

Our Mission:

To create healthy and resilient communities, Ironwood Tree Experience makes it possible for young people to engage with the natural world and be stewards of the environment.



2023 Grant Report



Participants and interns get ready for a hike at Chiricahua National Monument

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Nature & Culture Beyond Borders connected youth with the amazing diversity of Tucson's unique Borderland geography.

PEOPLE & PLACES

6 interns and **7** youth participants visited **6** places of natural, historical, and cultural **significance**.

Major funding from the the **National Park Service - Juan Bautista de Anza NHT**, with additional support from the Western National Parks Association, and the Dustin and Kristen Yoder Memorial Foundation made it possible to run the **Nature & Culture Beyond Borders** summer program.

The grant enabled 6 high school interns and 7 middle school youth participants to discover and explore their natural world. Youth interns practiced **leadership** and nature and cultural **interpretation** skills with a younger audience.

Youth received the resources, support and expertise to create **friendships**; developed a **sense of place**; and learn about the plants, animals, people, music, traditions, and foods of the Borderlands region while visiting the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT and Chiricahua National Monument.

This report highlights the NPS supported program and the beautiful places youth experienced.

Meet the Interns



Program Schedule & Locations

Week 1 - Intern Training

June 7

Tumacácori National
Historical Park

June 8

Mt. Lemmon, Coronado
National Forest

June 9

Anza NHT, Mission Garden, &
City of Tucson Barrios



Interns Leading Youth Participants

Meet the participants

Not pictured:
Halima



Week 2 - Field Days

with Interns & younger Participants

June 12

Food, music, & history at Tumacácori National Historical Park

June 14

Creating a sense of place in the Borderlands at Mt. Lemmon

June 16

Intersections of nature & culture on the Anza NHT, Mission Garden and Tucson Barrios

Week 3 - Campout & Celebration

with Interns & younger Participants

June 20

Explore Chiricahua National Monument, meet a park ranger, set up camp, sunset hike

June 21

Hike Echo Canyon Loop, get to know a new friend, salsa challenge, campfire games

June 22

Clean up camp and head back to Tucson

June 24

Final celebration with families!



Four interns relax in a hammock during the campout in the Chiricahuas

Intern presentations to families at the final celebration

Lauren & Bianca presented on...

- History of the building at Tumacácori NHP
- Waila music, a fusion of Mexican and Tohono O’odham culture

Gael & Oscar presented on...

- Mindfulness and sense of place in nature
- Basin and range ecology and the Sky Islands

Julia & Mimi presented on...

- History of the Santa Cruz River
- The cultural groups that have influenced Tucson’s food and culture

*"My favorite part of this program was getting to know new people and becoming friends with them."
~Noemi*



Lily and Sofia practice a new skill - setting up a tent on their own!



Austin and his dad pose for a picture in front of a mural at the Historic Y during the final celebration.

*From all of us,
Thank you for helping to make this program possible!*