



BECY2021

PROGRAM REPORT



vision of famed southwest ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan, Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) was established in 2012 to inspire and teach the next generation of land stewards while providing jobs to culturally diverse youth living in the underserved and often overlooked US/Mexico borderlands to restore the trans-national watersheds they call home. Youth work with rock, wood, seeds, hands, and hearts to help rebuild depleted watersheds, restore habitat for wildlife and reconnect land and people in one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots.



By learning, working and playing in the great outdoors, participants develop life-long passions and friendships, developing skills while working alongside conservation professionals on a wide variety of ecological restoration and community-based projects. BECY also encourages and supports pathways to careers in conservation.

Two crews, one from **Patagonia** and one from **Douglas**, Arizona work four days a week over six weeks in a variety of locations across the borderlands learning about and completing projects including water harvesting, building erosion control structures, pond restoration, invasive species removal, native seed collecting, native plant propagation, permaculture design and assisting farmers and ranchers in daily tasks. The program culminates with participants completing a self-led community restoration project to further explore a topic that piques their interest while engaging their community. Participants present their project at a graduation ceremony with friends, family, and BRN staff members.

Since 2012,

150
youth

have graduated
from BECY.





What does it cost to run the BECY program each year?

Each BECY crew costs approximately \$75k per year to employ youth interns and facilitators, provide medical training, medical kits, tools, safety gear, transportation, restoration materials, supplies, and administration fees and insurance.

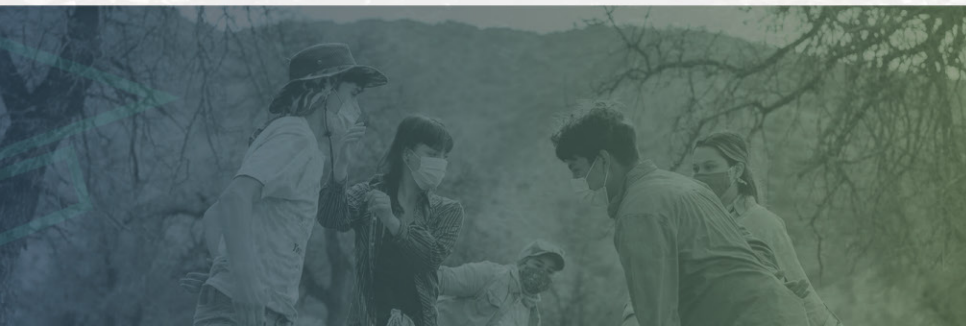
How is the program funded?

The program is funded through private donations, grants and contracts from a variety of sources. Ongoing private support is critical to the success of this program.

How can I support the program?

We welcome corporate sponsorships, donations from individuals, grants, and you can hire us to do restoration work on your property. We also work with other nonprofits, businesses, government agencies and organizations.

To make a donation, visit www.borderlandsrestoration.org/becy and click the link to donate, or contact us at becy@borderlandsrestoration.org to discuss sponsorships, contracts or grants.



2021 BECY PROGRAM STAFF:

Denisse Ortega Lorona,
Education Director



Caleb Weaver,
Youth Education
Program Manager



Jordan Sene,
Youth Education
Program Coordinator



Arriana Ochoa-Tovar,
BECY Patagonia
Program Facilitator



Duke Norton,
BECY Patagonia
Program Facilitator



Nicole Luna,
BECY Douglas
Program Facilitator



Stephanie Adams,
BECY Douglas
Program Facilitator



2021 RESTORATION IMPACTS:

Maintained

93

Existing Erosion
Control Structures



Built

194

New Erosion
Control Structures



Planted

128

Native Plants



Dispersed

44

Packets of
Native Seed



Installed

2

Water Harvesting
Cisterns



Built

2

Irrigation Systems



*Maintained
& Improved*

2

Ponds



Installed

Drainages and
Mulch at a
Private Residence



Planted

74

Trees to Establish
Community Forest
at Doc Mock Park



Worked in

21

Unique Locations



Installed

1

Library Garden
Reading Area



Assisted

1

Local Farmer
to Weed, Harvest
and Set-up Fencing



Built

44

Erosion Control
Structures



and Planted

4

Trees
at 2 Ranches



2021 had

17
BECY
interns

and

4
program
facilitators

from

3
borderlands
communities,

age
15 – 22.

Doc Mock Park Community Forest

A culmination of several years of effort and collaboration of many people came together during BECY 2021. Patagonia interns alongside community members and volunteers installed 74 native trees, each paid for by residents with a commemorative plaque, at Doc Mock Park in the center of Patagonia to complete a community forest project.

This community forest will provide ecological benefits such as shade, provide wildlife habitat, help clean the air of pollutants, and slow stormwater runoff, as well as provide a beautiful community park for all to enjoy.

A big thank you goes out to the community members who bought trees to add to the park and to those involved in the planting. The park's beauty and ecological benefits will be enjoyed for generations to come.



Douglas High School Land Lab

During the final week of BECY, the Douglas interns worked at the Douglas High School Land Lab to install a water harvesting cistern to collect rainwater off the roof of the greenhouse. Interns dug trenches, installed PVC pipes, and planted a small garden that will be watered by the overflow from the cistern. The roof water captured by the cistern will support the tilapia farm the agricultural and environmental sciences high school students manage.



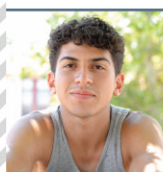
The physical benefit of this program is obvious but the empowerment and education it provides our local youth is unparalleled by any summer internship program of the sort that I have witnessed. The interns are eager to learn, work, help, and GROW! We at the DHS Agriculture Department will continue to refer students to this wonderful program to

continue to empower local youth and strengthen our environment and communities!



