

2023 Youth Summit for Mother Earth



© From right to left: Leah B, Christine Ambre, Daynan Lepore, Anna E-T

Sponsorship Package



INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS FOR OVER A DECADE

Since 2010, the Youth Summit has acted as a launchpad for the next generation of environmental leaders. For over ten years, the Summit weekend in September has been a highlight for more than one hundred youth from dozens of communities across Ontario.

Run for youth by youth, the **2023 Youth Summit for Mother Earth** will offer a unique cross-cultural event with opportunities for young Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to connect, participate in educational workshops, and take part in a weekend of outdoor fun and learning.



First Nations Medicine Workshop © Daynan Lepore, 2018

This year, as we transition back into in-person programming, we are especially enthusiastic about delivering an action-packed weekend of hands-on, outdoor education and land-based learning opportunities alongside our incredible partners.

With your generous support, youth from across Ontario are able to attend the Summit and grow lasting connections with other like-minded youth and Mother Earth. Further details about how your group can support the Youth Summit are found within this package.

Sincerely,

Ontario Nature's Education Team

Maya Davidson
Education Coordinator



Christine Ambre
Education Manager



YOUTH SUMMIT 2023 QUICK FACTS

- The Youth Summit for Mother Earth will be held **September 22-24, 2023** at [Camp Wahanowin](#) on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Ojibwe, Odawa and the Pottawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. The Chippewas of the Rama Mnjikaning First Nation have played an integral role in shaping and strengthening the surrounding community. Camp Wahanowin is located on what is now known as Longford Mills, just north of Orillia, Ontario.
- Youth participants range from **14 to 20 years of age** and come from diverse communities across Ontario. We are expecting to host approximately 90 youth in-person this year.
- Youth leadership is at the core of the Summit. Youth program participants (Ontario Nature's Youth Council, and the Coordinating Circle from the Youth Circle for Mother Earth project) will host the Summit and lead a variety of workshops and activities.
- Participate in hands-on workshops and seminars with knowledge holders, Elders, environmental leaders, youth peers, and other experts.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

As a result of attending the Summit, participants will:

- Become part of a peer network of young environmental leaders that provides support and guidance for conservation action and advancing reconciliation across the province.
- Build relationships with other youth, event partners, experts, and leaders from across Ontario.
- Appreciate the importance of working across cultures to advance social and environmental justice.
- Gain a greater understanding of Indigenous rights and interests, and the responsibilities that all people have in conservation and reconciliation.
- Respect the traditional Indigenous territories they reside in, acknowledging the past, and work together to take care of the land.
- Share and use the knowledge and skills gained at the Summit in their communities (e.g., many youth have started Environmental Clubs in their schools).

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Your organization can sponsor a young leader to attend for **\$450 per person**.

In recognition of your sponsorship, your group's name will be included in program materials, any signage at the Summit, Ontario Nature's [Annual Report](#) and the [Youth Summit webpage](#). A thank you report will be sent to all sponsor groups.



Early morning birding hike © Noah Cole, 2019

“I believe that other students should have the same experience that I had; being able to connect with and genuinely appreciate nature has motivated me to continue my efforts of protecting our planet. With the knowledge gained from this summit, I think that students will be empowered to take action against many serious issues such as climate change. This whole Summit was so inspiring!”

– Jasmine, past Youth Summit participant residing on unceded Algonquin Territory, known as Kanata, Ontario

ABOUT THE EVENT HOSTS & PARTNERS



[Ontario Nature's Youth Council](#) is a diverse provincial network of 46 youth that is dedicated to inspiring, connecting, and raising environmental awareness, while protecting wild species and wild spaces. The Youth Council, which was created after the first Youth Summit for Biodiversity in 2010, works alongside Ontario Nature staff, connecting like-minded, young environmentalists, and contributing to lasting, positive change through conservation action.

The [Youth Circle for Mother Earth \(YCME\)](#) project aims to create and support a cross-cultural network of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous environmental leaders looking to honour their responsibilities with Mother Earth. The **YCME's Coordinating Circle** has a vision: to revitalize our relationship with Mother Earth and protect our lands, airs and waters for future generations through cross-cultural knowledge sharing, ethical dialogue, youth leadership, and community engagement.



