



COLORADO YOUTH SUMMITS OFFER HANDS-ON HISTORY FOR STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE

Seven Colorado Preserve America Youth Summits have been hosted over the past three years, and the Colorado Historical Fund has provided \$250,000 in matching funds to enable another seven summits over the next three years.

The summits provide scholarships for Colorado students, grades 7-12, and their teachers to participate in multi-day hands-on, interactive historic preservation field study programs. Students and their teachers are selected through a competitive application process requiring a commitment to continue historic preservation activities in their own communities. The summits lay the foundation for a new generation of citizens who will be the future stewards of both Colorado's history and historic places.

The Youth Summits have been produced as a collaborative effort in partnership with History Colorado, the Colorado Historical Society, Colorado Council on Social Studies, Teaching with Primary Sources, the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the History Channel, and local preservation and community partners reaching many regions of the state. Since 2007, summits have been held in southeastern Colorado, southwestern Colorado, northeast Colorado, central Colorado in the San Luis Valley, and three different programs were held in the Denver area.

Program highlights have allowed students and teachers to:

- Participate in the opening of Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
- Work with youth stewards on Camp Amache, a Japanese-American internment site
- Shape the interpretative program for the Denver Story Trek, a Preserve America Grant-funded heritage tourism experience
- Consult on interpretative programs for the Governor's Residence with Colorado's First Family
- Comment on interpretative programs for new Colorado History Center
- Meet with elected officials and policy makers (including the governor, state treasurer, and members of Colorado's congressional delegation) to share preservation information
- Share recommendations with regional leaders for federal and state agencies including National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Colorado Tourism Office, and State Historic Preservation Office
- Visit with leadership at the Colorado General Assembly including the Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, Senate President Pro Tem, and others
- Testify at the House Education Committee of the Colorado General Assembly
- Engage in exercises to understand public lands stewardship challenges on public lands including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, San Juan National Forest, and Dinosaur National Monument
- Foster better understanding of other cultures through sharing summit experiences with Native American summit participants including Cheyenne and Arapaho in southeast Colorado, Ute in northern Colorado, and Hopi and pueblo youth in southwestern Colorado
- Suggest marketing ideas for recently designated Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area

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- Undertake service projects including working on the Nature Conservancy's historic Zapata Ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Area, and clearing invasive plants along the Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument
- Broaden perspectives on stewardship through learning about the Night Sky program at Dinosaur National Monument
- Deliver recommendations in town hall meetings across the state, including in keynote sessions at four statewide conferences
- Present summit benefits information at state and national teacher, social studies, and preservation conferences

With more than 300 active alumnae and 500 participants of Colorado Youth Summits, Colorado has a new generation of ambassadors for heritage education and historic preservation. The enthusiasm and perspective of younger generations have enlivened preservation in Colorado and not gone unnoticed.

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