Ashley Ellis
Agricultural Educator
& FFA Advisor,
Douglas High School

The impact BECY had on me was opening my eyes to the environment, learning what exactly is around me and how I can give back to it, especially when it comes to restoring the land that is already there and helping out the wildlife that is already here. To give to it is really special.



Diego Soto
1st Year BECY Participant



Community Restoration and Intern Highlight

As part of the successful completion of BECY, students are charged with selecting and completing their own community restoration project they present at their graduation to their friends, family and community members. Community-based ecological restoration preserves ecosystems while giving community members an opportunity to improve their neighborhoods and build stronger communities.

Sergio Ivan Cabrerros

Sergio Ivan Cabrerros is a 19-year-old BECY intern from Douglas, Arizona pursuing his Associates degree in Biology at Cochise College. Part of his long-term goal is to pursue a career with Arizona Game and Fish. For his community restoration project Sergio wanted to showcase the importance of wildlife conservation. He worked closely with Borderlands Wildlife Preserve Lead Technician Cholla Nicoll to identify different species of wildlife that had been captured on wildlife cameras at the preserve.

He was tasked with creating and studying flashcards to identify species' individual characteristics. He then spent time going through 5,000 wildlife camera images and identifying animals as part of the preserves data collection efforts also contributing to the Sky Island Alliance Foto Fauna project that is collecting wildlife data from cameras across the borderlands region.

"I learned how significant the use of technology is to help restore our natural habitats and how unique and diverse the area of Arizona truly is."



Deyanira Victor

Deyanira Victor is a 19-year-old BECY intern from Douglas, Arizona with interest in becoming an Environmental Biologist. After the program she mentioned plans to enter the Environmental Science program at Northern Arizona University.

For her community restoration project, she organized a clothing swap in Douglas where community members brought unwanted clothes to trade with others rather than buying brand new clothes or throwing away unused clothes. She chose this project because she learned how much goes into making and distributing new clothes at the environment's expense and how much clothing rots in landfills. She shared that the project was successful and "by continuing this project, people in my community will learn to become mindful of the clothes they buy and use, allowing for the overconsumption of clothing to decrease." Deyanira presented her project at her graduation with a whole outfit she got from the clothing swap she hosted.



Valeria Cabello

Valeria Cabello is a 22-year-old BECY Youth Leader and first year participant from Rio Rico, Arizona. Valeria graduated with a bachelor degree in Graphic Information Technology with a focus in user experience at Arizona State University. She has since started working for ASU in a graphic/user experience position.

For her community restoration project she created a video for BECY capturing the participants experiences. During graduation Valeria talked about her process, "...I decided to create a story that is something more personal and focused on the interns themselves. I wanted the story to develop based on their experiences with the program because that is where I believed the audience would connect the most." This wonderful piece can be viewed on our Youtube channel and the BRN website.



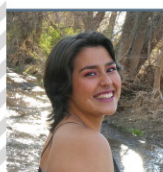
Chesed Chap

Chesed Chap is an 18-year-old and a second year BECY intern from Patagonia. After graduating from Patagonia Union High School this year, she has been accepted and enrolled at Yale University to pursue a degree in Theatre and Performance Studies.

Chesed's restoration project was a series of blog posts that showcase a week-to-week glimpse of a real BECY summer. Telling the stories of other interns and about her own experience serves as a catalyst for others to join BECY over the summer. Chesed mentioned, "I have a greater understanding and appreciation for the place I'm from, and the challenges the borderlands face. BECY has taught me what it means to truly believe in a movement, and how no individual is too small to make an impact."



The BECY program always finds new ways to make such big impacts on everyone involved. The thing that impacted me the most was being able to facilitate such an amazing group of young people. I was able to see their personal development firsthand and it was truly amazing. I am beyond grateful I got to witness each person grow in their own way. There's truly not any experience that compares. This program is so important for the future of the community. The work that we do allows our local ecosystem to thrive. I'm very grateful to have been a part of the program.



Arriana Ochoa-Tovar
1st Year BECY Facilitator
4th year BECY Participant

As a lifelong rancher with 26 years of teaching experience it was great to see the young adults of the BECY program working on conservation projects in the valley. The lessons of working as a team for common goals is one of the most important values that the members of BECY learn each year.

It was great to see past crew members take on new leadership roles this year and to replace those that had graduated from the program previously. The BECY members have the satisfaction that the conservation work they have completed will have a lasting effect for years to come in addition to the experience. We look forward to working with the crew again.



Richard W. Winkler
Executive Director,
Malpai Borderlands Group

THANK YOU

Grants, Contracts & Donors

Arizona Community Foundation
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
Gama Leyva & Jan Herron
Helen Chester
National Forest Foundation
Patagonia Regional Community Fund
Patagonia Women's Club
Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center
Sonja Kim
Southern Arizona Quail Forever
The New York Community Trust
United States Forest Service
University of Arizona

Program Partners

47 Ranch
Arevalos Farm
Deep Dirt Farm
Douglas High School Land Lab
Douglas Public Library
Lee Station Ranch
Patagonia Union High School
Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center
Santa Fe Ranch Foundation
Town of Patagonia, Tree and Park Committee
United States Forest Service
University of Arizona Creative Writing Program, Professor Susan Briante & Paco Cantú
University of Arizona Creative Writing Program, Graduate Students Marianna Coles Curtis,
Lucy Kirkman & Matisse Rosen
Winkler Ranch

BORDERLANDS EARTH CARE YOUTH (BECY)

www.borderlandsrestoration.org/becy
becy@borderlandsrestoration.org

BORDERLANDS RESTORATION NETWORK

www.borderlandsrestoration.org
info@borderlandsrestoration.org
(520) 216-4148
PO Box 121 Patagonia, AZ 85624