



school of youth
FOR SUSTAINABILITY & HUMAN FLOURISHING

www.schoolofyouth.org

27 July -05 August 2020 in Spain
**A MAGICAL LEARNING ADVENTURE
THAT YOU WILL CHERISH FOR LIFE!**

school of youth

CREATIVE MINDS • OPEN HEARTS • WILD PLACES


27 July -05 August 2020, Catalunya, Spain

In Partnership with:



active earth
HUMAN FLOURISHING



A close-up photograph of a woman with curly hair, smiling warmly. She is holding a yellow and black striped butterfly on her hand. The background is softly blurred, showing more of her face and hair.

We are inspired by the following three core values:

Creative Minds ... Engage with the interconnected social, environmental and economic challenges of our time creatively.

Open Hearts ... Encourage learning through art, music, theatre, dance and diverse creative expressions as an intuitive universal language.

Wild Places ... Enjoy profound experiences in the outdoors, embracing the connection with others and nature, experiencing and understanding the self as part of the whole.

Overview



IN A NUTSHELL: The [School Of Youth](#) brings together young people (ages 16–27) from different social, cultural and religious backgrounds to engage in a magical 10-day learning experience. Blending outdoor adventures with music, silent contemplation and intellectual exploration, the programme is highly innovative in developing life-skills related to peace and sustainability. By meeting on the level of nature and exploring our common humanity, students build bridges of friendship and understanding across political, religious and geographic divides. Past students have reported the programme to be life-changing. The educational approach has been developed over the course of 18 years working with thousands of participants.

This programme is based in the heart of the Sant Aniol nature park, northeast of Barcelona, Spain. It will take place from the **27th July – 05th August 2020**. The magical Pont de Valenti Education Center is our home for these days. Students sleep in the little campsite right next to the house. The programme fee is 900,- €. Participants from economically disadvantaged backgrounds can apply for a scholarship. The School of Youth is delivered by [Active Earth](#) an experienced and long established education provider.

What to expect

You will join a vibrant international community of learning and explore how living together joyfully and in harmony with each other and nature is possible. The School of Youth will be both, an unforgettable holiday and a magical learning adventure that complements traditional education at school or university.

Professional facilitators and guides create a safe and caring atmosphere in which students feel inspired to deeply inquire into themes that truly matter to their hearts. Activities include rock climbing, canyoning, song writing, land art, yoga, a 24h wilderness solo, communication & team skills, story-telling and all the magic that emerges in between.

The learning experience is transformative, empowering you to become a more skillful and happy in all aspects of your life.

You will make new friends from around the world, and discover many new perspectives, transcending cultural, geographic and religious divides. We believe that your example has the power to inspire your family, your community, your nation and the world!

Sign Up Now!

For more information visit:

web: www.schoolofyouth.org

Video: <https://vimeo.com/118982409>

Email: booking@schoolofyouth.org



WHAT WE DO ...



The Programme's Design is based on the United Nations' four pillars of sustainable development – exploring cultural/social, environmental, spiritual and economic dimensions.



We understand that sustainable development occurs when individuals, organisations and nations move towards greater harmony within themselves, with others and the more than human world. Hence, the learning experience offered at the School Of Youth waters the seeds of understanding and awareness and supports students to explore and express themselves more fully, not only through language and theories but also through dance, art and adventure experiences. Such learning then is balanced and enables our students to feel part of a much greater whole. Understood in this way, sustainable development is spiritual at its' core.

Activities bridge action, theory and reflection. The learning process develops students' skills and thinking to meaningfully engage with the complexities of everyday life.

Learning Outcomes Include:

- A deep connection with nature through direct experience and a sense being part of a greater whole
- An understanding of the interrelated nature of phenomena
- An increased capacity to discern between yourself and your mind
- Improved ability to listen and to communicate in a compassionate way
- Increased capacity to manage and express difficult emotions
- A capacity to appreciate diversity of ideas, beliefs, cultures and roles
- A greater understanding of sustainability and the practical challenges of moving towards greater harmony on all levels of expression





Amara and Emerson
from Spain and Brasil

WHAT STUDENTS SAY





Samuel Gibba, 26, Gambia.

"Every youth should attend this, amazing and life changing and inspirational programme which welcomes people from different parts of the world."



Kevaughn Campbell, aged 18, from Jamaica

"Words can't express the joy, love and knowledge I gained in such a short time. At the School of Youth a shell of mine was broken unlocking creative thoughts I didn't know I possessed. The summer was like the stars in the sky, it showed me you can be whatever you put your mind to. AHOO!"



