

Youth Programs Update

SLUG's youth programs offer teenagers in San Francisco the opportunity to earn money, grow food, become leaders, landscape public spaces, make friends and effect positive social change. Each year, over 200 young people - primarily from low income families in the City's southeast neighborhoods - work with SLUG on a variety of projects including: wetlands and native habitat restoration, bee hive management and organic food production at the St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm, landscaping and composting at the Youth Guidance Center (Juvenile Hall), greenhouse propagation at the Log Cabin Ranch School in La Honda, and environmental justice advocacy.

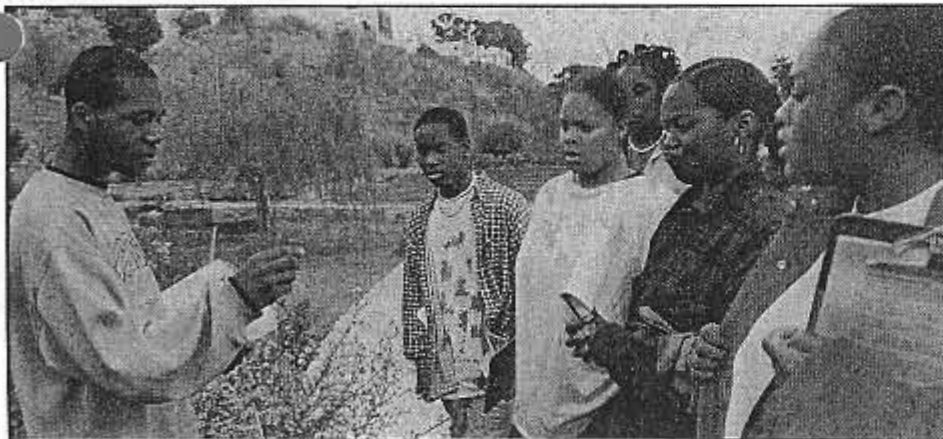
Community service is integral to all SLUG youth programs. Teens bring fresh produce door-to-door in public housing communities. Others beautify and maintain public facilities like Juvenile Hall, and share their newfound understanding of community development and social justice with San Francisco politicians.

SLUG's youth employment programs incorporate classes in horticulture, San Francisco social history and career development. With regular reading and writing assignments, SLUG youth are encouraged to reflect on the program, their growth within it, and the world around them. And, SLUG staff help our youth connect with any services they may need, including counseling, tutoring, mentorships and further job training.

For more information about the Youth Garden Internship, Woodside Landscape Internship, Log Cabin Aftercare Program, Environmental Justice Youth Program, the Youth Conservation Leadership Program, the Green Team, or the Log Cabin Horticulture Training Program, call 285-SLUG.

-Rachel Brabinsky, Youth Programs Coordinator

SLUG wishes the best of luck to Laurie Belton who, after three years with the Youth Department, left the organization this winter.



Youth Conservation Leaders prepare to provide tours of the St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm. Throughout the Youth Garden Internship teens are selected for specialized training in wetlands conservation. In April, two interns discussed their work at the City's Environmental Summit where they received an award for best presentation! From left to right: Cortney Davis, Jason Griffin, Roshanda Hopkins, Quinette Kelley and Schyneida Williams.

Youth Perspective:

SLUG

*My first day here it was all gravy
But my momma wasn't even feelin' Alemany
So I played by the rules
Then it was time for back to school
And my daddy didn't wanna buy no shoes
So I came back then
and SLUG folks became my friends
So I hula-hoed and shoveled again
I woodchipped the ground
I weeded the weeds
I planted the plants
on my hands and knees
When I got my first check of course I was pleased
cause I put in hard work for all my money
And at the end of the show
when it was time to go
I got an award for, well, you know
most hard worker
cause I tried my best
And I wasn't even trippin' off the rest
So now it's Christmas time
and what's mine is mine
To make my lights at home shine
And it's not just for the fetti
cause I like to go out to Alemany
or visit the SLUG
to see all the work I put in for Ant and T
and when I go home and look at my dirty shoes
Last but not least I remember Jason too
But it's cool
And now I'm picked to be a leader
Cause the word follower don't even go with Schyneida
One day I'm with Carl, three days I'm with y'all
And just cause I got a job, school is not a downfall
So as long as I succeed
And I understand give to receive
so I choose to work with my community
even if it means getting a little dirty
but I keep my eyes open to all opportunity
For things that benefit none other than me.*

-Schyneida Williams

Schyneida Williams won first prize with this poem in SLUG Talent Show last December.

Youth Interns as of 4/99

Woodside Landscape Internship

Steven Adams
Chenelle Bennett
Shantai Brown
Jazzlyn Dixon
Terry Francois
Keiasha Franklin
Daryl Gilmore
D'Artagnan Gippson
Cory Harris
Michael Howard
Keenon Jeanjacques
Andrea Jones
Jovan King

Melvin Lawrence
Maurice Matthews
James Moore
Jemela Morris
Andre Ned
Warren Ragudo
Wilmer Solorzano
Sarah Thomas
Elisha Wooten

Youth Garden Internship

Francisco Ayala
Nestor Ceron
Cortney Davis
Daniel Elias

Sasha Galloway-Gonce
Jason Griffin
Alicia Hodges
Patrice Johnson
Ashley Jones
Quinette Kelley
Joseph Lewis
Franklin McCoy
Jessica McPeters
Walter Pinell
Rashad Tyler
Gail Vaughn
Carlina Williams
Schyneida Williams

Environmental Justice Youth

Juan Barragan
Craig Cohen
Nancy Flores
Weng-Ying Hwang
Karen Liang
Franklin McCoy
Julius Mazion
Ashley McLemore

Habitat Conservation Update

Joining Hands on the Hill

The beauty of restoration is in community. This year on Bayview Hill, a growing number of stewards worked and celebrated. Joining in the efforts were SLUG youth, crews and friends, Recreation and Park Department staff, Americorps educators, California Native Plant Society volunteers, Green City Project staff, Bret Harte school children and community residents. And a diverse community of native plants and animals were offered some protection—the rare San Francisco collinsia showed its delicate blossoms this spring, bunch grasses bowed in the wind, and Red Tail hawk hunted the hillside prairie. All surrounded by the city! Truly a miracle.

