Northern Youth Abroad

NUNAVUT + NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Northern Youth Abroad is...

An organization that offers programs to youth between the ages of 15 and 22 who live in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Our programs offer participants the chance to travel, gain work experience and high school credits, develop leadership skills, and share their own culture while living in another.



Our Organization

- Launched in 1998 as the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program (pre-division, but in anticipation of serving young Nunavummiut) and then expanded to also serve youth living in the NWT beginning in 2005.
- We offer two core programs, a Canadian Program and an International Program.
 Both Programs provide Participants with up to 9 high school credits, more than 200 hours of hands on work experience and instruction, and the chance to gain self-confidence and leadership capacity while sharing their culture and living and learning in another.
- More than 350 youth have completed one or both of our Program. We have Alumni representing every community across Nunavut.
- Currently receive approximately 200-225 applications for 40 Participant spots each year (in Canadian Program).
- Every Participant works with the support of a community based mentor before and after travelling. More than 350 volunteers are involved in the program each year.
- In addition to core programming we provide a number of services and supports aimed and continuing to support every Participant in setting and achieving their personal and professional goals.

Our Objective

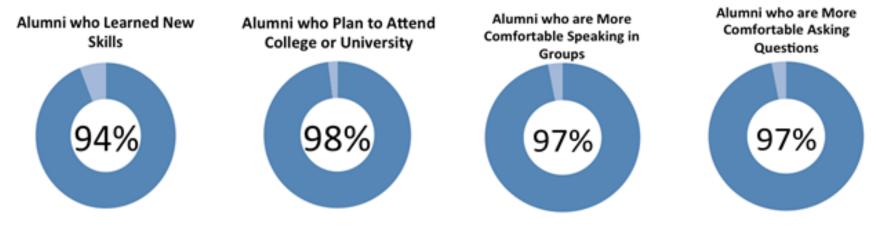
Our objective, through the completion of one of our programs, is for each Participant to:

- Earn high school credits and be on a path to complete high school
- Gain work experience and career awareness
- Develop job skills
- Build leadership capacity
- Commit to living a healthy lifestyle
- Know how to set and achieve short, medium and long term goals and why this is important
- Increase their self confidence and independence: feel confident being away from home, know who they are, self respect, feel worthy and competent
- Learn about other cultures, while sharing their own
- Engage in how they can contribute to their community
- Be interested in volunteerism, understanding the importance of volunteerism
- Understand what a healthy relationship is and how to build them with people in their lives
- Recognize their role as a global citizen
- Be able to be resilient, think critically, problem solve and make good decisions

Impact & Results

After 17 years of programming;

- More than 80% of Participants have gone on to finish high school. This is especially significant as we try to select Participants who have not had many similar opportunities, but who have potential to develop as young leaders in their home communities.
- Many Participants go on to pursue post-secondary studies (at Nunavut Sivuniksavut, and other college and universities). In 2012 NYA developed a bursary program to assist those pursuing post-secondary education.
- Participants indicate having improved self-confidence, a better sense of what they
 want to do in the future, and a strong desire to volunteer and contribute to their
 home communities.



Rationale & Background

- NYA has offered the International Program for 15 years, beginning in 1999
- Growing need for more diverse program options in NYA's second phase
- Demonstrated interest in the construction trades, especially from male Participants who are less likely to access the NYA International Program.
- Substantial opportunity and demand for those pursuing careers in the skilled trades

 Opportunity to provide more in-depth training and skill building, while simultaneously providing Participants with the chance for personal growth through

experiential travel based education



Pilot Program

- Includes 16 Participants (aged 16-24)
- Ten month program including
 - Local (Home Community) Assignments
 - NYA Program Orientation
 - 4 week training program hosted at Algonquin College where Participants will complete a foundation course providing exposure and training in the Construction Trades
 - 3 week international placement where Participants will complete 150-200 hours of volunteer experience on a building project through Habitat for Humanities Global Village Program.
 - During both the Ottawa based and international placement participants will also take part in activities aimed at building their leadership capacity and to provide them with the opportunity to participate in inter-cultural learning and sharing.
 - NYA Program Re-Orientation and Local Re-Orientation

What we hope to achieve:

- Participants will gain exposure to a variety of careers and training opportunities in the Trades
- They will receive training in communication, problemsolving, conflict resolution, team work and other life skills that will help them in being successful no matter what career they choose to pursue.
- Youth will be prepared to ideally feel able to pass a Trades Entrance Exam
- Participants will receive up to 9 high school credits, and more than 300 hours of hands on training and volunteer work experience.
- Through travelling first to Ottawa and then abroad Participants will increase their self-confidence, need to be responsible and resilient, and overcome obstacles such as home-sickness and culture shock



Benefits to the Mining Sector in Nunavut

Program graduates will have:

- A knowledge and skills base that will assist them in making career choices
- Exposure to a number of trades and information on how to access these careers and their training

A toolkit of life skills that will support each Participants ability to be active and valuable contributors in any job



























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Where to find us:

Online at <u>www.nya.ca</u>

(and we have new site being launched soon!)



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