids spend 6-8 hrs with TV; but parents/adults put them in front of screens; do we want to take away their cell phones and iPods? Saying you created a problem & “we need a solution” is a negative approach; in trail and conservation community they are trying to mesh technology with an outdoor experience; don’t demonize those who don’t use outdoors; be welcome to all</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>What is youth? “youth” can be a very segmented demographic; are 17 year olds kids?; a NYC Outdoor Nation youth summit included persons up to 30 years old; many people there resented being called youth as they’d been living on their own 6+ yrs, etc.; in other words there are 2 problems - lexicon & demographic segmenting problems; the biggest barrier is the difference between making decisions as an adult vs. as a minor – there are liabilities with family/guardian approval; suggest focus on family</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Using tech to get people outdoors; mobile tech can be used outside; use incentives to encourage kids to go outside; link amount of screen time to amount of outdoors time</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Leave No Child Inside program successful; have Outdoor Bill of Rights; did an event with parents & kids around this Outdoor Bill of Rights – did stations based on Bill of Rights; showed parents they can go to city park and not have to go far; also suggests park/rec staff going to the community – get in a canoe, work with fishing staff, use people who get it & can make it look cool; to attract teens and parents – use the challenge factor – getting into a kayak the first time is scary but fun; camping in a local park changes perceptions</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>In Chicago Public Schools system is physical education still a requirement? Response is in theory yes, but in reality no. This time can be a study hall; physical education be a requirement in all public schools K-12; we are having to make up for it before and after; if federal government is serious about having healthy kids they will do this</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Works with volunteers of all ages; own experience as adults working in outdoors – began with being taken to parks by parents; challenge is getting parents involved; can't separate youth from adults – look at family unit & synergies – one gets the other out</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Heard a lot on creative and innovative programs by Chicago Park District and other park districts that have funding available; coming from Wisconsin & government at all levels is getting cut; parks and recreation get cut 1st; provide leadership by boosting funding for existing programs & look at other funding mechanisms same principle as land and water – grants to states and local governments; a challenge grant is a great way to provide incentives for local communities</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Land managing agency professional staff are natural resource or history specialty professionals; they are not trained to do youth programs; need person on other side of partnership, language, time and volunteers available on weekends – need different levels of knowledge and skill; make room for facilitators/coordinators who have these skills/resources</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>We have a lot of field trip opportunities to have kids experience nature. The things that hold schools and kids back is that they do not have money to pay for a bus to bring kids out. There might be Federal funds to schools to pay for transportation cost for kids. When I come in contact kids, these trips are there only opportunities to be exposed to nature. It is not easy to get to these places. It saddens me that the only thing that prevents is the cost of a bus.</p> | N/A |

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| <p>Accessibility to outdoors. For many people in Chicago, the outdoors is not accessible. If you live next to the forest preserve, fine, but some of us have to take 3 buses to get to the forest preserve. Take public transportation is very hard. Open more CTA or PACE lines that will take you right to the forest preserves. Also, safety is an issue. Chicago's crime rate is high. Need to make it safe to walk out there door. Many people do not think they will be secure while walking in forest preserve.</p> | N/A |
| <p>1) Education: continue education and awareness at the local level. Funding is important and make accessible to community groups. Allow community groups to access this money so they can conduct education. 2) Marketing: In this country, we can market all sort of things to the youth. "This is hot!" Use this media to promote the outdoors. Promote how nature helps mind, body and spirit. Youth are addicted to electronics. So use this medium to promote and let them know it is out there. It wasn't until I came across these outdoor programs myself that I took it back to my community. I now present to the next generation. That is my advice.</p> | N/A |
| <p>Getting parents and families involved; not just us</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Have something to offer – job skills and training – what can we give you in return</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>This is not the end – initiative has Facebook page and webpage & can still make comments; submit ideas from self, parents, friends</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Way we talk about it prevents people from coming out – talk in way that sounds exciting</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>We need help in "how do you define outdoors?" – Forests & lakes? Or just being outside your door</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>You have experienced stuff and now you can be ambassadors and tell others what you've experienced</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Struggling defining what youth is...very segmented demographic. Youth Summit in NY went up to 30 years old. Inability to define what a "Youth" is has made it a challenge in how to communicate goals. Biggest barrier-making decisions as an adult or as a minor. There are liabilities associated with youth- focus on family/ guardian in a broader sense</p> | N/A |

