



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

RIPPLE EFFECT

News from Grand Canyon Youth

Winter 2019

PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHT:

Baboquivari
High School

"Our students have very little swimming experience," says trip coordinator and guidance counselor Rebecca, "so just being in the water was stepping outside of their comfort zones."

For many youth from Baboquivari High School on the Tohono O'odham Nation in Southern Arizona, the Colorado River was the most water they had ever seen.

In 2017, two Baboquivari students, Chavez and Joaquin, rafted the Grand Canyon with Grand Canyon Youth (GCY). Their experience was so profound that in 2018, Rebecca spearheaded the planning for a GCY expedition from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead on the Colorado River.

When the trip launched in June, eight teenagers, including the younger siblings of both Chavez and Joaquin, spent a magical four days swimming rapids, exploring canyons, and connecting with nature and each other.

In 2019, Rebecca plans to coordinate a five-day expedition on the San Juan River. She says, "I am

heartened that GCY is so committed to making these trips accessible to underrepresented populations. It is so important to get more Native students on the river and exposed to these opportunities."

This is the ripple effect of Grand Canyon Youth: building relationships with schools, individuals, and communities to create an ever greater impact. What started with two youth on a Grand Canyon expedition has expanded to include a consistent Baboquivari program serving more students every year. Thank you for being part of the ripple effect!



"If the river was a woman, I'd marry it, because once I saw it I knew I was in love." –Chavez

Thank
You!

Baboquivari High School expeditions are supported by your donations!

You can be a part of the ripple effect and launch another group of these students on the San Juan River this summer with your gift today.

YOUR DONATION AT WORK: 2018 PROGRAM REPORT



Dear Friends,

Your support had a huge impact in 2018!

Donations like yours cover approximately 50% of the cost of our expeditions. This means that each of our 1,092 participants last year paid just half of what their adventure actually cost to run, and 176 of them received additional financial aid.

The bottom line: Your support provided life-changing outdoor experiences to young people from all walks of life in 2018. Thank you!



With gratitude,

Emma Wharton
Executive Director

IN 2018
YOU SUPPORTED

82

EXPEDITIONS
FOR

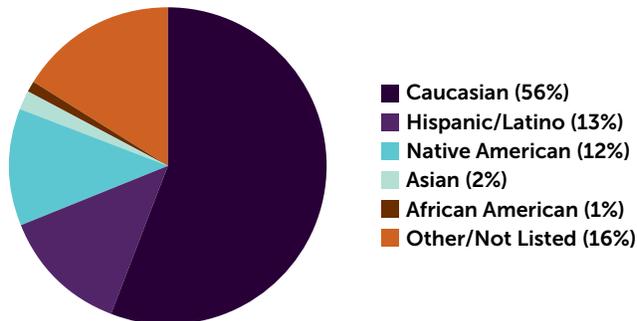
1,092

YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM

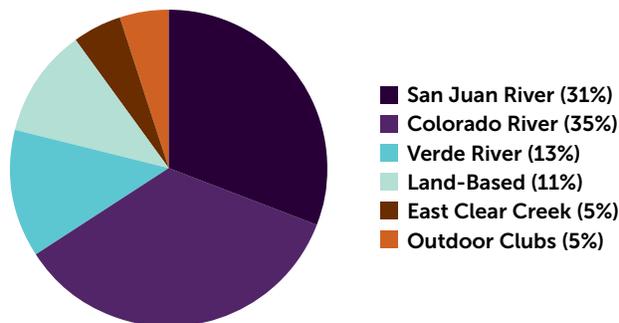
29 STATES
AND PROVIDED NEARLY

\$45,000
IN FINANCIAL AID

2018 Participants by Ethnicity



2018 GCY Expedition Destinations



"I would like my life to be centered more around relationships and the outdoors instead of on my phone."

—Lauren, 2018 Participant



YOUTH HIGHLIGHT:

Mikayla

In June 2018, Mikayla joined Grand Canyon Youth on a San Juan River expedition with Page High School, and she was hooked! Based on the enthusiasm and team spirit she demonstrated on

her first trip, she was then awarded GCY's Alumni Fund scholarship and embarked on a Partners in Science trip through Grand Canyon in July.

Trip leader Will Lytle says, "Mikayla's interest in the sciences propelled her into a natural role as peer-mentor. She met each challenge on the trip with grace and openness to new experiences. It was a pleasure watching Mikayla shine on the river."

Inspired by her GCY expeditions, Mikayla spent over 100 hours in 2018 volunteering with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA). Last fall, she received GCNRA's Award for Excellence in Youth Volunteering for her work monitoring bats, Mexican spotted owls, and native fish species.

Your support ensures that young people like Mikayla learn to find their way on GCY expeditions. Thank you!

"I've been able to apply the river state of mind and the skills I learned to school and other team activities."

—Ethan, 2018 Participant





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BECOME A WATERSHED DONOR TODAY!

Although the river season runs from March through October, planning GCY expeditions is a year-round job. That's why we're inviting you to join GCY's new monthly giving program and become a Watershed Donor. **As a Watershed Donor, your monthly donations will add up to keep GCY moving downstream.**

Watershed Donors receive special insider updates from the Executive Director, invitations to special

Sign up to become a
Watershed Donor today at
gcyouth.org/donate

Thank you!

