

Accommodation of Exceptionalities in Youth Leadership Programs:

A Mixed Method Survey of Youth Action Gathering Alumni

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EDUC 601

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This survey is intended for adults who participated as teenagers in one or more of five youth leadership development programs called “Youth Action Gatherings.” These multi-day events were organized by the Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) in collaboration with other organizations between the years 2005-2009, in order to “to build awareness, community and leadership skills for environmental and social justice.”

The purpose of this survey is to determine to what extent the program achieved these long-term goals in the eyes of the participants who attended, and to compare the perspectives of those participants with exceptionalities to those without. While these particular youth leadership development programs are no longer being held, it is hoped that this study will provide decision-makers in non-profit organizations, school districts, and businesses with both quantitative and qualitative data to determine whether such programs are worth investing in once more.

You are invited to voluntarily complete this questionnaire of 17 questions, a copy of which is attached. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout this study, and participants may withdraw from this electronic survey at any time. There are no risks known to be associated with this type of questionnaire, and participation will not impact your relationship with the Sierra Youth Coalition or access to any of its programs.

Please send a signed copy of this consent form to emenzies@unbc.ca to get the URL link for completing an anonymous online survey. Every respondent who submits a consent form will be entered into a draw to win a \$200 gift certificate for Mountain Equipment Co-op. Please keep a copy for your records. To obtain the study results, please contact Emily Menzies at emenzies@unbc.ca.

I consent to participate in the study, “Accommodation of Exceptionalities in Youth Leadership Programs: A Mixed Method Survey of Youth Action Gathering Alumni

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Accommodation of Exceptionalities at SYC Youth Action Gatherings

Please tell us about yourself:

- 1. What is your current age? _____
- 2. How do you identify your gender? _____
- 3. How do you identify your ethnicity/ies? _____

- 4. Which year(s) did you participate in a Youth Action Gathering?
 - o 2005 (Making Waves Youth Action Gathering)
 - o 2006 (Dreamseed Youth Action Gathering)
 - o 2007 (Sustainable High Schools Youth Action Gathering)
 - o 2008 (Go Beyond Youth Action Gathering)
 - o 2009 (BC Youth Action Gathering)

- 5. Do you think this program has had any long term impacts on your life?

(Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Completion of high school | <input type="radio"/> Gave me skills to improve my relationships with friends, acquaintances or family |
| <input type="radio"/> Choice of post-secondary program | <input type="radio"/> Improved my ability to plan and lead presentations, events or projects |
| <input type="radio"/> Choice of employment/occupation | <input type="radio"/> Other: (please explain) |
| <input type="radio"/> Made new friends I am still in touch with today | _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Introduced me to organizations or businesses I became involved with | _____ |
| | _____ |

- 6. Did you have any exceptionality, impairment(s) or disability at the time of your participation in a Youth Action Gathering?

- Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure
- Please explain: _____
- _____
- _____

- 7. Do you feel that the Youth Action Gathering organizers, facilitators and other participants accommodated your needs and ensured youth with exceptionalities, impairments and/or disabilities felt welcome to attend and participate?

- Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure
- Please explain: _____
- _____
- _____

The overall goal of the Sierra Youth Coalition's annual Youth Action Gatherings was to build awareness, community and leadership skills for environmental and social justice amongst BC youth ages 13-18. Please tell us whether you think these goals were met in the long term by indicating to what extent you agree or disagree with the following questions.

Please circle the number that represents your level of agreement with each question:
 Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree 2=Disagree 3=Not sure 4=Agree 5=Strongly Agree

	Questions	No!	Not really	Not Sure	Sort of	Yes!
6	Do you try to educate yourself and others about current environmental and social justice issues?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
7	Do you feel that you make a positive impact on environmental and social justice issues through what you choose to buy?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
8	Do you feel that you make a positive impact on environmental and social justice issues through your occupation? (May include being a stay-at-home parent)	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
9	Do you often participate in community-building events? (Two or more festivals, conferences, or meetings per year)	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
10	Do you volunteer regularly in your community? (8 hours or more per month)	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					

Part 2 Questions Continued						
		No!	Not really	Not Sure	Sort of	Yes!
11	Do you vote regularly in municipal, provincial and/or federal elections? (3 elections or more since you turned 18)	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
12	Do you consider yourself a leader?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
13	Has a Youth Action Gathering inspired you to increase your awareness of environmental and social justice issues on an ongoing basis?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
14	Has a Youth Action Gathering inspired you to build a sense of community in your neighbourhood, workplace, school etc.?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					
15	Did a Youth Action Gathering inspire you to become a leader in government, an organization or a business?	1	2	3	4	5
	Please explain:					

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! A reminder that if you send the consent form to emenzies@unbc.ca and complete the online survey, you will be entered into a draw to win a \$200 gift certificate for Mountain Equipment Co-op.

References

Survey Monkey Inc. (2017). Survey Monkey design layout. Retrieved from

<https://www.surveymonkey.com>

Wells, N. M. & Lekies, K.S. (2006). Nature and the life course: Pathways from

Childhood Nature Experiences to Adult Environmentalism. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 16 (1), 1-24.