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| <p>Older individuals were taken to parks and outdoors- challenge to getting youth involved is getting their parents involved to take them outdoors and engage them in outdoor activities</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Tendency to use a language about the outdoors that does not have traction with urban young people and does not connect to their environment within their community. Transportation is a huge liability when working with urban youth- especially if you want to put children on a bike, near water, etc. Elitist language- connection to the land not the same for urban youth- very agrarian but does not relate to young people- not trendy</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>When I think back to when I was a kid I would take off all day- now I need to know where my kids are all day due to dangers. Kids are programmed to be handed off to a trusted person or stay with a parent. More opportunities for parent/child activities and activities that are supervised would be helpful</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Certain types of activities do not fit in with the Urban culture- need to break that thought that certain people do certain things. Should start with schools, get parents involved by talking about all different types of activities and the kinds of people you see in different activities.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Meet with a group of urban youth and they expressed they did not understand the sounds of the county- the hoot owls', etc., sounds were terrifying to them. Part of getting them ready was getting youth familiar with the sounds not just the words.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Learned from kids they are concerned about their job opportunities once they graduate from college and Perceived as their friends as "nerds"</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Outdoor Bill of Rights Activities- Provided stations for the children and parents and hoped to plant seed to help parents realize they don't need to go far- bring in fishing staff to show parents and kids what fishing is like Dealing with older kids is the challenge factor- new, once in a lifetime activities. Locally a lot of really good work going on.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

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| <p>If we don't define the great outdoors we allow for some outdoor use and but say other outdoor activities are not good- Cultural difference in how we look at these things</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>I think we are demonizing youth in the language we are saying- society is built on children being in front of a screen- well who puts them there? Parents. So I think we need to listen to what we are saying, we have to be careful that we find ways to mesh technology with an outdoor activities- note of caution do not demonize youth and sedentary people, provide a mix of technology and outdoors</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>How can we use the technology to provide rewards or opportunities?</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Most of the land managing agencies are in a profession of natural resources, law enforcement, etc. Not trained to work with youth- If you don't have the person on the other side of the partnership who can work with the people you've created a huge invisible barrier or obstacle to what you are trying to do. We need to make room in our land management agencies for the people who can work with people.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Requested to improve physical activity within adults. You can take time during your lunch break to workout but you won't be paid for it- start in the agencies and encourage parents to go outside and show that the government endorses the outdoors during the work day.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Physical education both indoors and outdoors should be a requirement during the school day. If the Federal Government is really serious to the notion that then they need to start in the schools</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>One barrier is that volunteers who want to work with youth have to be finger printed and background checked prior to volunteer which can be pricey</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>What people really want to do is have fun and going outside is fun. Need to propagate that idea and model that going outside is fun. Implement these programs in preschools, outdoors learning about the outdoors. Need to start being creative and move and have fun.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

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| <p>We have heard a lot about creative things that are being done in Chicago and IL and what they talk about is the result of the funding they have available.</p> <p>However, in many states the first services to be cut are the parks and recreation programs. I would challenge the federal government to boost up the funding programs that are currently available and look at other funding mechanism to challenge the states (challenge grants). These are great ways to incentivize local and state government.</p> | N/A |
| <p>Make it easier to hire people in the federal government to get new people in the work force.</p> | N/A |
| <p>Recommendations to the President- Everything really starts at home and parents can help out by saying "honey why are you sitting around playing the Wii or looking on Facebook, you should be outside." Also about safety and security because you have to be conscious about what is going on- the community need to take head and start thinking about the youth because they are the future and this will keep happening over and over if During my summer this was the first time I was out there doing work and I had a fun time- start with family and community</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>I loved working in the woods this summer. Clubs that get parents and kids involved into the outdoors and nature would be good. Basically getting the parents involved in getting the kids out of the house to have fun and see how fun the forest preserve is would be good.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Lack of programming in Chicago. Need to reach out and get them involved, be it pay or an incentive to show them what you can gain. One on One Contact is a great organization- got kids to get outside and do homework and the kids would earn points to do outdoor activities. Youth are interested just need to provide opportunities.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Adults need to recognize that they need to use social media to get kids involved.</p> | N/A |
| <p>What is outdoors? Parks or walking outside of the house in the neighborhood and feeling safe</p> | N/A |

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| The outdoors is always going to be there, and we need to take the initiative to protect it, need to see what's out there, how mankind messed it up, and be out there and have fun. | YHE1 |
| Would like to change the perception of how youth view outdoors. Chicago has 68,000 acres of forest preserve, and sees it as a place to recreate, want to see that perception go from recreation to preservation and conservation. Need to be in different languages | YHE1 |
| -Nice to have access to playground, outdoor space to stay off the couch, especially in the summertime | YHE2 |
| Woods and animals Where is outdoors? Springfield, IL | YHE1 |
| Trees bugs, flowers | YHE1 |
| Fresh air , spring, having fun | YHE1 |
| I'm exploring, science, wildlife and a lot of opportunity outdoors. | YHE1 |
| Forest and mountains but not really a camper person or nothing like that. | YHE1 |
| Place to get out and have fun with friends outside at the lake or wherever you are at. | YHE1 |
| Nicer environment trees, fresh air, birds chirping; going to beach, Where-Lake Mi- was fun , jet ski | YHE1 |
| Grass and at the park and basketball court. Fun and playing. | YHE1 |
| Flowers nice environment for children, WHAT WAS YOUR EARLY EXPERIENCE? Girl scout camping .WERE YOU AFRAID? Not a bug person, was distraught about it but dealt | YHE1 |
| Thinks woods, sun and sky in the springtime. Going to the park, monkey bars. | YHE1 |
| Camping was fun in a tent with a sleeping bag. No bears. | YHE1 |
| Hard work, sun, like Eden's place we are familiar with the sun; camping, canoe, hunting , hiking biking | YHE1 |
| National parks, far off places, not accessible | YHE1 |
| Most youth do not know ecology, need to understand more about it to enjoy wilderness | YHE1 |
| From working outdoors this Summer- it was hot and sweaty but fun | YHE2 |
| Learning things while working outdoors has aided her mental health | YHE2 |

