“THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT I'VE SEEN.”

— Daniel Lucio, Volunteer Lead, The Sierra Club’s Our Wild America

85% of Americans live in urban areas. America is slated to become a minority-majority country by 2040. To preserve our public lands, we must align with and support efforts driven by the citizens who will determine their future as well as those that have been historically underrepresented in mainstream outdoors and environmental movements. Until our efforts to protect our lands, waters and wildlife represent the rights and interests of all Americans, we won’t be strong enough to succeed. It’s going to take all of us to do it.
The coalition of stakeholders working to protect our public lands has the potential to become a movement. Outdoor recreationists, land managers and conservationists realize their greatest opportunities for effectiveness when they address issues of common concern with a unified voice. Working together to achieve shared objectives, our ability to champion our public lands in a time of unprecedented threat is extraordinary.

One of the greatest threats to the movement’s success is fragmentation. Compartmentalization of work, replication of effort, lack of communication between principals, and conflict between natural allies are just a few of the challenges that conspire against a united whole.

Cultural relevancy is our Achilles’ heel. Unless and until issues related to our public lands, waters and wildlife are relevant to all Americans, we will not be able to build enough support to secure their health and wellbeing for future generations.

The Center for Jackson Hole is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen the coalition of interests devoted to our public lands by investing in the future of their constituencies. We achieve this mission via two main programs: SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow), an annual festival, held each autumn in Jackson Hole, that explores issues at the intersection of conservation, outdoor recreation and cultural relevancy; and The Emerging Leaders Program, which trains a culturally diverse cohort of young outdoor recreationists to lead the conservation conversation.

SHIFT and The Emerging Leaders Program are symbiotic. By preparing early career leaders from across the core SHIFT stakeholder groups to address challenges affecting our natural world, The Emerging Leaders Program is helping to revitalize the American conservation movement.
prepares the next generation of leaders to help guide the outdoor recreation/conservation partnership. The annual program, developed in conjunction with The Teton Science Schools, takes place immediately preceding the SHIFT Festival. Millennials ages 21-30 who have distinguished themselves in the fields of outdoor recreation, conservation, land management and cultural relevancy are trained to help lead the proceedings of the Festival. They’re also prepared to bring SHIFT’s coalition-building model back to their communities, where they can further develop the alliance of stakeholders dedicated to the protection of America’s public lands.

The Center for Jackson Hole works with organizations from around the country to identify candidates for ELP. Partner organizations and ELP alumni nominate individuals for consideration. We then evaluate candidates on the basis of criteria that allows us to achieve our objective of assembling a cohort that represents the full spectrum of the American experience.

By convening a diverse group of early career leaders from across the core SHIFT audiences, ELP provides an equitable cross-section of perspective and insight. This in turn insures the outcomes at SHIFT represent our priorities as a nation.
Our goal is to continue exporting the unique value of SHIFT to communities around the country. With the training provided within ELP and the experience gained by actively presenting and facilitating at SHIFT, ELP alumni return to their communities with the ability to develop stakeholder coalitions in defence of our public lands.

If you are interested in participating in The Emerging Leaders Program, or know a future leader who would benefit from participation, please contact us directly. We’re happy to answer any questions and provide additional information.
Teton Science Schools has been teaching about the natural world and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since 1967. Its seven program areas share a common vision of education, one deeply rooted in the outdoors as place anchors that enrich our understanding of the world.

In conjunction with Center for Jackson Hole staff and ELP alumni, TSS instructors help develop and execute ELP curriculum. The resulting program leverages personal narrative as a means of galvanizing others around a cause, collaborative dialogue as a frame for acting practically within institutions to affect change, and disciplined learning to bring together unconventional partners for work on complex challenges.

ELP includes three days of preparatory work in advance of SHIFT that familiarizes ELPers with the Festival topics.

Upon conclusion of the training, ELPers are prepared to help lead the proceedings at SHIFT in various capacities: as panel hosts, moderators and panelists, keynote speakers, and in other key roles throughout the Festival.

By structuring SHIFT programming to channel ELPer experience and perspective, we connect the next generation of stewards with the traditional voices of conservation. The result? At SHIFT, the leaders of today and tomorrow collaborate to make this work relevant to all Americans.
THE 2017 EMERGING LEADERS

BROOKLYN BELL, Ambassador, Kona Bicycles

ALLIE D'ANDREA, Founding Member, Artemis Sportswomen

MITCH BRETON, Video Coordinator, Outside Magazine

JACQUELYN ELIZARRARAZ, California Training Officer, Bureau of Land Management

KEVIN FARRON, Western Field Associate, The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

ZINTKALA EIRING, JR., Native American Liaison, Fish and Wildlife Service

PAOLA FLORES, Interpretation, Education, Volunteer, and Youth Fellow, National Park Service