[Ontario Nature](#) is a charitable organization dedicated to protecting wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education, and public engagement since 1931. [Ontario Nature](#) is a charitable organization dedicated to protecting wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education, and public engagement since 1931.



The [Indigenous Environmental Institute](#) at Trent University is a learning and resource hub (associated with the Indigenous Environmental Science/Studies program) that aims to integrate Indigenous knowledge and western science to address complex environmental issues.



[Plenty Canada](#) is a charitable organization that facilitates access to and shares resources with Indigenous peoples and other community groups in support of their environmental protection and sustainable development goals.



Walpole Island Land Trust is the first First Nations land trust incorporated and registered as a charity in Canada. Its goal is to enhance the ability to conserve and protect ecologically significant habitats and species at risk within the Bkejwanong ([Walpole Island First Nation](#)) territory.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: The sponsorship rate in past in-person years was \$375 per youth. Why is it \$450 this year?

A: As we return to in-person programming, our hard costs for the Youth Summit (i.e., accommodations and meals for participants) have increased. To cover the full cost of a young person's participation we are asking groups to sponsor at a rate of \$450 per participant.

Q: What does the sponsorship cover?

A: A sponsorship of \$450 covers the hard costs of their participation, including accommodations, meals, speakers, workshops, materials, event coordination, and additional costs associated with reducing barriers for youth participation (e.g., travel). The remaining costs not covered by the sponsorship are supported through external funding.

Q: What COVID-19 precautions are in place for the event?

A: Ontario Nature's [COVID-19 Precautions for Events](#) provides details on the prevention measures we will take in advance of and during the event. The Youth Summit for Mother Earth will be held in compliance with Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's COVID-19 measures at the time of the event. Camp Wahanowin also has a dedicated Health Centre on site. Ontario Nature will confirm these measures with all youth and their parents/guardians closer to the event date.

Q: Do you have a selection process for attendees?

A: No, we welcome any young person aged 14-20 interested in attending the Youth Summit. However, many groups created their own selection criteria in order to find a deserving candidate for the sponsorship.

Q: When do you need our attendee's name by?

A: Generally, the sooner the better. We recommend letting us know if you would like to sponsor a young leader by **August 14, 2023**. If your group has a young person in mind, we can save your attendee a spot until you have the details confirmed. If your group does not have a youth by August 14, we would be more than happy to match you with a youth in need of sponsorship. Online sponsored registration will open late spring 2023 and will remain open until September 5, 2023.

Q: What if our group doesn't have a young person in mind?

A: We can help to connect you with a young person wishing to attend and in need of financial support. Please contact Maya, the Education Coordinator at Ontario Nature, and they can help you explore options.

Q: How does the attendee get to the Youth Summit and back?

A: Travel planning is the responsibility of the participant. However, we do offer a round-trip charter bus between Camp Wahanowin and a central location in the Greater Toronto Area (likely near a Toronto transit (TTC) subway station). Your participant is welcome to sign up for that bus if it is convenient.

Q: What happens next and how does our attendee register?

A: Please contact Ontario Nature's Education Coordinator to confirm your sponsorship. Once registration is opened, they will send you and your attendee to a case-sensitive, password-protected registration form to reserve a spot. Registration will be open later this spring.

If you have any other questions regarding the Youth Summit, please contact Ontario Nature's Education Team via email at mayad@ontarionature.org or phone at 416-444-8419 (toll-free 1-800-440-2366) ext. 280.