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| Being in the outdoors, see new things and people. How the real world might be it improves. | YHE2 |
| Loves trails very much, and loves having trails to run on. Has hugely contributed to long term health by having places to run; burn off stress, has helped her appreciate the outdoors. | YHE2 |
| Outdoors helps keep you fit; helps women because it helps let off stress, and helps her throughout the day better, and is very helpful | YHE2 |
| Basically everything we do at Eden's place is fun to do. | YHE2 |
| Makes me feel better because I am out of my element. Not my first choice. It improved me, playing garden doing different stuff. | YHE2 |
| Planting stuff improves your health. Fruits and vegetables and walking around improve your health. | YHE2 |
| Lot of outdoor work, sweaty, nasty; arms got big cutting invasive plant species, burns calories by working outside. Feels good to get outdoors, get exercise. | YHE2 |
| I loved working in the woods this summer. Clubs that get parents and kids involved into the outdoors and nature would be good. Basically getting the parents involved in getting the kids out of the house to have fun and see how fun the forest preserve is would be good. | YHE2 |
| Once you start walking, you keep moving, nature pushes you | YHE3 |
| Bing in fresh air helps with the people who have asthma. | YHE3 |
| Portions of foods are important. Choosing healthier alternatives gives you more energy; after eating heavy, greasy foods, your body does not feel as good. Life will kick you in the butt, and you need to think before you do something | YHE3 |
| SCA intern. Kids did not drink water the first few weeks of the internship, would eat chips, pop. Noticed that after a while, they converted to eating healthier, lighter foods, and drinking a lot more water, because your body does better when you are ac | YHE3 |

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| <p>Is also a parent have 2 kids now & need to know where they are at all times; perception of danger is a challenge; kids are very programmed with people all the time because of such concerns; maybe needs more programming to have safe supervision for younger kids</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Weight issues, people need to know about active lifestyle and food that provides good energy</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Obesity- friends buys lots of candy and junk food</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Obesity why? When younger it was bad for your kids if go outside, video games instead. Rather be playing X-box or Nintendo games than going outside tossing around a football. More interesting to be in front of the TV. Aren't really any places to go is huge. People hear about gardening is work. Could be inside watching cartoon network. Outdoors not what used to be, the park district doesn't open up with lots of programs like used to be. Not a lot of parks close to us.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Physical education is only a theoretical requirement in public schools. In practice, gym time can also be study hall or other things. The Feds can make physical education a requirement in all public schools in US, K-12. If it isn't we send the wrong message. We relegate exercise and going outdoors to something you have to fit in, after a full day. If Fed is committed and serious, then they should support gym in schools.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>How special exercise is- you have to take time out of your schedule to go to the gym. If there was a safer environment to incorporate walking into your day, it would seem like a lot less of a challenge to get in the time to exercise each day.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>How special exercise is- you have to take time out of your schedule to go to the gym. If there was a safer environment to incorporate walking into your day, it would seem like a lot less of a challenge to get in the time to exercise each day.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Language can contain a lot of elitism creates among ethnic groups and especially in urban areas; must address cultural expectations perceptions that we don't rock climb/ski/etc. & that only certain people from certain cultures do certain things; should start with schools in early grades, parents, PTAs to get exposure</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Asthma harder to stabilize breathing, people who are littering are not helping to keep environment clean and is a problem</p> | YHE3 |

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| <p>People don't eat good, instead they go to fast food restaurants to spend a dollar for a burger and salad is \$5. Parents don't serve carrots or broccoli or if they do serve broccoli it is broccoli and cheese</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Noticed that in working with students, especially in urban programs, programs are using elitist language to refer to out of outdoors; youth connect to their environment & this other place seems far away and foreign; risk is also an incredible barrier; he has a youth conservation program & is charged \$10/100 worker's comp rate because his program is classified as a lawn care program even though it is an experiential program; he has to deal with other risk management issues like transportation, liability; anything using bikes or rafts or near water is complicated; using terms evoking an agrarian connection to the land can be a barrier a student in a high rise may not have that connection & that language doesn't speak to them, it sounds hick, it isn't sexy</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Her mom walks on the lakefront each day. Once you start walking long distances, you have to find a way to get back; can't just jump off the treadmill- you build up endurance. Better way to get exercise is outdoors</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Requested to improve physical activity within adults. You can take time during your lunch break to workout but you won't be paid for it- start in the agencies and encourage parents to go outside and show that the government endorses the outdoors during the work day.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Sometimes being the great outdoors means ATV and hunting to kids. Is this how we are defining it? Are we minimizing their definition of the "great outdoors?" By not accepting this definition (hunting and motor sports) are we perpetuating the conflict of different ways to enjoy the great outdoors? Youths have a variety of ways of defining how use outdoors and we should be open to them all.</p> | YHE3 |

