

2020 VIRTUAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR MOTHER EARTH – SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Held in September each year since 2010, the Youth Summit is a weekend-long event that engages 100 young leaders from dozens of communities across the province. It is planned and hosted by youth for youth, and features workshops and activities to build leadership skills and environmental knowledge. For the 2020 Youth Summit, four organizations (Ontario Nature, the Indigenous Environmental Institute at Trent University, Plenty Canada, and Walpole Island Land Trust) are partnering with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth leaders from across Ontario to offer a unique cross-cultural event.

Prioritizing the health and safety of participants and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic is our top priority, and with recent developments, we need to offer an alternative to our annual in-person Youth Summit in September. Through conversations with our youth leaders and our Indigenous partners, we have decided to deliver an engaging online event to develop leadership skills, connect youth with like-minded peers across cultures and grow the momentum for youth action.

Key details for this year's event:

- The **2020 Virtual Youth Summit for Mother Earth** will be held as a series of online and offline events, with livestreams on Saturday afternoons from **August 22, 2020 to September 19, 2020**.
- Aim to build cross-cultural understanding and literacy among participants, partnering with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and youth to plan and deliver events.
- Aim to exceed the number of participants at past summits (around 100), bringing together more than 100 youth ranging from ages 14 to 20 and connecting them with like-minded peers to develop a broader network committed to advancing nature protection and reconciliation.
- Foster mentoring relationships among participants and youth mentors aged 21-27.
- Feature workshops and seminars with Indigenous Knowledge Holders, Elders, environmental leaders and experts, including youth. With permission, workshops and presentations will be recorded and accessible for viewing in the future.
- Youth across the province will gain environmental and cross-cultural knowledge through participation in online sessions and at-home challenges to continue caring for and protecting Mother Earth.

Examples of sessions and activities include:

- Welcoming and closing remarks from Elders and partners to help create a safe and hospitable space for participants.
- Discussions and plenaries with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders and breakout discussions for youth to connect, learn from each other and share ideas.
- Eco-based and interactive challenges to work towards a common action/goal/campaign.

SUPPORT OUR YOUNG LEADERS!

Your organization can support a young leader to participate for **\$150 per youth participant** to help cover the costs of any materials (i.e. mailed package with eco-friendly gifts and resources to take action at home, virtual conferencing costs), workshop and speaker fees. In recognition of your sponsorship, your group's name will be included in program materials, the Youth Summit webpage and Ontario Nature's annual report. Your group will also receive a letter from your sponsored participant(s).

The work being done through the Nature Guardians Youth Program never stops, and our program participants are looking to maintain the momentum of youth action even while social distancing. If you are able, we also appreciate any financial support towards the program. Please contact me and/or Jackie Ho via email (christinea@ontarionature.org; jackieh@ontarionature.org) or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 244, to discuss any questions you may have and your customized sponsorship needs.



Sincerely,
Christine Ambre, Conservation Education Coordinator