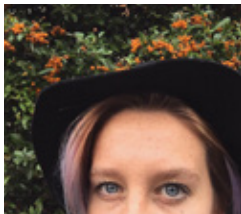
Ghayda Hamoudeh, aged 16, from Palestine

"Nothing can stop you from achieving your dreams! At the School Of Youth you are accepted for who you are. Although we came from different backgrounds and cultures, we shared the same goal – to learn from each other – because we need many hands to make big changes in the world."



Alice Hill-Woods, 19, UK

"An entirely refreshing experience. Opened my eyes but (more importantly) opened my heart like never before."



Rhea Warner, 19 UK

"I've never felt more accepted, appreciated and cared for by a community or group of people my age before. The mutual openness and honesty that we shared was so refreshing and healing. Healing, that's the word I would use to describe the whole experience. My heart and mind feel open again. My past feels free and my future feels less daunting, because I'm focussing on living in the moment and trusting that what is meant to be, will be, and that when it is the right moment to decide, I will know what to do."



Canyoning is one of the highlights, sliding, jumping, abseiling/rappeling through a timeless world. Canyoning is not just fun and a real adventure but also a effective tool to learn how to deal with emotions.

Guiding Principles



Safe Container. Creating a space that is both emotionally and physically safe is the bedrock of our learning community. It is marked by professionalism and an inner posture of true kindness and care.

Sense Of Self. Participants are encouraged to explore their passions, values and beliefs and also to spend a night alone in the wilderness as a deep personal adventure.

Action & Leadership. The nature of the activities give students opportunities to put into practice the art of acting responsibly towards positive change in and after the camps.

Teamwork. Participants are encouraged to be a part of something bigger than themselves, through living and working in a group of different nationalities and ages.

Interconnectedness. The program incorporates social, ecological, economic and world view dimensions with an appreciation of the complex relationships between the different challenges of our time.

Openness to different ideas, beliefs and cultures. Participants learn to appreciate diversity and different cultural norms, beliefs, languages and rituals as well as tolerance for other individuals or views different to their own.


Service Learning. Each camp contributes to the place and community where the camp is held, for example through eco-building, tree planting, land art or a creative contribution.

Social Entrepreneurship. With the participation of social entrepreneurs, students are exposed to new ideas on how to impact social and environmental problems in today's global economy.

Different Ways Of Knowing. The program provides a blend of experiential, presentational, propositional and theoretical learning to provide a richer, deeper and more useful reflection on life experiences.

Challenge By Choice. None of the activities are obligatory, and the students have the opportunity to influence the program based on their individual learning needs and wishes as well as those of the group.

Language Immersion. All activities are carried out in English and students of varying language abilities feel encouraged to express themselves in a fun and non-intimidating environment.



Not for the faint hearted: For her 24 hour wilderness solo this girl chose her spot high up with views far into the Pyrenees. The solo is a rich experience and we take great care to make sure you are well prepared and totally ready for it. It is at the heart of your learning experience at the School of Youth.

... AND HOW IT'S DONE



Every day unfolds as a journey where action and adventure are interwoven with deep silence, intellectual exploration of themes, attentive listening and personal reflection. While no single activity is compulsory, students are encouraged to take part in a variety of different options and experiment with new challenges. Activities may include:

Canyoning & Water Trekking. A journey led by professional canyoning guides through an awe-inspiring and otherworldly landscape. Equipped with wetsuit, helmet and harness students take on abseils down beautiful waterfalls, jump into crystal clear pools and slide down smooth rocks.

Rock Climbing & Trekking. A gentle introduction to rock climbing with experienced guides and climbers lead a journey through dry riverbeds, up colourful limestone cliffs and through ancient archways and caves. Participants learn how to belay and trust each other to safely move up vertical cliffs in one of Europe's most beautiful climbing areas.

Silence & Meditation. We have found that students hugely appreciate exercises and activities that help to find rest and peace, both physically and mentally. Also enough free time and space to let life unfold and flow naturally is valued.

Eco-building & Land Art. Using mud, sand, clay, bamboo, straw and other materials at hand we combine age-old technologies with functional, artistic and decorative concepts to create something both useful and beautiful following the principles of permaculture design.

Project Building Towards Change. Visiting social entrepreneurs will explain their innovative projects and impact on environmental and social issues, inspiring students with ways on how they can concretely act in the world.

Music & Dance. With the support of experienced artists, participants are given the space to find expression through music, dance and performance. They may learn a new instrument, create a song, a rap, write a poem or simply feel the beat of a drum.