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| <p>We requested to improve physical activity among adults at our Federal agency. They told us that we could take time during lunch break to exercise. We could take a full hour if we were exercising, as opposed to the 1/2 hour normally given for lunch. But, they told us we wouldn't get paid for the additional time taken. This is a barrier. The Federal Gov't can start encouraging kids to get outdoors by encouraging adults in our agencies to go outdoors.</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Obesity, kids eating lots of candy; if only they knew more about getting out and getting healthy. IF they knew about the forest preserves, they wouldn't be getting unhealthy</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Physical education both indoors and outdoors should be a requirement during the school day. If the Federal Government is really serious to the notion that then they need to start in the schools</p> | YHE3 |
| <p>Offers a program where she takes groups to go hiking to get through stresses; today in talking about programs, have noticed that we haven't discussed what people want to do have fun; when she is with kids on hikes, they go outside & they giggle; we aren't talking about or modeling that in these sessions; suggests the federal government be involved in introducing the outdoors at day cares, programs that offer fun while kids are learning; can be simple like taking kids to look at a tree; look at being creative & fun</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Left Shedd Aquarium after 17 yrs; now starting Youth Muse an organization leveraging museums, etc. to get youth involved in social change; worked with young people at Botanic Garden and Lincoln Park Zoo heard that youth got into programs because they were concerned about getting into college and job opportunities during recession; recommends focusing on job training and skill building aspects of programs; many kids involved in her programs noted language used about them they were perceived by their friends as nerds and they don't like that; helping youth overcoming perceptions of friends is important</p> | YHE4 |

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| Interviews with kids at Botanical Gardens and Brookfield Zoo, I heard that one of the reasons that got them into programs focused on outdoors was the bad economy. They saw skill building and job development as an impetus to join these programs. | YHE4 |
| Have clubs to get kids and parents together show what we can lose from invasive species; show how fun forest preserve is | YHE4 |
| Getting parents and families involved; not just us | YHE4 |
| This is not the end initiative has Facebook page and webpage & can still make comments; submit ideas from self, parents, friends | YHE4 |
| You have experienced stuff and now you can be ambassadors and tell others what you've experienced | YHE4 |
| Works with volunteers of all ages; own experience as adults working in outdoors began with being taken to parks by parents; challenge is getting parents involved; can't separate youth from adults look at family unit & synergies one gets the other out | YHE4 |
| Service more kids with trips; just playing basketball, where cool kids want to come. | YHE4 |
| Get excited about the outdoors, making outdoors appeal to kids. Share stories/great experiences with kids- get anyone who has had good experiences share this so that kids can have a better attitude about outdoors. | YHE4 |
| Chicago established an Outdoor Bill of Rights for children. Also, Chicago had programs in city parks so people don't have to go too far. Can change perception by starting in local park. Then if people have a good time, they might think about going to the national parks. | YHE4 |
| Technology is something you can do when you are outside. How do use screen time to promote going outdoors and then cycle back to the screen? | YHE4 |
| Outdoor Bill of Rights Activities- Provided stations for the children and parents and hoped to plant seed to help parents realize they don't need to go far- bring in fishing staff to show parents and kids what fishing is like Dealing with older kids is the challenge factor- new, once in a lifetime activities. Locally a lot of really good work going on. | YHE4 |

