

A desert landscape featuring a prominent, jagged rock formation in the background under a clear blue sky. Several saguaro cacti are visible, some in the foreground and others near the rock formation. The foreground is filled with dry, scrubby vegetation.

REVIVING TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE THROUGH INTERGENERATIONAL ACTION

*UNITY Earth Ambassador
Laylalamai Jacobachi*

Lios enchim aniavue, ket'chem allea?
 Inepo Laylalanai Gocobachi Tea
 Into ne Senu Taaka Wasukte
 Barrio Libre into Pascua Bemelapo Ne Yoemtuk



Inspiring Hope. Changing Lives.
 Since 1978



Earth Ambassadors **ORIGINS**

Launched in the 1990s, the Environmental Stewardship Program was created to empower Native American and Alaska Native youth with the tools and knowledge to protect and preserve their homelands. Through hands-on training and educational workshops, young participants:

- Gain a deeper understanding of environmental issues impacting Native communities
- Develop leadership skills to serve as ambassadors for environmental awareness
- Promote sustainable solutions to protect the environmental health of Native lands

This program continues to inspire the next generation of Native leaders dedicated to environmental justice and cultural preservation.





Earth Ambassador Platform **OVERVIEW**

This program aims to braid sustainable practices, education, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Traditional ecological Yoeme knowledge has and will continue to be crucial to our Yaqui way of life. Traditional teachings provide a myriad of resources, such as their incorporation in our medicine, ceremonies, prayers, and more.

This program is an intergenerational experience where tribal members journey to various cultural plant sites growing within our communities. At the site they learn the traditional names, uses and history of the plants. Then they sustainably harvest the plant to create a cultural recipe, remedy, or cultural item.

Program **GOALS**

1. Strengthen intergenerational learning
2. Promote environmental stewardship
3. Increase resilience
4. Promote community engagement
5. Ensure that Yoeme cultural and traditional teachings are practiced within our current and future generations.



Typical workshop layout

Tribal members journey to plant sites on the reservation

- Name of the plant in Hiak Noki
- History and uses of the plant
- How to sustainably harvest the plant
- Presentation by guest or self on how to create the cultural/culinary/medicinal item

Additional workshops and educational videos will/have taken place centered around traditional ecological knowledge.

Example: "Seeds of Strength: Honoring our roots and Protecting our Minds" Workshop

PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE YOEME WORLD

Ethnoecology of the Yaquis
in Sonora and Arizona



Richard Stephen Felger
Felipe Sylvester Molina
Foreword by Exequiel Ezcurra



Three sisters:
Squash, Corn, and
Beans

Kama, Avai,
Muunim 🌽 🫘



Earth Ambassadors **TRAINING**

Ready to lead. Ready to protect. Ready to rise

Earth Ambassador

Midwest Regional Gathering

Traverse City, MI
August 21st-24th, 2025

Environmental Youth Training
2.5 Days • Ages 14-24 • In-Person & Free
Join Native youth from across the Midwest to explore community-driven environmental solutions—rooted in culture, leadership, and collaboration.

- Registration is open to the first 50 youth
- Free to attend
- Meals not provided – participants are responsible for their own food

FOR MORE INFO

- 📞 (480) 718-9793
- ✉️ youthprograms@unityinc.org
- 📁 Group Code: UNITY25



Grand Traverse
Resort and Spa



BOOKING DEADLINE:
JULY 31, 2025

Earth Ambassador

Southeast Regional Gathering

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
September 11th-14th, 2025

Environmental Youth Training
2.5 Days • Ages 14-24 • In-Person & Free
Join Native youth from across the Southeast to explore community-driven environmental solutions—rooted in culture, leadership, and collaboration.

- Registration is open to the first 50 youth
- Free to attend
- Meals not provided – participants are responsible for their own food

FOR MORE INFO

- 📞 (480) 718-9793
- ✉️ youthprograms@unityinc.org
- 📁 Group Code: UN1725



Hilton Garden Inn
Airport-Cruise Port



BOOKING DEADLINE:
AUGUST 29, 2025

Earth Ambassador

Western Regional Gathering

Scottsdale, Arizona
November 14th-16th, 2025

Environmental Youth Training
2.5 Days • Ages 14-24 • In-Person & Free
Join Native youth from across the West to explore community-driven environmental solutions—rooted in culture, leadership, and collaboration.

- Registration is open to the first 50 youth
- Free to attend
- Meals not provided – participants are responsible for their own food

FOR MORE INFO

- 📞 (480) 718-9793
- ✉️ youthprograms@unityinc.org
- 📁 Group Code: 25H190



Great Wolf Lodge



BOOKING DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 14, 2025

Earth Ambassador

Pacific Regional Gathering

Hilo, Hawaii
December 5th-7th, 2025

Environmental Youth Training
2.5 Days • Ages 14-24 • In-Person & Free
Join Native youth from across the Pacific to explore community-driven environmental solutions—rooted in culture, leadership, and collaboration.

- Registration is open to the first 25 youth
- Free to attend
- Meals not provided – participants are responsible for their own food

FOR MORE INFO

- 📞 (480) 718-9793
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- 📁 93 Kariyan Dr Hilo, HI 96720



Grand Nazim
Hotel Hilo



BOOKING DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Project Planning

10 STEPS TO ACTION



Define the Problem

What's happening in your community?



Root Causes

What historical or cultural context shaped it?



Goal Setting

What's your dream outcome?



Action Brainstorm

What are 10 possible steps to get there?



Timeline Creation

What happens first, next, and after that?



Project Planning

10 STEPS TO ACTION



Allies & Partners

Who can you team up with (elders, leaders, organizations, peers)?



Storytelling for Change

How will you tell your story to inspire others?



Creating a Budget

How much will each part of your plan cost?



Self Care & Vision

What is your long-term vision for this work?



Presentation Prep

How will you prepare to share your ideas with confidence?



TUA LIOS ENCHIM HIOKOE UTTE'ESIAVU (THANK YOU)

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