

CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT REPORT 2023



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ABOUT THE ACA

FOUNDED IN 1880, THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA) IS A NATIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING THE PADDLING PUBLIC BY PROVIDING EDUCATION RELATED TO ALL ASPECTS OF PADDLING, STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT TO HELP PROTECT PADDLING ENVIRONMENTS, AND SANCTIONING OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO PROMOTE PADDLESport COMPETITION, EXPLORATION, AND RECREATION.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L.L. BEAN, WE BELIEVE THE CFC GRANT PROGRAM'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT PADDLING OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS FOR THE BIPOC COMMUNITY THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING PADDLING CLUBS, NON-PROFITS, AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS. BY LEVERAGING THE EXISTING CLUBS AND PROJECTS THAT ARE ALREADY IN PLACE, THIS PROJECT WILL NOT NEED TO "REINVENT THE WHEEL." IN 2023, THE CFC FUNDING WAS USED TO AMPLIFY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS OF EXISTING GROUPS/PROJECTS, RATHER THAN DEVELOPING BRAND NEW PROGRAMS FROM SCRATCH. THE NEW PADDLERS ENGAGED BY THE CFC DEI EFFORTS NOW HAVE A COMMUNITY GROUP OR CLUB TO CALL "HOME," WHICH RESULTS IN LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND A LONG-TERM INTEREST IN EXPERIENCING AND EXPLORING THE PADDLING WORLD.

CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



SINCE 2002, THE ACA HAS PARTNERED WITH L.L. BEAN TO SPONSOR THE CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP (CFS) PROGRAM. THE ACA IS PROUD TO HELP LOCAL PADDLING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS BUILD THEIR COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVE THEIR WATERWAYS. THROUGH FUNDS PROVIDED BY L.L. BEAN, THE ACA'S CFS PROGRAM PROVIDED NEARLY \$175,000 TO OVER 185 DIFFERENT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES SINCE ITS INCEPTION. IN 2021, THE CFS GRANT WAS REFOCUSED AND RE-NAMED AS THE "CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY" PROGRAM; FUNDING IS NOW USED TO AMPLIFY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS OF EXISTING GROUPS/PROJECTS THROUGH EDUCATION, STEWARDSHIP, COMPETITION, RECREATION, AND WATERWAY EXPLORATION EVENTS.

WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF L.L. BEAN, THE ACA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PADDLING CLUBS AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO PADDLE FOR EVERYONE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: AMERICANCANOE.ORG/PARTNERSHIPS

IN 2023, THE ACA FUNDED SIX (6) ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER COMMUNITY RIVER RAFTING & PADDLING SKILLS DAY



ACA & L.L. BEAN FUNDING SUPPORTED TWO (OF ELEVEN) DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER EVENTS THIS YEAR, WHICH WELCOMED 219 PARTICIPANTS AND 74 VOLUNTEERS TOTAL. TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS HAVE BEEN CALCULATED AT OVER 350. THESE EVENTS ARE CRITICAL TO DW'S MISSION TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) AND ALLIES IN PADDLING, RAISE AWARENESS FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE PADDLESPTS COMMUNITY, AND ULTIMATELY HELP DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF BIPOC PADDLERS. THE EVENTS HOSTED THROUGH THE L.L. BEAN GRANT WERE:



COMMUNITY RIVER FLOAT - NORTHERN COLORADO (113 PARTICIPANTS/48 VOLUNTEERS)
THE 3RD ANNUAL DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER COMMUNITY RIVER FLOAT WELCOMED 113 BIPOC & ALLIES AND 48 VOLUNTEERS ON THE CACHE LA POUDE RIVER TOGETHER FOR AN AMAZING DAY OF WHITEWATER RAFTING.

EVOM PADDLING SKILLS DAY – WESTERN SLOPE (36 PARTICIPANTS/12 VOLUNTEERS)
36 PARTICIPANTS AND 12 VOLUNTEERS JOINED US FOR A FUN DAY OF SUP, KAYAKING, AND CANOEING ON NOTTINGHAM LAKE

WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND THE GENEROSITY OF ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, AND DONORS, WE DELIVERED SPECTACULAR EVENTS THAT WERE 100% FREE FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH WORLD-CLASS EQUIPMENT, EXPERT INSTRUCTION, LUNCH, AND WITH LOGISTICAL EASE.

DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER COMMUNITY RIVER RAFTING & PADDLING SKILLS DAY QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

OVERALL EVENT FEEDBACK WAS STRONG AND DEMONSTRATED THAT DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER'S EVENTS ENLIVEN BOTH THE ACA AND L.L.BEAN'S MISSION:

"I LOVED THAT THE EVENT WAS FREE AND INCLUSIVE FOR BIPOC AND ALLIES. USUALLY THE FIRST BARRIER TO EXPERIENCE A NEW OUTDOOR SPORT IS UNABLE TO ACCESS GEAR AND BE GUIDED BY EXPERIENCED GUIDES FOR SAFETY. RIVER RAFTING IS SOMETHING THAT I AM A BIT SCARED BUT HAVING CHILDREN WHO TOLD ME THAT THEY ATTENDED LAST YEAR'S EVENT AND THEY KEPT COMING BACK BECAUSE THEY HAD SO MUCH FUN IT MADE ME FEEL A BIT MORE EASY :)"

"HAVING DISABILITIES I WAS SHOWN WAYS TO USE ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT AND FELT COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT AND WAS TIRED BUT OH SO THANKFUL FOR THE EXPERIENCE."

"THE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS/EMPLOYEES WERE AWESOME! THEY MADE AN EFFORT TO ENSURE EVERYONE FELT COMFORTABLE IN THE WATER. I REALLY ENJOYED GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO SOME OF THE VOLUNTEERS ONE-ON-ONE. GOOD FOLKS AND I TRULY APPRECIATE THE TIME THEY GAVE TO BE PRESENT FOR THE EVENT. I HAVE SINCE TOLD OTHER PEOPLE I HAVE MET ON THE WATER ABOUT DW."

"IT WAS SO WELL ORGANIZED WE ALL (AT LEAST ME AND MY SON) GOT TO DO EVERYTHING, NEXT YEAR MY HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER ARE COMING AS WELL"



LA RAZA EXPLORERS COMMUNITY PADDLE OUT



TAMPA BAY KAYAK ANGLERS HOSTED LA RAZA EXPLORERS, A COMMUNITY PADDLE OUT EVENT AT THE PICTURESQUE WEEDON ISLAND IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA. THIS COMPLIMENTARY FAMILY-FRIENDLY AFFAIR BROUGHT TOGETHER 27 ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS, CREATING CHERISHED MEMORIES AMIDST THE NATURAL WONDERS OF WEEDON ISLAND.

THANKS TO THE ACA & L.L. BEAN CFC GRANT, TAMPA BAY KAYAK ANGLERS WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE KAYAKS, PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDS), PADDLES, AND FISHING EQUIPMENT. THIS ALLOWED THOSE INTERESTED IN KAYAK FISHING TO EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND WEEDON ISLAND WITH EASE AND ENTHUSIASM. THE INITIATIVE NOT ONLY ENCOURAGED ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS BUT ALSO PROMOTED THE JOY OF ANGLING AS A FAMILY ACTIVITY.

THE EVENT AIMED TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE FOR THE COMMUNITY, FOSTERING A SENSE OF CAMARADERIE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RICH BIODIVERSITY OF THE REGION. AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS, 14 WERE CHILDREN RANGING FROM AGES 8 TO 17, ADDING A VIBRANT AND YOUTHFUL ENERGY TO THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES.

WHAT MADE THIS EVENT TRULY SPECIAL WAS THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY IT EMBODIED. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE HISPANIC, REFLECTING THE COMMITMENT OF LA RAZA EXPLORERS TO ENGAGE AND CONNECT WITH THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY. THE EVENT WAS LED BY FOUR ACA CERTIFIED LEVEL 2 KAYAK INSTRUCTORS WHO ARE INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF THE TAMPA BAY KAYAK ANGLERS TEAM, ENSURING A SAFE AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL.

LA RAZA EXPLORERS COMMUNITY PADDLE OUT



AS THE SUN SET ON A DAY FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY BONDING, LA RAZA EXPLORERS' COMMUNITY PADDLE OUT AT WEEDON ISLAND PROVED TO BE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. THE ECHOES OF PADDLES DIPPING INTO THE WATER AND THE SHARED JOY OF EXPLORATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESONATE WITHIN THE HEARTS OF PARTICIPANTS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. THIS EVENT NOT ONLY CELEBRATED THE BEAUTY OF THE NATURAL WORLD BUT ALSO UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL CONNECTION IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

IN THE SPIRIT OF LA RAZA EXPLORERS, THIS EVENT WAS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF EXPLORATION, EDUCATION, AND UNITY, LEAVING AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE MEMORIES OF ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED.