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| <p>Heard a lot of innovative things being done by park districts in Illinois and Chicago. They have been able to do these things because they have funding. Many other states they are cutting services. One of the first to be cut is parks and recreation. So Feds need to provide leadership, they need to boost funding for current programs. Also need to look at other types of funding mechanisms, like granting mechanism to state such as State match grant or a challenge grant. Great way to provide incentive for local communities to participate. With match grants the match the state or local government ends up putting in typically exceeds the minimum requirement.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>I take people on hikes to help with my psychology sessions. What a lot of people want to do is want to have fun. In this conversation, nobody is talking about having a good time. When I take kids out on a hike they have a great time. They giggle. What about introducing at Fed level a program that is fun where they go outside to learn and have fun. Could take young children outside and talk about trees. If you talk to kids about how amazing trees are, they are awed. We need to be creative. Go outside and move and have fun.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>His recommendation is that if students can't go to programs, provide funding to make programs go to students; go to schools and be in the auditorium or gym to show what's outside like forests & plants</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>One barrier is that volunteers who want to work with youth have to be fingerprinted and background checked prior to volunteer which can be pricey</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>There are barriers for adults who want to work with young people: the costs of getting fingerprinted & then having a background check. Maybe the federal government could subsidize this in some way?</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>When I work with young people, I have to get fingerprinted and give \$65 per person to get background check at local police department. This is a barrier for volunteers. It creates a hurdle to volunteer. Most programs don't pay for this and it falls on the volunteer to pay this money.</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>As child I would just take off all day and only go home at night. Now as a parent, I need to know where my kids are at all times. I don't know if real or perceived but greater fear about leaving your child alone. Now my kids are more programmed. I drop them at event and then pick them up when done. So perhaps there need to be more structured programs.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Recommendations are that everything starts at home & parents need to encourage kids; need to focus on security & safety be conscious of where going; this is also a community issue the community needs to think about youth & needs to make a change; during this summer was the first time she was actually out there doing work it felt good</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Youth don't understand what is going on outside, going bike riding.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>In Chicago Public Schools system is physical education still a requirement? Response is in theory yes, but in reality no. This time can be a study hall; physical education be a requirement in all public schools K-12; we are having to make up for it before and after; if federal government is serious about having healthy kids they will do this</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>In sessions yesterday and today & defining what it means to be in the great outdoors for some means riding a motorcycle or ATV, or firearms use; need to define it as how people actually use it; it's not cardiovascular exercise, but it is a way of enjoying outdoors; not recognizing this leads to conflicts this kind of use ok , this kind is not</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>One suggestion: Make it not so hard to hire people!</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Perceived as "nerds" if they were interested in outdoor activities.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Way we talk about it prevents people from coming out talk in way that sounds exciting</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>We need help in how do you define outdoors? Forests & lakes? Or just being outside your door</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Land managing agency professional staff are natural resource or history specialty professionals; they are not trained to do youth programs; need person on other side of partnership, language, time and volunteers available on weekends need different levels of knowledge and skill; make room for facilitators/coordinators who have these skills/resources</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Most land managing agencies have professional staff with degrees in conservation or law enforcement or history or biology. They are not trained to work with kids. If the volunteer cannot work with the people, you have created a huge invisible barrier to accomplishing your goal. Need to make room in our agencies for people who can work with people and kids.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Most of the land managing agencies are in a profession of natural resources, law enforcement, etc. Not trained to work with youth- If you don't have the person on the other side of the partnership who can work with the people you've created a huge invisible barrier or obstacle to what you are trying to do. We need to make room in our land management agencies for the people who can work with people.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Older individuals were taken to parks and outdoors- challenge to getting youth involved is getting their parents involved to take them outdoors and engage them in outdoor activities</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>The adults I know were taken to national parks when we were kids. Now the challenge to getting kids outdoors is to get their parents to take them out. So must appeal to the adults to take the children out. Appeal must go out to families.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>I think we are demonizing youth in the language we are saying- society is built on children being in front of a screen- well who puts them there? Parents. So I think we need to listen to what we are saying, we have to be careful that we find ways to mesh technology with an outdoor activities- note of caution do not demonize youth and sedentary people, provide a mix of technology and outdoors</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>It is a challenge to define what youth is and how we talk to a segmented demographic. Is a 16 or 17 year old a youth? Sometimes youth incorporates up to 30 year olds. How do we send the proper messaging to different segments of "youth"? Biggest distinction is between adult vs. minor. If a minor, then have to talk to families too.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Struggling defining what youth is...very segmented demographic. Youth Summit in NY went up to 30 years old. Inability to define what a "Youth" is has made it a challenge in how to communicate goals. Biggest barrier-making decisions as an adult or as a minor. There are liabilities associated with youth- focus on family/ guardian in a broader sense</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>We demonize youth when we say kids today spend 6 hours a day in front of a screen and now we are saying get outdoors. When I try to get my teens outdoors they are upset that their iPhones are going to be taken away from them. Should we try to mesh technology with the great outdoors? The kids will not turn off. We need to be welcoming.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>What is youth? youth can be a very segmented demographic; are 17 year olds kids?; a NYC Outdoor Nation youth summit included persons up to 30 years old; many people there resented being called youth as they'd been living on their own 6+ yrs, etc.; in other words there are 2 problems - lexicon & demographic segmenting problems; the biggest barrier is the difference between making decisions as an adult vs. as a minor there are liabilities with family/guardian approval; suggest focus on family</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>There needs to be a sea change in how to sell youth on the outdoors; right now the language being used is demonizing youth; in all the talk about kids today, speakers have highlighted that kids spend 6-8 hrs with TV; but parents/adults put them in front of screens; do we want to take away their cell phones and iPods? Saying you created a problem & we need a solution is a negative approach; in trail and conservation community they are trying to mesh technology with an outdoor experience; don't demonize those who don't use outdoors; be welcome to all</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>In talking with coworkers at Arboretum learned that field trips are opportunities for kids to experience nature; often what holds many back is that programs don't have enough money for a bus to bring kids; suggests providing federal funds to schools/programs to pay those transportation costs; for a lot of kids that's their only opportunities to get outdoors</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>We have a lot of field trip opportunities to have kids experience nature. The things that hold schools and kids back is that they do not have money to pay for a bus to bring kids out. There might be Federal funds to schools to pay for transportation cost for kids. When I come in contact kids, these trips are there only opportunities to be exposed to nature. It is not easy to get to these places. It saddens me that the only thing that prevents is the cost of a bus.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Some kids stay in cause it is dangerous outside</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>In meeting with an urban group learned importance of understanding sounds of country before going on other experiences; sounds of silence, owls, etc were unfamiliar and scary; consider getting youth ready & familiar to hear sounds, not just educating with words</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>We were talking to kids they told us they did not feel comfortable with the sounds. The silence and the hoot owls were unfamiliar to them and they were terrified. So to get them ready, they need opportunities to get familiar with sounds.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Crime and Violence- not just automobile accidents. Needs to be addressed in communities</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Safety- she does not feel safe cycling</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Safety. She doesn't feel safe biking in Chicago on the streets; you can't without having practiced doing that a lot. If you haven't been brought up that way, you never feel comfortable doing something like that.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Obstacles and challenges are kids are not excited; need to get youth excited & make it appealing; talking about going on nature walk is not fun, instead focus on experiences great hikers have had, tell stories; show that while appreciating nature you can be excited about it</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Meet with a group of urban youth and they expressed they did not understand the sounds of the county- the hoot owls', etc., sounds were terrifying to them. Part of getting them ready was getting youth familiar with the sounds not just the words.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Certain types of activities do not fit in with the Urban culture- need to break that thought that certain people do certain things. Should start with schools, get parents involved by talking about all different types of activities and the kinds of people you see in different activities.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Among ethnic groups and urban areas, there is a belief that certain kinds of activities don't fit into their culture. Other people do that. They think: "We don't rock climb. We don't ski." We need to change thought. Needs to start with schools in very early age. Also get parents involved with PTA, etc. When watch Olympics you don't see minority populations represented. That is why it was such a hit when the Jamaicans had a bobsledding team. You don't normally see black people competing in bobsledding competitions. It broke the stereotype.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>It is challenging to engage students, esp. urban, students. There is a tendency to use a language that is very elitist when talking about outdoors. This language does not have traction. It makes this "other place" seem so very far away. Language is crucial. Often when promoting the outdoors we hearken back to our agrarian past when we were connected to the land, but this has no resonance to an urban child. This doesn't sound trendy. Sounds old fashion and hick. Needs to be sexy.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>No longer a time when can give 10 kids to park ranger for a day program. The law does not allow it. Also, he is not a youth development specialist. Many conservationists are not educated in youth development.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>There is also a challenge with managing risk. When work with minors have larger insurance costs. Transportation also presents insurance challenges. If I transport minors to programs or I take them out in kayaks, etc., my general liability cost is huge.</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>Leave No Child Inside program successful; have Outdoor Bill of Rights; did an event with parents & kids around this Outdoor Bill of Rights did stations based on Bill of Rights; showed parents they can go to city park and not have to go far; also suggests park/rec staff going to the community get in a canoe, work with fishing staff, use people who get it & can make it look cool; to attract teens and parents use the challenge factor getting into a kayak the first time is scary but fun; camping in a local park changes perceptions</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Make sure there is accessibility to outdoors; the outdoors is not accessible for many; some can walk near the forest preserve, or it might take 3 CTA buses; suggest more buses that to straight there or even PACE buses; Chicago crime rate is high; need it to be ok to walk outside door, security those who don't know don't feel secure</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Violence- it is safer to stay home</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Accessibility: getting parks closer to home and making them more accessible In Chicago, the outdoors aren't very access able to a lot of people. To take 3 City busses and a train takes a lot of effort. If there could be stops for outdoor</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Gang violence. Is easier to stay indoors and watch TV than going outdoors and risking being shot because wearing the wrong colors. Need to take the extra step and fix gang violence so kids can feel safe walking 3 blocks outdoors</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Accessibility to outdoors. For many people in Chicago, the outdoors is not accessible. If you live next to the forest preserve, fine, but some of us have to take 3 buses to get to the forest preserve. Take public transportation is very hard. Open more CTA or PACE lines that will take you right to the forest preserves. Also, safety is an issue. Chicago's crime rate is high. Need to make it safe to walk out there door. Many people do not think they will be secure while walking in forest preserve.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>How can we use the technology to provide rewards or opportunities?</p> | YHE4 |

