



FOUNDATION  
*for*  
YOUTH INVESTMENT



# Foundation for Youth Investment

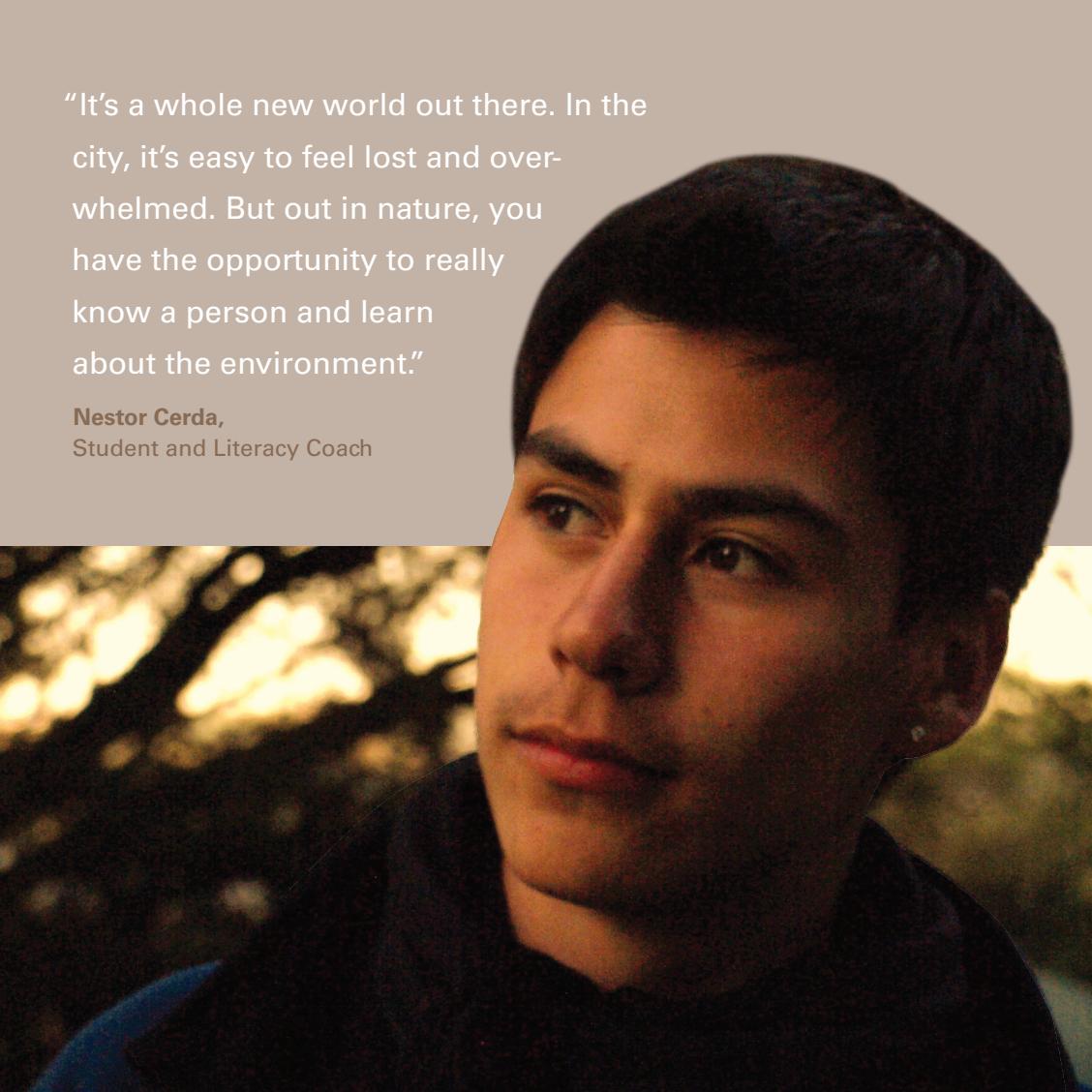
Invest | Inform | Initiate

The Foundation for Youth Investment (FYI) builds on the Stewardship Council's legacy of supporting quality outdoor programming. Since 2006, Stewardship Council funds have helped outdoor youth programs inspire, energize, and motivate more than 250,000 kids. FYI will take up where the Stewardship Council left off – helping even more kids experience the outdoors, across California and beyond.

