

YOUTH IMPRESSIONS

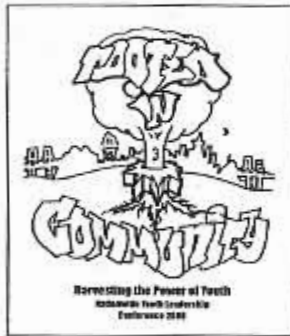
THIS PAST JULY AT THE NATIONWIDE YOUTH Leadership Conference, Rooted in Community 2000, I learned about all kinds of things. One of the things that I learned was about diversity. Diversity Training is about learning how to deal with people who are different from you and situations that are different from your everyday existence. I thought that was fun because I got to be partners with a lady name Delaine Cook Greene who is Executive Director of an agency in Rochester, NY and she is also the "grandmother" of her neighborhood. I thought she was very interesting.

The second workshop that I went to was called True Foods. A man and woman were talking about the foods on the supermarket shelves and what ingredients they contain. They also talked about some of the potential hazards to our environment and our health, as well as who controls the world's food supplies. That workshop was okay.

My third workshop was called Lobbying. This workshop was about learning how to write letters to the government officials and other tactics to use to get politicians to represent you. I also learned the art of following up with government officials after meeting with them. The last thing I learned from this workshop was to stay on politicians' backs so that they can understand that whatever you're talking about is important to you.

After the workshops were done we all ate lunch and then we went to San Francisco so that the people who were from different places like New York, North Carolina and Chicago could see the sights where the SLUG kids work. First we went to the Alemany Farm. The supervisor talked for a little bit and then everybody got up and started going to different areas like the pond area, the creek area, and last but not least, the community garden area. The kids that work in those areas, like me, talked a little bit about the history of the areas. That was cool. I was kind of nervous at first but I did well.

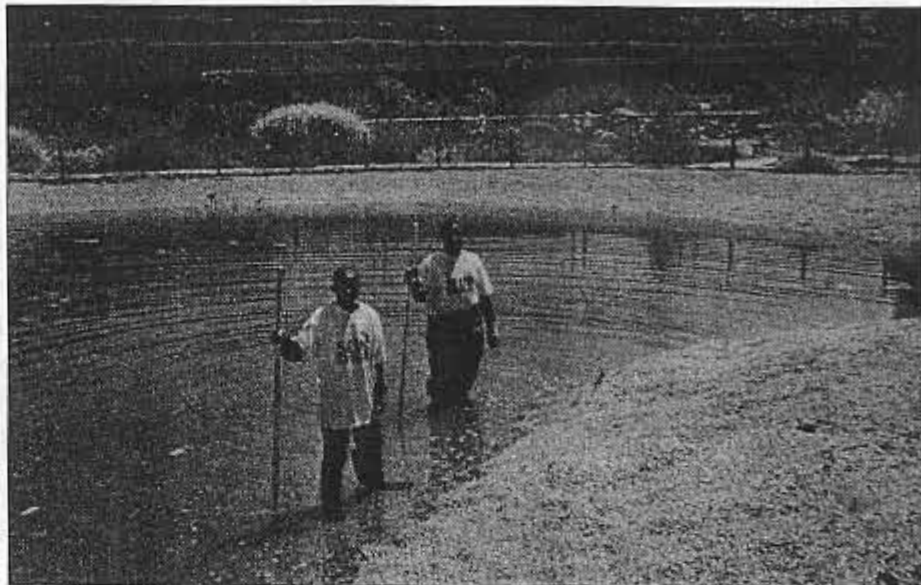
After everybody saw all the sights we went to a park for a picnic and had lunch. That was fun, but the food they had was vegetarian food. Some of the people liked it and some didn't. After we all ate it was time for us to go to Pier 39 so everybody got back on the bus and started heading to the pier. When we got the pier everybody went their own separate ways. We spent about two hours there having fun. After we left the pier we went back to Point Bonita so that we could get the talent show and the dance going.



— LAKENDRA WASHINGTON

YOUTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Takin' a dip: Summer Youth Garden Interns cleaned the naturally-fed pond at St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm.

THE SUMMER OF 2000 WAS AN EXCITING ONE for SLUG's youth program. Approximately 60 youth from Southeast San Francisco were employed for eight weeks of gardening, landscaping and learning at three community locations. At the St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm teens worked on projects as diverse as creek restoration, tree pruning, planting an avocado orchard, harvesting vegetables for the residents of the Alemany Housing Project, landscaping the pond area, and installing irrigation systems. At the Double Rock Community Garden, the youth weeded all garden pathways and covered them with weed cloth and mulch. They also planted native plants along the borders of the farm and landscaped the garden pathways.

This summer the youth program expanded to include site maintenance and habitat restoration at Heron's Head Park, located at Pier 98. Youth at this site focused on native plant restoration. This site also had a strong environmental education component with youth participating in local field trips to Islais Creek and Glen Park, testing the water around Pier 98 for chlorine, and learning about the plant and animal life in the area.

The summer's Youth Program also included "Education Week," a week of workshops on topics such as STDs and Safer Sex, substance abuse, community planning, public speaking, and environmental justice, which included a "Toxic Tour" of the neighborhood's polluted sites.

Each Saturday throughout the summer,

youth at all three sites took time out from their physical work to reflect on their week through journal writing. The youth were asked to write about what they had learned the previous week, what surprises they had encountered, and what types of leadership styles they had observed in themselves and other members of their work crews.

The youth also took photographs throughout their internships to document their work and see their progress over time. A small group of youth worked each Saturday afternoon to compile the photos of the previous week on a bulletin board. At graduation, these youth presented their completed photo history of the summer.

— LARA TANNENBAUM
& CARVELL WALLACE

The summer began with a series of staff changes in the youth department. Noelle Stout, the Youth Department Manager and Molly Schuberth, the Youth Department Coordinator left SLUG in June. Both Noelle and Molly have made valuable contributions to the youth programs and will be missed. Lara Tannenbaum has been hired as the new Youth Department Manager and Carvell Wallace has been hired as the new Youth Department Coordinator. The youth program greatly benefited this summer from the experience of three returning Youth Supervisors: Joe Smith, Michelle Davis, and Vernon Walton, in addition to four new Youth Supervisors.