Wetlands and Trails

The hopes and dreams of hundreds of people are coming to life on Pier 98-Heron's Head Park, as giant tractors shape the land to create more wetlands, bird-viewing areas and picnic spots. Soon, neighbors and schoolchildren from around the city will enjoy the native plants, the pelicans, herons and cormorant birds, and amazing shore life at the water's edge. This spring, SLUG will landscape the new park with the California Conservation Corps and the San Francisco Conservation Corps. In the years to come we will also propagate and plant hundreds of beautiful native wetland plants for the majestic marshes of Heron's Head Park.

Parenting Plants and People at Log Cabin Ranch Nursery

Thousands of native plants and dozens of young men are nurtured at this nursery nestled into the Santa Cruz mountains above San Gregorio beach. You can see the plants growing at habitat restoration sites like Lake Merced, San Bruno Mountain and the St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm. Or come to SLUG's plant sales to get some for your own garden. Youth graduates of our vocational horticulture program at the Log Cabin Ranch are now working hard at SLUG and around the City growing the thriving gardens of their own lives.

Youth Conservation Leadership at the Farm

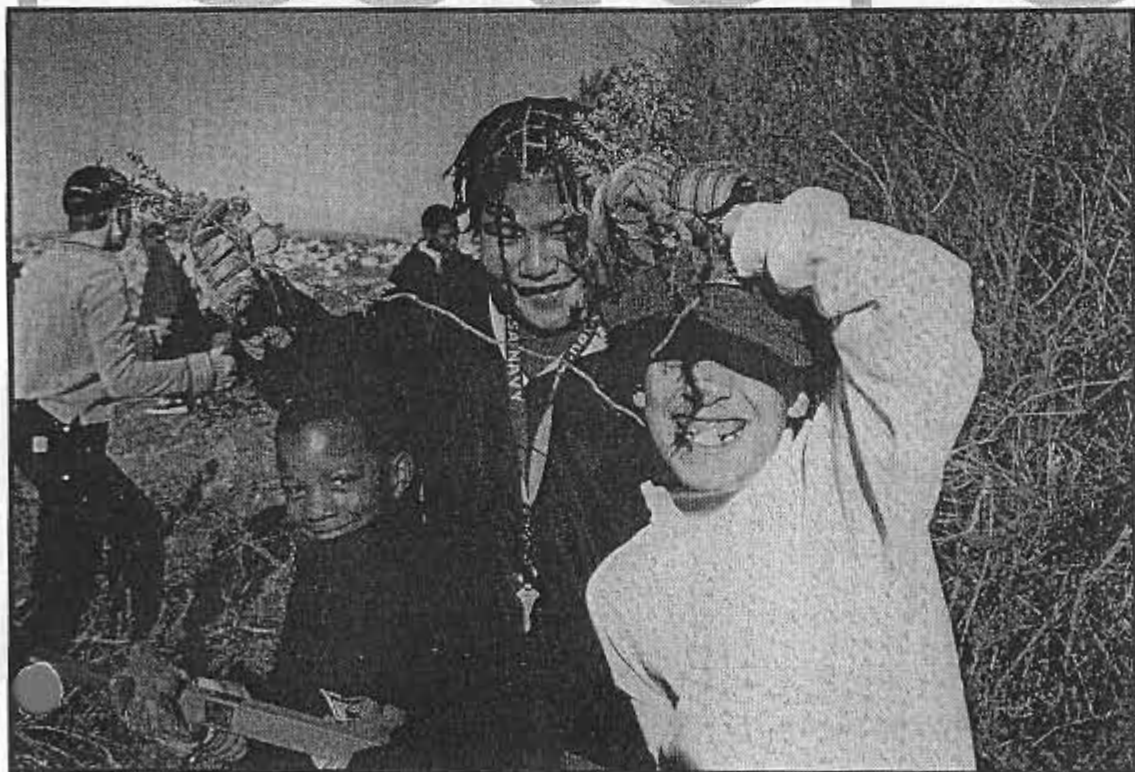
The windmill is turning, the pond is full, snowy egrets are visiting, and Youth Conservation Leaders are leading field trips at the St. Mary's Farm! Teens have learned to identify native plants, test water for a range of pollutants and are well-equipped to bring their new knowledge to the community. Drop by for a visit to see the wonders of our new wildlife habitat areas.

Urban Earth-Digging in

Our new soil and compost business—Urban Earth—is gaining ground with a new coordinator and a bold vision for blanketing the city with gardens grown in SLUG soil. Until our first soil amendments are ready for market,

you can buy our tried-and-true woodchip mulch for \$3 a bag at the SLUG office (call ahead to check on availability), or drop off brush for chipping at the Farm on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-Carl Grimm, Habitat Conservation Director



Young Gardeners! Children show off the fruits of their labor at SLUG's Community Day on Bayview Hill.

