

Teen Naturalist Team

Summer 2013 Program Summary

City Nature
Youth Conservation Crew

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What is T.N.T. ?

The Teen Naturalist Team (T.N.T.) consists of six motivated teenagers who teach hands-on, science-based lessons outside of the classroom. Every week the teens visit multiple school and community center summer camps throughout Portland.

We are Community

This summer, TNT partnered with 9 SUN Schools and Community Centers:

We are Educators

The teens research topics of their own interest and develop lessons that are fun, interactive, educational, and kid-friendly.

Lessons implemented this summer were:

- Spiders
- Invasive Species
- Birds
- Trees
- Insects
- Big Cats



- Montavilla Community Center
- Mt. Scott Community Center
- East Portland Community Center
- Lane SUN School
- Sifton SUN School
- Beaumont SUN School
- Faubion SUN School
- Centennial SUN School
- Ortiz Family Center

Total Number
of Participants:

966

773 Children
64 Teens
129 Adults



"TNT teaches you how to be a leader!
It's hard at first, but it's fun once you
learn to lead kids with true
confidence."

- Keighley,
TNT teen



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Director Mike Abbatté





We are Learners and Explorers at Heart

Every other week, T.N.T. participated in Enrichment Day. This day provided the teens with exposure to topics and activities that increased their knowledge of their community's natural resources, and challenged them to try something new.

Activities included:

- Canoeing the Columbia Slough
- Hiking at Eagle Creek in the Columbia Gorge
- Tour of Zenger Farm
- Tree Climbing with Urban Forestry
- Community Garden tour and Invasive Ivy Eradication

"We try to get on your schedule as early as possible every spring because our campers LOVE TNT visits!"
- Site Manager at Beaumont SUN School



We are Growing

This was the Teen Naturalist Team's fifth summer, and with that came many achievements and ideas for summers to come!

Achievements:

- Each teen was responsible for choosing their own topic, creating a lesson based on best educational practices, training the other teens, and managing the implementation of the lesson
- Personal goals were set and achieved by each teen to receive a mid-season raise
- Teens received daily feedback from peers and crew leader to improve lessons; returning crew members acted as mentors to new teens
- Teens made personal contacts with community partners and professionally represented Portland Parks throughout the city
- Teens learned about and made plans for future scholarship and job opportunities

TNT teens become legends with summer camp kids in their communities. When YCC crews and dignitaries gathered for their year-end picnic at Mt. Scott Community Center and local kids walked by shouting "TNT!" at their favorite crew members, they knew they had done their job well.

Future Goals:

- Expand work week/length of season to include more SUN Schools and Community Centers
- Increase enrichment days for teens; take more trips with other YCC crews to increase camaraderie
- Increase time for lesson preparation to ensure the highest quality educational experiences
- Improve teen evaluations to include professional educator standards and rubrics
- Improve feedback system for school sites