Yoga & Massage. Participants learn yoga postures and simple breathing exercises to energize the body and calm the mind. They also have the chance to give and receive massages, learn techniques such as Indian head massage, reflexology and how to make natural remedies.

24h Wilderness Solo. The solo is about making space to slow down, reflect and reenergize; a magical and potentially transformative experience. After thorough preparation, participants are alone in the wild for 24 hours, followed by a celebratory return to base, and the sharing of experiences.

Learning Spaces. A variety of games, films, dances, theory sessions and group exercises are carried out in a variety of beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces around the valley.



During unstructured times while relaxing or sunbathing, some of the best things happen: friendships deepen, revealing conversations take place and much fun unfolds.



A TYPICAL DAY

Before The Camp, we ask you to send us a letter of introduction to share about yourself and what motivates you to join. At the beginning we check-in with each other to clarify learning needs, interests and expectations.

Each Day is a unique learning journey, tailored around your needs and wishes, combining a balanced mix of physical activities, dialogue and theory, silence, relaxation and creative group work. None of the activities are compulsory but we encouraged your full participation very much, because we believe that like this you will get the most out of it all. In the end though it is you who chooses how your time on the programme unfolds.

At The End of each day you have the chance to reflect on your actions, explore abstract concepts and experiment with your own ideas. Participants are also directly involved in running the programme, contributing by sharing your special skills and participating in tasks around cooking, working in the gardens and keeping things tidy and beautiful.

The Community Of Learning at the School of Youth is made up of students, staff and volunteers from a great diversity of countries. You will find that the atmosphere is very special, full of kindness and that you will feel at home here super quickly. You have access to magnificent communal spaces.

Accommodation The Camp is based around the education center, literally a stone-throw away from the Sant Aniol mountain creek with it's turquoise pools. We ask you to bring your own tent and camping gear, unless you prefer to hire some from us. The camping area has nice compost toilets and showers.

Food Our chef will prepare delicious healthy and locally sourced foods where possible. We offer a vegetarian diet, and some fish. If you have special dietary requirements just let us know ahead of time and we'll try to accommodate your needs as best as we can.

A Typical Day Schedule

08:00 Energetic wake-up activity, ie. yoga

09:00 Breakfast

10:00 Activity time, ie. canyoning; exploring the theme of emotional development experientially and through theory sessions along the way

13:00 Lunch en route

17:00 Return to Camp

18:00 Reflection of the day

19:00 Free time

20:00 Dinner

21:00 Free time, optional film, music or workshops

23:30 Silence

Our home during SoY is the beautiful house and education center Pont d'en Valenti. Students camp on the land right next to the house. The house is situated at the banks of the Sant Aniol river in the heart of the amazing Nature Park. Facilities include a large Geodesic dome, a tipi, pizza oven, badminton field etc. Students often tell us how they feel at home here very quickly.



SAFETY & PARTICIPANT SELECTION



Safety First

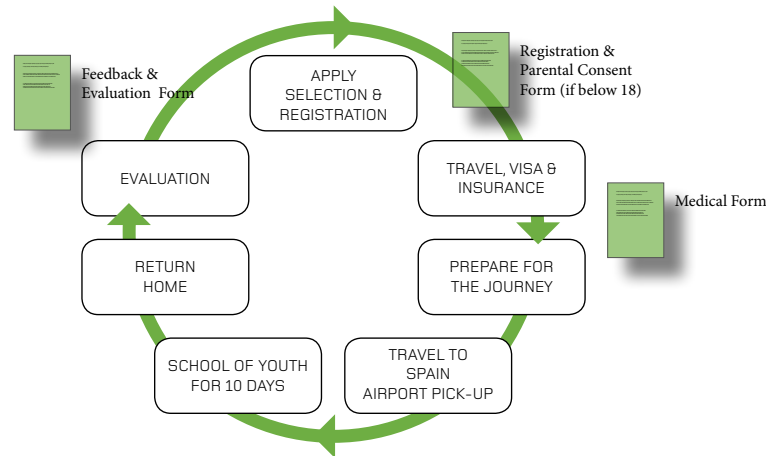
At the School of Youth, your physical and emotional well-being is our priority. Hence we operate a comprehensive Safety and Risk Management policy. Our operational backbone is an impeccable safety record and 15 years of experience in safely guiding thousands of participants through learning adventures.

We put greatest care in selecting and training our team of highly qualified and experienced guides and facilitators. On outdoor activities our facilitator-participant ratio is 2:10. All safety equipment is maintained at a top standard. All staff and activities are covered by our professional liability insurance. Students are required to show proof of a health and accident insurance.