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| <p>In my neighborhood. Programs for little kids, not teenagers my age. Just anything to do that gets me out of the house that is fun, not boring like chess. Interacting with other kids, animals, gardening.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>There is a lack of actual programming; outreach & offer them something give pay or show something they get at the end; be in 1- 1 contact & in their face & show what they can gain; Young Life was a great organization working with Chicago school systems that allowed students to earn points to go on trips fishing, canoeing; if had budget or funding could do more</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Lack of programming in Chicago. Need to reach out and get them involved, be it pay or an incentive to show them what you can gain. One on One Contact is a great organization- got kids to get outside and do homework and the kids would earn points to do outdoor activities. Youth are interested just need to provide opportunities.</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Safety problem, not safe n neighborhood; not a place to go. Parks are not cooperative, gyms are not open. Need a safe place to go</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>A park manager is not a youth development specialist; there is a void between park managers and youth development specialists park managers have a lack of skills to do group activities; youth development specialists are often young people themselves; conservation people are hard to train about working with kids</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Are so climate controlled, that kids don't know how to be comfortable outdoors. Prevents people from going out when it is hot, cold, and buggy. Kids are just kind of wimpy to these things because they are so climate controlled</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Climate controlled culture- people are uncomfortable in warm, cool, or wet weather</p> | YHE4 |
| <p>Barriers can be not having a safe, clean environment; might not be able to travel to downtown to enjoy a cleaner environment, or barriers because of asthma; recommend helping to bond with outdoors have competition and tournaments; do Wii tournaments on big screen outdoors</p> | YHE4 |