## Our Mission

*The Foundation for Youth Investment develops and transforms underserved youth by investing in effective programs and creating strategic initiatives that connect kids to the great outdoors.*





"It's a whole new world out there. In the city, it's easy to feel lost and overwhelmed. But out in nature, you have the opportunity to really know a person and learn about the environment."

**Nestor Cerdá,**  
Student and Literacy Coach

## The Power of FYI

At 11 years old, Nestor Cerdá was seen as a statistic – just another inner-city, at-risk kid. Then he began attending Seven Tepees, a San Francisco youth service organization. Seven years and 35 outdoor adventures later, Nestor is a college sophomore studying early childhood education and leading outdoor trips for teens. From statistic to leader ... that's the power of great outdoor programs, that's the power of FYI.

## FYI Invests

Across California, FYI is building on the Stewardship Council's legacy of investing in organizations that transform kids' lives by getting them outdoors.

The Boys and Girls Club of Fresno (B&GC) is developing the park rangers, river guides, and foresters of tomorrow. By bringing at-risk kids out into nature, B&GC gets them excited about careers in outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.

In the northern Sacramento Valley, Youth for Change is helping neglected and abused kids learn they matter. Referred by Child Welfare Services to this intense, nine-month wilderness program, these kids rock climb, raft, and backpack their way to self-awareness and preparation for adulthood.

Operating out of Oakland, Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT) helps get kids outdoors by offering resources to youth program leaders. BAWT's train-the-trainer model provides organizations with equipment, wilderness skills training, and more.

**"BAWT is awesome! Thank you for allowing my youth to have a positive camping experience. It was the highlight of our youth program!"**

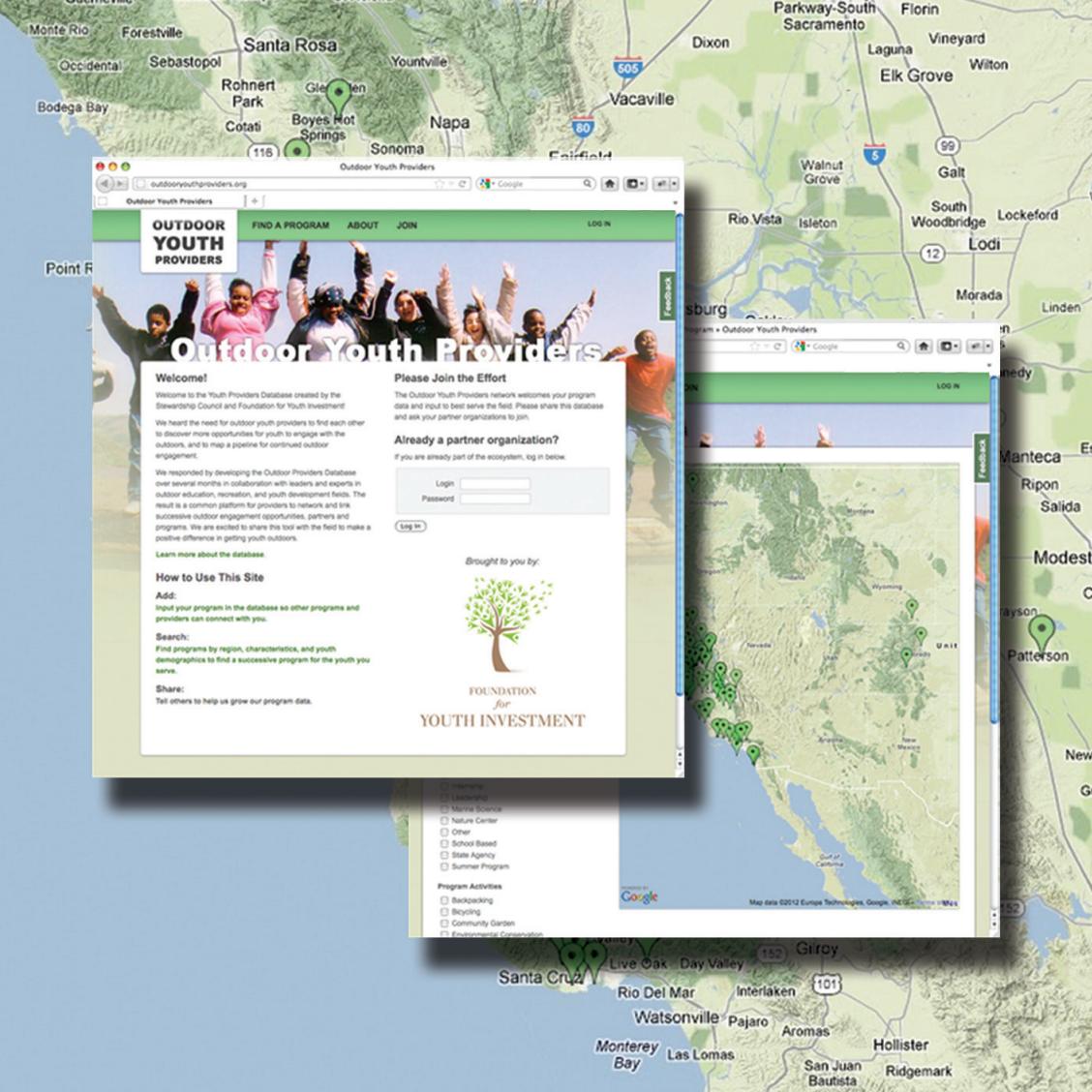
**Outdoor youth provider and recipient of BAWT support**





