What is the Bridge to Nature program?

At Title I Schools
The Bridge to Nature School day program provides a 3.5-hour nature-based mentoring program for students in 4th grade. One day each month, half of the class heads out during 3.5 hours of class time for hands-on, student-centered learning, relevant real world problem-solving, inquiry, and interaction with the natural world. The other half of the class has the benefit of smaller group concentration.

Teacher Michael Macioce of Adelante Charter school writes, "One reason I believe Adelante is an excellent school is because of our commitment to equity and experiential education especially in STEAM subjects. Wilderness Youth Project helps us to provide a regular, deep connection with the natural world, facilitated by caring guides who support the students’ well being and boost their capacity for learning."

Bridge to Nature School Day Program is Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned and supports English Language Arts and social-emotional learning.

At Community Partners
WYP is building a bridge to nature in the community, identifying partner agencies where we can meet kids who, otherwise, won't have access to the benefits of ongoing mentoring in nature. We meet at community centers in low-income neighborhoods, low-income housing providers, early childhood support centers, and afterschool programs dedicated to supporting marginalized populations. These programs meet weekly throughout the school year, meeting in a small group with 12 students, 2 counselors and 1 volunteer.
Why fully subsidized programs?

Yale Social Ecologist Stephen R. Kellert wrote: “Children’s direct and regular experience of the natural world is an essential, irreplaceable dimension of healthy development.” And yet children today spend an average of 7 minutes or less outdoors. By providing full scholarships to our Bridge to Nature programs for very low income students, we overcome the barriers of cost (and transportation). Providing equitable access to nature is one way we can contribute to closing achievement, access and enrichment gaps in our community.

Kids who come to Wilderness Youth Project...

- Feel Connected To Nature
- Are Physically And Mentally Healthier
- Have Higher Self-Esteem
- Are More Cooperative With Others
- Are Good Problem-Solvers
- Feel More Capable And Confident
- Are More Creative
- Do Better In School
- Have Good Self-Discipline
- Are Tomorrow’s Conservation Leaders

Spending time in nature makes children smarter, healthier and happier.