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| Adults also spend a lot of time in front of computers too. Not just kids | YHE4 |
| Education and awareness. Not a lot of kids in her community know where to go. It's not easy to get to places that are safe. Safe travel is not there to get to safe places. Cannot afford transportation to get to safe parks. Can't go to local parks. | YHE4 |
| Education and awareness. Not a lot of kids in her community know where to go. It's not easy to get to places that are safe. Safe travel is not there to get to safe places. Cannot afford transportation to get to safe parks. | YHE4 |
| If we don't define the great outdoors we allow for some outdoor use and but say other outdoor activities are not good- Cultural difference in how we look at these things | YHE4 |
| Kids are constantly terrified of trails, snakes, bugs. Have never been outdoors long enough to know they won't be attacked by coyotes. Kid cried when she picked up a toad and showed it to him- kids spend so much time inside, instant gratification from it | YHE4 |
| Not out there that it is safe to go to forest preserve and be outdoors and have fun. Young kids are not going outdoors to have nature walks, go there for family outings | YHE4 |
| Tendency to use a language about the outdoors that does not have traction with urban young people and does not connect to their environment within their community. Transportation is a huge liability when working with urban youth- especially if you want to put children on a bike, near water, etc. Elitist language- connection to the land not the same for urban youth- very agrarian but does not relate to young people- not trendy | YHE4 |
| The way adults talk about it- does not encourage kids to get outdoors | YHE4 |

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| Thanks for having this; suggestions include 1. Continue education and awareness at local level, support not-for-profits and make funds available 2. Marketing this is what's hot; use media and promote being outdoors and holistic benefits; youth are addicted to electronics, so use that as forum to educate; lots here because of these programs | YHE4 |
| Make it easier to hire people in the federal government to get new people in the work force. | YHE4 |
| Have something to offer job skills and training what can we give you in return | YHE4 |
| Made a request within FNS to improve physical activities in adults; response was can extend lunch break but cannot be paid for it start inside agencies to encourage people to go outdoors & endorse it; allow people to go outside during day | YHE4 |
| Using tech to get people outdoors; mobile tech can be used outside; use incentives to encourage kids to go outside; link amount of screen time to amount of outdoors time | YHE4 |
| Feds could make it easier to hire people. Very hard to hire kids into the federal government; so easy in private sector. Need to do this to get new people into the work force. | YHE4 |
| Programs that travel to schools/communities introducing outdoor activities | YHE5 |
| Clubs that get kids and parents into being outdoors, getting them to know what we could potentially lose, and showing them what the forest preserves really is. | YHE5 |
| Most enjoy- Monarch, coop for chickens and eggs and farmers market- helps community buy organic | YHE5 |
| National program run by youth in certain radius picked them up and took them out of the neighborhood. Program run by youth and organized by youth and paid for by government. | YHE5 |
| Drill team in the park. Dance team in the park. Large screen video games competitions in the park. | YHE5 |
| More programs like Eden's Place, where I love the monarch garden for butterflies, coops for raising chickens, and a farmers market to sell/buy organic food in the community. | YHE5 |

