

# Participating Schools and Organizations:

- Crenshaw High School, Los Angeles
- Harbor City Boys and Girls Club, Los Angeles
- Kingsburg High School, Kingsburg
- Jill Kinmont Boothe School, Bishop
- LeGrande High School, LeGrande
- Reedley High School, Reedley
- Reseda High School, Los Angeles
- Sunnyside High School, Fresno
- Turlock High School, Turlock
- Liberty High School, Bakersfield
- Woodlake High High School, Woodlake
- Muir Trail Girl Scout Council
- The Detroit Metropolitan Community Center



An educational partnership between  
the Yosemite Institute and the  
Sierra Nevada  
Wilderness Education Project



[http://  
wildlink.wilderness.net](http://wildlink.wilderness.net)

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# WildLink

Linking People to the  
Diversity of Wilderness



<http://wildlink.wilderness.net>

# WildLink: A joint venture in diversity outreach between the Yosemite Institute, National Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management



**W**ildLink delivers science, language arts, and history lessons directly to your students via the WildLink website

and brings culturally diverse students from your school to the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada on WildLink expeditions. While on the five-day expeditions, students engage in rigorous academic activities; gathering atmospheric, water or vegetation data and keeping detailed field science journals. The returning expedition students and their data, journals, photographs, and video clips augment your classroom curriculum – making your science, art and history lessons relevant and personal! Live chats with natural resource professionals add interest to classroom curriculum and special web-based projects on the Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada and Chiura Obata's Yosemite flesh out the historical context of wild places from culturally diverse American perspectives.

## The Impact of Wilderness

Wilderness is an unparalleled medium for making the natural world come alive for young adults. Research shows that student immersion in pristine settings is often regarded as one of the best experiences of the student's life and has a major impact

on personal and intellectual development. In addition, the academically rigorous activities



included in the WildLink expedition and the wilderness nature of the expedition itself is shown to improve test scores and affect career interest. Since not all students are able to visit wilderness, the students on the WildLink expeditions serve as ambassadors for their peers in the classroom.

## Myra's Story

Myra, a young Hispanic high school student, has not been in this country for very long. She has struggled in her classes with her thought processes working in Spanish, having to take time to mentally translate what she is trying to learn into English.

Myra's home environment reflects much of our country's immigrant populations in which the parents, not having had the opportunity and benefits of an education, do not see or are unable to communicate the values of it to their children. Myra's father's expectations were for her to get married and have children after completing high school, if not before. At school Myra was told that she should not sign up for any AP courses since the language barrier would make them too difficult for her. The obvious implication being that she wouldn't be going on to higher education. Myra signed up for AP Biology (the hardest course at the school) and AP History.

During Myra's participation in WildLink, her teacher awoke one morning in the backcountry at 3:00 AM to find Myra sitting on a rock doing her homework by the light from the full moon.

Upon returning home from her WildLink experience Myra announced to her father that she would be going to college. She has also made this clear in no uncertain terms to her teachers. She is determined and impassioned, no one and no thing will stand in her way. Myra has become quite outspoken in her beliefs at school as well. Working at a national Mexican fast food chain, where she was promoted to manager, she helps to support herself. She shares her feelings with her class telling them "You don't want to work there, you want to go to university."

To meet more WildLink students, go to our website at

<http://wildlink.wilderness.net>.