LEADERSHIP EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LEAD) PROGRAM

THE TAMPA LEAD PROGRAM, HELD FROM NOVEMBER 10TH TO 13TH, WAS A REMARKABLE EVENT THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA), TAMPA BAY ANGLERS, SUN COAST YOUTH CONSERVATION CENTER, AND FLORIDA YOUTH CONSERVATION CENTERS NETWORK IN APOLLO BEACH, FLORIDA. THIS WAS THE FIFTH INSTALLMENT OF THE LEADERSHIP EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LEAD) PROGRAM, WHICH AIMED TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE STUDENT-CENTERED EXPERIENCE FOR PARTICIPANTS FROM HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE ACA.

THROUGHOUT THE FOUR-DAY PROGRAM, ATTENDEES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THE ACA'S COMMUNITY PADDLESPORT LEADER CURRICULUM. THEY WERE GUIDED BY TREY ROUSS AND JAKE FITZROY, ENGAGING IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN PADDLESPORTS AND WATER SAFETY.

WHAT MADE THAT YEAR'S LEAD PROGRAM PARTICULARLY SPECIAL WAS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THREE FORMER LEAD PARTICIPANTS – CHRIS MANNING, ADRIENNE GALLUP, AND TATIANA COX-LOPEZ – WHO SERVED AS MENTORS TO THE FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANTS. THEIR VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES NOT ONLY PROVIDED GUIDANCE TO THE NEWCOMERS BUT ALSO ALLOWED THEM TO FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR OWN SKILLS DURING THE EVENT.





SUPPORT FROM L.L.BEAN HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENGAGEMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND MENTORSHIP ASPECTS OF THE LEAD PROGRAM, ENABLING INDIVIDUALS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES AND FORGE NEW PATHWAYS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET MORE PEOPLE ON THE WATER SAFELY.

"THE SKILLS I GAINED FROM LEAD IN 2022 HAVE DIRECTLY TRANSLATED INTO POSITIVE CHANGES WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION, TAMPA BAY KAYAK ANGLERS. LEAD HAS NOT ONLY SHAPED ME AS A LEADER BUT HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FOSTERING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITHIN TAMPA BAY KAYAK ANGLERS. THE CONNECTIONS I MADE WITH FELLOW PADDLERS DURING LEAD HAVE TRANSLATED INTO MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE ACA FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THIS YEAR'S LEAD IN MY HOME STATE OF FLORIDA. I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN THE PADDLING COMMUNITY. "- TATIANA COX-LOPEZ

PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER

THANKS TO THE GRANT FROM L.L. BEAN AND AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION, SEVEN (7) PEOPLE PARTICIPATED FREE-OF-CHARGE IN THE BEGINNER WHITEWATER KAYAKING CLINIC DELIVERED BY ZOAR OUTDOOR SATURDAY, JUNE 10 TO SUNDAY JUNE 11 IN CHARLEMONT, MA (NORTHWEST MASSACHUSETTS). FURTHER, WHEN PROMOTING THE FREE CLINIC REGISTRATIONS, WE HAD A WAITING LIST OF FIVE PEOPLE.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLINIC IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A LGBTQ+ IDENTITY. THE CLINIC INSTRUCTION ORIENTED PARTICIPANTS TO WHITEWATER KAYAKS AND TOOK THEM TO A FLATWATER POND TO PRACTICE WET EXITS AND BASIC KAYAK STROKES AND BOAT CONTROL. AFTER LUNCH, THE GROUP WENT TO A SECTION OF THE DEERFIELD RIVER TO PRACTICE EDDY TURNS, PEEL OUTS, AND FERRIES ON MOVING CLASS I-II WATER. ON THE SECOND DAY, THE GROUP DID A FULL RIVER RUN DOWN THE FIFE BROOK SECTION OF THE DEERFIELD RIVER TO PUT THEIR NEW SKILLS INTO PRACTICE.

THE CLINIC CONCLUDED WITH A DEBRIEF FOR THE CLINIC PARTICIPANTS AND IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER WHITEWATER EXPERIENCES. ON SATURDAY AFTER THE CLINIC, THE PARTICIPANTS JOINED THE “PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER” AFTER PARTY AT ZOAR WHERE THEY MET PEOPLE WITHIN THE LOCAL PADDLING COMMUNITY, ATE FOOD FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS, AND PARTICIPATED IN A FREE RAFFLE OF SWAG, SUPPLIES, AND GEAR FROM NRS, WRSI, AQUABOUND, IMMERSION RESEARCH, AMERICAN WHITEWATER, ZOAR OUTDOOR, PYRANAH, WERNER, AND THE VENTURE OUT PROJECT. MOST OF THE GROUP INQUIRED ABOUT OR MADE PLANS TO CONTINUE THEIR WHITEWATER LEARNING. A REUNION KAYAKING TRIP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED FOR LATE JUNE THROUGH THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB.



PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER

BY THE NUMBERS

- 7 PARTICIPANTS IN THE FREE WHITEWATER CLINIC
- 4 CLINIC INSTRUCTORS
- 16 HOURS OF CLINIC INSTRUCTION
- 4 VOLUNTEERS
- ~50 VOLUNTEER HOURS
- ~80 BOATERS ON THE DEERFIELD RIVER
- ~75 CLINIC PARTICIPANTS AND COMMUNITY PADDLERS AT THE AFTER PARTY
- 9 SPONSORS FOR THE EVENT

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

" I WANTED TO SEND A NOTE OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY WHAT WAS A REALLY PRICELESS EXPERIENCE FOR ME THIS WEEKEND. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN KAYAKING, BUT NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO DO IT (IN PART BECAUSE OF MY PHYSICAL SIZE) AND AM JUST BEYOND EXCITED TO KNOW DEFINITELY HOW WRONG THAT FEAR WAS. WHAT'S MORE, THE EXPERIENCE PROVIDED BY [ZOAR STAFF] WAS EPIC - THERE'S NO BETTER WORD. I FELT SUPER SAFE AND SUPPORTED AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND AS A NEWBIE TO THE KAYAKING COMMUNITY. I WAS EXPECTING TO HAVE FUN AND MAKE THE MOST OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE THIS WEEKEND, BUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED SURPASSED ANYTHING I COULD EXPECT - AND I THINK THAT IS BECAUSE OF HOW SOLID AND AMAZING EACH OF THE INSTRUCTORS ARE. THANK YOU AGAIN! I'LL DEFINITELY BE BACK!"





TEAM RIVER RUNNER

ALL INCLUSIVE AFFINITY PADDLING CLINIC

ON JUNE 24TH NEAR WHITE BIRD IDAHO, 18 VETERANS, 4 CIVILIAN SAFETY KAYAKERS, AND 6 LEAP RIVER GUIDES LAUNCHED ON A 4 DAY, 53 MILE, LIFE-EXPANDING, HEALING, ADVENTURE TO THE CONFLUENCE OF THE SNAKE RIVER AT THE IDAHO/OREGON BORDER.

OBJECTIVES:

- RECRUIT NEW MINORITY DISABLED VETERANS AND INTRODUCE THEM TO PADDLESports AND THE HEALING QUALITIES OF THE OUTDOORS
- RECRUIT EXISTING MINORITY TRR VETERAN MEMBERS TO DEVELOP THEIR PADDLING SKILLS AS WELL AS BUILD AND ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION
- RECRUIT NEW VETERAN AND CIVILIAN MINORITY VOLUNTEER PADDLERS FOR CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
- FOCUS ON BIPOC, LGBTQ+, AND WOMEN VETERANS AND VOLUNTEERS OF DIVERSE AGE GROUPS



OF THE PARTICIPANTS, 8 OUT OF 22 WERE BRAND NEW TO THE ORGANIZATION, 12 OUT OF 22 IDENTIFIED AS WOMEN, 1 OUT OF 22 IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER, 9 OUT OF 22 IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY, OR BISEXUAL, 16 OUT OF 22 IDENTIFIED AS NON-WHITE, AND AGES RANGED FROM 34 TO 67 YEARS OLD.

TEAM RIVER RUNNER

ALL INCLUSIVE AFFINITY PADDLING CLINIC



ENSURING PROGRAM EQUITY, EMOTIONAL SAFETY, AND A CULTURE OF BELONGING INVOLVED VERY INTENTIONAL OUTREACH AND THOUGHTFUL PLANNING. AS PART OF OUR GOAL TO RECRUIT AND ENGAGE MINORITY VETERANS IN PADDLESPTS, THE ORGANIZERS RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF CREATING A SAFE SPACE WHERE EVERY PARTICIPANT COULD FEEL EMOTIONALLY SECURE ENOUGH TO BE THEMSELVES. OUR GROUP CULTURE OF SAFETY AND INCLUSION WAS CULTIVATED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENT BY COLLABORATIVELY ESTABLISHING AGREEMENTS WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

PARTICIPANT QUOTES:

"AS A DON'T ASK DON'T TELL SURVIVOR, IT IS CRITICAL TO MY HEALING TO BE WITH PEOPLE OF SIMILAR LIFE EXPERIENCES. OFTEN I AM SINGLED OUT AND BULLIED AT VETERAN'S EVENTS WHICH ONLY ADDS TO MY DISCONNECTION. THIS KIND OF EVENT MAKES ME FEEL SEEN, VALUED, AND LIKE MY LIFE AND SERVICE ACTUALLY MATTER. TRR SHOULD STRONGLY CONSIDER ADDING AS MANY EVENTS LIKE THESE AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR THIS EXPERIENCE." GLORIA DOWNEY - AIR FORCE JAG VETERAN, FILMMAKER, PALO ALTO CHAPTER

"IT WAS POWERFUL TO BE WITH A GROUP OF VETERANS THAT REFLECTED THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES THAT I BELONG TO AND AN EVENT UNLIKE ANY I'VE ATTENDED IN MY SEVERAL YEARS WORKING WITH VETERANS IN THE OUTDOORS" LORNETT VESTAL - NAVY VETERAN, AUTHOR, SIERRA CLUB SENIOR CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST, MILITARY OUTDOORS, ATLANTA, GA

"THIS PROGRAM WAS ONE OF THE VERY FEW VETERAN EVENTS WHERE I TRULY FELT SEEN AND CELEBRATED AS A LESBIAN!!! I CANNOT PUT A PRICE ON HOW RARE AND VALUABLE THAT WAS TO ME." MELANIE BROWN - ARMY VETERAN/MST SURVIVOR, LOS ANGELES, CA

YONKERS PADDLING & ROWING CLUB HUDSON RIVER RIDERS PROGRAM



HUDSON RIVER RIDERS (HRR) IS A PROGRAM OF THE YONKERS PADDLING AND ROWING CLUB (YPRC) THAT IS COMMITTED TO OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. HRR OFFERS, FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, TWICE WEEKLY FREE WALKUP KAYAKING PROGRAMS TO PARTICIPANTS 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER; TWICE WEEKLY TEEN PROGRAMS, 13 YEARS TO 17 YEARS OLD AND A WEEKLY TOUR ON THE HUDSON FOR THOSE 13 YEARS AND OLDER. THESE PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE IN NORTHWEST YONKERS. YONKERS IS LISTED AS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT.

THE L.L. BEAN GRANT ALLOWED US TO FOCUS ON OUR TEEN PROGRAM WHICH SERVES YONKERS YOUTH 13–16-YEAR-OLDS. THIS AGE RANGE HAS LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP, HAS NO ACCESS TO OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES (EXCEPT FOR CEMENT PLAYGROUNDS) AND CERTAINLY HAS NO ACCESS TO ANY WATER ACTIVITIES. YOUR FUNDING LET US EXPAND TO A SECOND DAY EACH WEEK FOR A TEEN PADDLE.

YONKERS PADDLING & ROWING CLUB HUDSON RIVER RIDERS PROGRAM



THE YOUTH THAT ATTENDED WERE GIVEN BASIC KAYAK TRAINING, WENT OUT ON THE HUDSON ON SUPERVISED PADDLES AND LEARNED KAYAKING SKILLS WHILE INTERACTING WITH OTHER YOUTH THEIR SAME AGE. ON THE WATER, OUR TRAINED HRR STAFF EXPLAINED ABOUT THE HUDSON RIVER, HOW IT FLOWED BOTH WAYS, THAT IT WAS AN ESTUARY AND EXPLAINED HOW IT WAS YOUTH LIKE THEM THAT NEEDED TO PROTECT THE HUDSON AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS THEY GREW UP.



L.L. BEAN'S SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAM GAVE IT A GREATER FAMILIARITY TO THE BROADER WESTCHESTER AREA. THIS IS WHERE THE MOST IMPACT HAS BEEN FELT AND MADE A CHANGE TO OUR COMMUNITY HERE AT YPRC. THERE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND ALL THE TIME NOW. OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS BEGUN TO EMBRACE THEIR ROLE IN PASSING ON THEIR LOVE OF PADDLING. THE CLUB IS NOW MUCH MORE INTERGENERATIONAL. YOUR FUNDING, ALONG WITH OTHERS, HAS SHOWN THE MEMBERS THAT THEIR EFFORTS ARE BEING RECOGNIZED. THE YOUNGSTERS ARE BRINGING THEIR PARENTS, WE ARE GETTING MORE FAMILIES, AND LEADERSHIP IS NOW DEVELOPING PLANS TO SERVE ALL AGE GROUPS.

WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO INTRODUCE 45 TEENS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO KAYAKING AND THE HUDSON RIVER: THE YMCA, THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE, CENTER FOR THE URBAN RIVER AT BECZAK, AND POWERPLAY NYC.



Thank You!

L.L.Bean