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| Likes marketing idea- point out benefits of outdoor activities | YHE5 |
| Marketing is great idea- promote benefits of being outdoors. Hard facts. Give kids a good reason to go outdoors. | YHE5 |
| Get excited about the outdoors, making outdoors appeal to kids. Share stories/great experiences with kids- get anyone who has had good experiences share this so that kids can have a better attitude about outdoors. | YHE5 |
| Continue education and awareness on a local level/ supporting grassroots efforts, letting them educate. Marketing- in this country we can market anything- use the media to promote getting outdoors, and showing the benefits of being outdoors. Youth are s | YHE5 |
| Focus it towards communities. Have parents coach their children to get outdoors; have community clubs get kids involved | YHE5 |
| Focus it towards communities. Have parents coach their children to get outdoors; have community clubs get kids involved | YHE5 |
| Getting kids something in return; giving them life skills in return | YHE5 |
| Getting parents and families involved; need to get families engaged to get kids outdoors. | YHE5 |
| Let this message go home, and get parents and children involved. Get the message in the community. People need to start thinking out others, and not themselves. Give kids something that will be fun outside; other kids will see that there are opportunities. | YHE5 |
| What people really want to do is have fun and going outside is fun. Need to propagate that idea and model that going outside is fun. Implement these programs in preschools, outdoors learning about the outdoors. Need to start being creative and move and have fun. | YHE5 |
| A lot of people can't get to programs; why don't we send programs to schools/communities. Bring animals to schools and show kids what they can see if they go outdoors. | YHE5 |

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| <p>A lot of people can't get to programs; why don't we send programs to schools/communities. Bring animals to schools and show kids what they can see if they go outdoors.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Message needs to start at home and get the parents involved. Have parents kick kids off Facebook and get outdoors. Safety awareness; community needs to take heed and invest in youth and invest in future. No one will make a change if kids aren't encouraged</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Have organizations at a local level that can provide opportunities, and access to funds/resources. Transportation is an important issue, getting kids to places. Use media to create funds. Create something global on a marketing scheme to get funds.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Funding is an issue. If we can't get students to programs, bring programs to kids. Send anybody to schools and show students what is outside, in forests-plants, animals.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>No child left inside- many schools cannot afford bus costs for field trips</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>They have a lot of field trip opportunities to get kids out to outdoor places like arboretum or national parks, but schools don't have money for transportation. If there could be federal funds to pay for this. For a lot of kids, their only opportunity t</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>To get kids excited about going outdoors, because now they are not. Until they go out and see/learn things, they aren't going to know how great it can be. Also to have opportunities closer to home.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Getting parks closer to home and making them more accessible In Chicago. The outdoors aren't very accessible to a lot of people. To take 3 City busses and a train takes a lot of effort. If there could be stops for outdoor places.</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Keeping parks cleaner, keeping a safer environment. Kids don't want to go out because it's not clean or safe. Kids have asthma and air is bad. Getting WEE tournament outdoors on big-screen.</p> | YHE5 |

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| <p>In Chicago, there is a lack of programs. Need to have programs that offer them something- pay, something they will receive. Need one on one contact, and show them what they will gain. Young Life= great organization working with kids on after school pro</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>No child left inside act-covers what kids do in schools. Most of the field trips to the arboretum are cancelled because the school can't afford school busses. If the Federal Gov't can provide \$\$ to schools for field trips to outdoor spaces</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>When I think back to when I was a kid I would take off all day- now I need to know where my kids are all day due to dangers. Kids are programmed to be handed off to a trusted person or stay with a parent. More opportunities for parent/child activities and activities that are supervised would be helpful</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>Recommendations to the President- Everything really starts at home and parents can help out by saying "honey why are you sitting around playing the Wii or looking on Facebook, you should be outside." Also about safety and security because you have to be conscious about what is going on- the community need to take head and start thinking about the youth because they are the future and this will keep happening over and over if During my summer this was the first time I was out there doing work and I had a fun time- start with family and community</p> | YHE5 |
| <p>1) Education: continue education and awareness at the local level. Funding is important and make accessible to community groups. Allow community groups to access this money so they can conduct education. 2) Marketing: In this country, we can market all sort of things to the youth. This is hot! Use this media to promote the outdoors. Promote how nature helps mind, body and spirit. Youth are addicted to electronics. So use this medium to promote and let them know it is out there. It wasn't until I came across these outdoor programs myself that I took it back to my community. I now present to the next generation. That is my advice.</p> | YHE5 |

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| <p>We have heard a lot about creative things that are being done in Chicago and IL and what they talk about is the result of the funding they have available.</p> <p>However, in many states the first services to be cut are the parks and recreation programs. I would challenge the federal government to boost up the funding programs that are currently available and look at other funding mechanism to challenge the states (challenge grants). These are great ways to incentivize local and state government.</p> | YHE5 |
| Replicate what they are doing at Eden's place. | YHE5 |
| Would like to see: Drill team, dance competition, large screen video competition | YHE5 |
| More money for movies in the parks. | YHE5 |
| National program run by the youth in the neighborhood to take them out of the neighborhood to areas where able to experience the outdoors and be safe. Funded by the government. | YHE5 |
| Get kids excited about the outdoors, opportunities close to home | YHE5 |
| Market scheme- can sell the outdoors (to youth) | YHE5 |
| Support organizations that run youth programs | YHE5 |
| Learned from kids they are concerned about their job opportunities once they graduate from college and Perceived as their friends as "nerds" | N/A |