NANCY FERNANDEZ, Bilingual Urban Outreach Coordinator, Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

ZACH BROWN, State Representative, Montana Legislature

MATEEN HESSAMI, President, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers student chapter, University of Montana

AISHA WEINHOLD, Founder, No Man’s Land Film Festival

GRETE GANSAUER, Northwest Montana Field Coordinator, Montana Wilderness Association

ZINTKALA EIRING, JR., Native American Liaison, Fish and Wildlife Service
THE 2017 EMERGING LEADERS

AUSTIN HOPKINS, Conservation Associate, Idaho Conservation League

MARSHALL MASAYESVA, Program Director, Adventures for Hopi

ANDREW LOFFREDO, Costa 5 Rivers Coordinator, Trout Unlimited

TAIJI NELSON, Naturalist Educator, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

JESSI JOHNSON, Public Lands Coordinator, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

LEN NECFNER, Founder, Natives Outdoors

VICTORIA ORTIZ, Development Coordinator, Santa Barbara Middle School

EVA MALIS, Uplift Coordinator, Uplift Climate, Grand Canyon Trust

NATRIEFIA MILLER, Conservation Leadership Corps Lead Coordinator, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

JUSTIN FORREST PARKS, Logistics Assistant, Chicago Cares

AARON WOLF, Founder, Adventures Accessed
THE 2017 EMERGING LEADERS

ANDREW PINEDA, Project Manager, Amigos de los Ríos

GERBEN SCHERPBEIER, Youth Programming Manager, Youth Opportunities Program, Appalachian Mountain Club

KRYSTLE N. RAMOS, Director of Programs, Community Nature Connections

KYLE SULLIVAN, Monument Manager, Mojave Trails National Monument

BEA TRUMANN, Diversity Consultant, Maine Enviro Ed Association

MARICELA ROSALES, Los Angeles Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

TANNER YESS, Program Manager, Groundwork Cincinnati

ROBERT VESSELS, Military and Veteran Coordinator, Sierra Club Outdoors
THE 2016 EMERGING LEADERS

TAIMUR AHMAD, Recreation and Forest Policy Fellow, The Wilderness Society

MABARI BYRD, Crew Leader, PowerCorps PHL

ELIZABETH CASE, PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering, Cornell University

SAWYER CONNELLY, Campus Outreach Coordinator, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

KAITLYN BERNARD, Maine Program Associate, Appalachian Mountain Club

MADELEINE CAREY, Greater Gila Guardian, WildEarth Guardians

MICHAEL DAVIS JR., Instructor, YMCA Boys Outdoor Leadership Development School

GRACE ANDERSON, Coordinator, Emerging Leaders Program

CHLOE DECAMARA, Smokies Stewardship Coordinator, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

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THE 2016 EMERGING LEADERS

HILARY HENRY, Community Coordinator, Gunnison Public Lands Initiative

CLAIRE MARTINI, Coordinator, Uplift Climate Conference

DREW LEHNERD, Coordinator, AURORA Outdoor Orientation Programs, Penn State

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MAGGIE NORIEGA, Science Communication Intern, Student Conservation Association

MAYA HUNGER, Sea Kayak/Bike Guide

MAGGIE NORIEGA, Science Communication Intern, Student Conservation Association

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JILL SANFORD, Freelance Journalist and Communications Content Writer

RACHEL LEINWEBER, Founder/Owner, Pikes Peak Outfitter

MAREN MURPHY, Senior Planner for Montana State Parks

MICHTELLE PIÑON, Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

JASMIN-MARIE JONES, Interpretive Park Ranger, Timpanogos Cave National Monument

MICHELLE PIÑON, Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

ALFONSO OROZCO, Wyoming Regional Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

JILL SANFORD, Freelance Journalist and Communications Content Writer
THE 2016 EMERGING LEADERS

AMIE SCHILLER, Trails Partnership Intern, Student Conservation Association

JANET XOCHICUICATL VALENZUELA, Field Ranger, Angeles National Forest

LAURA NAYELI TORRES, Field Representative, NPCA; Volunteer Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

ALLISON WILLIAMS, Reclamation Guide, Bureau of Reclamation

RACHEL WOODS-ROBINSON, Co-Founder, Cycle for Science

LEANDRA TAYLOR, Ambassador for the Middle Rio Grande: Education, Employment & Environment Alliance

ELIZABETH SODJA, PR and Marketing Coordinator, Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning, Utah State University

JOSHUA TUCK, Assistant to the National Park Service Regional Youth Volunteer Program Manager

ZEPPELIN ZEERIP, Film Producer, WZRD Media

BRANDON WILLIAMS, Fisheries Management Intern, Student Conservation Association
The Center for Jackson Hole

The Center for Jackson Hole leverages outdoor recreation for conservation gains, via The Emerging Leaders Program, SHIFT and related initiatives.

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