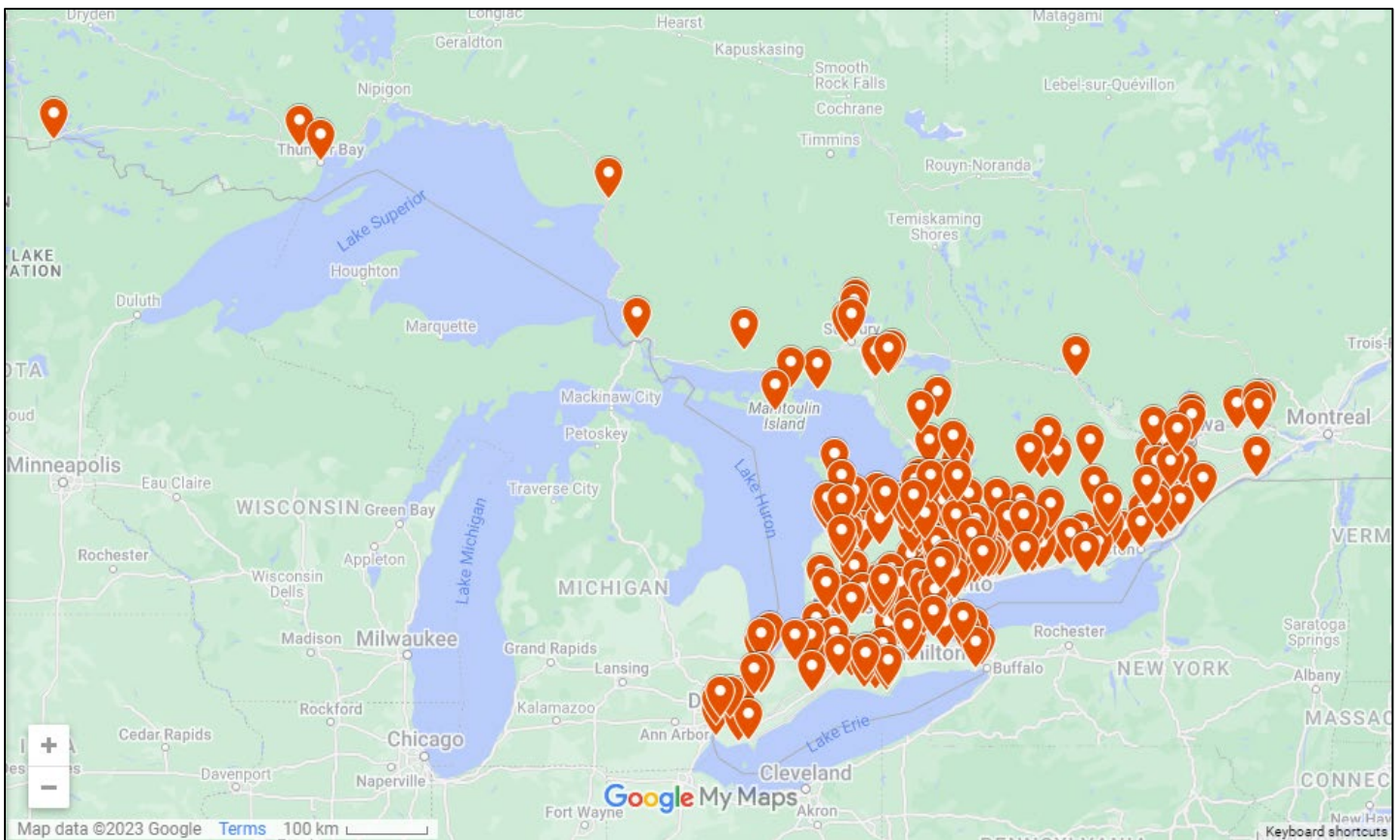
“I really enjoyed the summit and am so grateful to have participated. I learned so much about Indigenous teachings and connections to the land and Mother Earth. I am excited to bring all the knowledge and resources from the summit to my school community. It will allow us to work on new projects and give me an opportunity of being a leader in my green team.”

- Youth Summit participant residing on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, in what is currently known as Thunder Bay



*Environmental Activism and the Arts Workshop
© Christine Ambre, 2022*

Over the past 14 Summits, we have engaged 852 youth from 237 communities across Ontario, representing nations across North America/Turtle Island and cultures around the world.



Stay Informed

For up-to-date information about the Summit, including updates and announcements, please visit ontarionature.org/youth-summit/. To see photos of past Summits and stay connected with Ontario Nature’s youth programming, please visit @on_youthcouncil on Instagram.