"I have learned many new things this summer. The most important thing I learned from the rafting and hiking trips was to trust in others, something I have always struggled with."

**16-year-old participant, Youth for Change**



## FYI Informs

At FYI, we know it's not enough to just give money away. Connecting kids to the outdoors requires connecting providers to each other. That's why we created the Outdoor Youth Provider Database (OYPD). Helping programs find and communicate with each other is the first step in creating a network. Networks facilitate collaboration in grant seeking and programming, which means getting even more kids outdoors.

To register an organization, go to [www.outdooryouthproviders.org](http://www.outdooryouthproviders.org).

## FYI Initiates

Sometimes youth providers face field-wide challenges that make it harder to connect kids to the outdoors. That's where FYI comes in. We facilitate partnerships, help develop leaders, create evaluation tools, and offer resources that meet the challenges facing outdoor youth providers.

### **Here are two of our strategic initiatives:**

#### Cultural Relevancy Convenings

The face of America is changing. Outdoor youth programs must be relevant to a growing population of diverse kids. In 2011, FYI answered the field's call for help by holding a series of regional meetings across the state. From San Francisco to Los Angeles and San Diego to Fresno – providers came together. They discussed why cultural relevancy is essential to getting kids outdoors and began developing best practices for the field.

#### Outdoor Educators Institute

The field of outdoor education lacks leaders who reflect the diversity of the kids they serve. So we're launching Outdoor Educators Institute (OEI) to train the next generation of outdoor leaders. This training program will teach backcountry and back-office skills, provide certifications, and offer hands-on practicums and internships.

"The San Diego convening gave us a space to reflect on the ways we can think, speak, and act to make our work more culturally relevant. These discussions are key to creating more thoughtful and authentically inclusive programs."

**Marisa Aurora Quiroz,**  
Manager, Environment Program  
The San Diego Foundation





## The Range of FYI

FYI is building on a rich legacy of funding. Since 2006, more than 11 million dollars have connected over 250,000 kids across California to the outdoors.

“My favorite part was the night hike because it was fun and my shoes were glowing. It was peaceful and quiet and you could hear nature.”

**Eliany**, participant, BAWT-supported program

“I wanted to get out there ... no shower, no plumbing ... doing it old school. I had to push myself a lot.”

**Jesse**, participant, WildPlaces



## Foundation for Youth Investment

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