Scholarships

Besides self/family-funded participants, the School of Youth seeks out private sponsors and foundations to provide scholarships/bursaries to young leaders from diverse regions of the world, who greatly benefit from such intercultural learning. Based on a number of criteria, the youth selection process is managed in partnership with charities and NGOs who run youth programmes locally such as Mercy Corps or Save the Children. NGOs support communication with student's families and help with organising visa and travel. Affiliation with a local programme enables students to receive ongoing guidance and mentoring upon return.

*To apply for a scholarship, please email:
booking@schoolofyouth.org*





MADE WITH LOVE BY...

Korbi Hort | Founder and Facilitator



As qualified guide and group facilitator Korbi draws on over 20 years of experience and has safely led thousands of people through transformative learning adventures. Korbi is passionate about creating atmospheres in which people feel at ease and inspired to explore what truly matters to their hearts.

Korbi is a director of Active Earth at the Pont de Valenti Center for Nature-Based Learning and initiated Easy Day and the School of Youth. He holds a Masters degree in Sustainability and Business Responsibility from Ashridge Business School and a BSc in Outdoor Education from Edinburgh University. Korbi lives in his cherished Sant Aniol valley in Catalunya, Spain.

Angela Azorin | Facilitator



A life-long student, group facilitator, trainer and coach. Angela has worked extensively with people from all over the world in educational and outdoor residential settings. Drawing on a life full of rich adventures, she brings to her work the importance of nurturing body, mind and spirit, and a deep love of peoples diversity.

Working at The Findhorn Foundation leading the Youth Empower Programme, The School of Youth and studying Process Work Psychology have been her primary focus and attention lately. She is also involved in the "Profuturo Programme", training teachers from all over Africa and South America, in alternative methodologies and different ways of learning. Angela is a freshly baked mum of little Bruno.

Anna Carceller i Roca | Facilitator



Anna loves how life's great beauty is often hidden in the smallest details. She lives in the Center for nature-based learning and development at Pont de Valenti, taking care of various roles related to hosting and facilitating both, educational and cultural programmes.

When working with groups she is always fascinated to see how people are deeply nourished when they meet each other in an authentic way. It is in such encounters, that she feels her spirit uplifted. Then it becomes easy to really listen to diverse perspectives and to appreciate how this helps us outgrow narrow outlooks, bringing us into a more expansive field of being.

Anna has found that a caring and emotionally safe space are essential for people to express themselves openly. It is from this place of caring that Anna will support students well-being, making sure we all feel well looked after and attended to.

Luciano Gutierrez | Facilitator



Three years ago Luciano arrived at Pont de Valenti, and feels at home in these mountains ever since. Here, all the experiences and skills acquired along the way of life have found their purpose: from studying performing arts at University, his love for curating music and dance events, facilitating educational programmes, to being a chef - following in the footsteps of a long family tradition of gastronomy and hospitality.

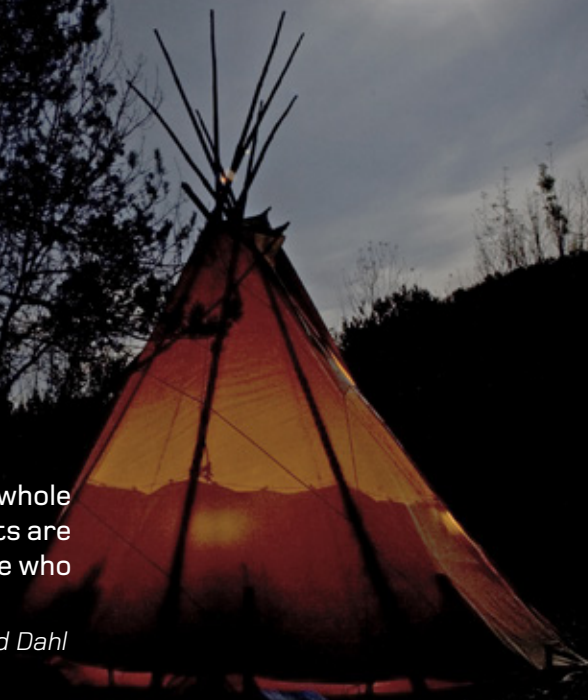
His artistic work both, as actor and dancer, was always related to body awareness and movement - learning how playful interaction with others allows us to flourish in dance and song naturally.

As a lover of this valley, its silence, stability and beauty, it seems like the perfect place to host the School of Youth learning adventure. Luciano feels grateful to share and accompany this experience.



And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.

Roald Dahl



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