



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's 15th Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development June 22-28, 2019

Our world is in urgent need of new leadership, innovative thinking, and action-oriented people who can work together to effectively build a more sustainable world.

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's mission is to empower young and emerging leaders to create a more sustainable world. For 20 years, The Institute has worked alongside those on the front lines of climate change, social justice and economic equity. From inner cities to rural islands, we've developed eight youth and community leadership initiatives. Founded on Martha's Vineyard in 1997, The Institute develops educational tools, leadership training and provides technical assistance. We've synthesized lessons learned and developed a grassroots model to train local leaders; exchange innovative solutions and build resilient communities.

The cornerstone of the Institute's work is the **Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development**. We've hosted 14 Summits in four locations in two countries from **Vieques, Puerto Rico to Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands to Martha's Vineyard and Bristol, Rhode Island**. We've inspired hundreds of multicultural, underserved youth around the world to become leaders, by taking initiative in their lives, their communities and their world. The weeklong leadership intensive inspire, educate and empower people (ages 15-25) to envision their personal, professional, community and planetary goals and develop unique five-year plans to keep on track.

Sustainability is the touchstone of this weeklong intensive. The Summit begins with **Sustainability Tours**, where youth experience first-hand the fragility of our eco-systems and learn how they can preserve and protect for future generations. Youth delegates representing countries from around the world make presentations on sustainability initiatives in their communities. Summit delegates join in professional workgroups and learn about sustainable jobs and innovative projects. They learn critical thinking and decision-making skills, as well as how to troubleshoot challenges, make engaging presentations and develop strategies to recruit youth and convince local decision makers. Youth envision **Sustainability-In-Actions Projects** that address issues facing their communities. They share their visions and projects on our Summit videos. They leave the Summits empowered. Lightning rods for positive change. Ready to become sustainability representatives of their communities. Their sustainability journeys are just beginning.

Young People Are the Champions Of Sustainability

The Institute's focus on sustainability came about naturally. The Institute's first Summit was held in 2003 on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico with young people who were on the front lines of climate change. Their passion challenged the Institute to become seekers, then pioneers and eventually front-runners in this urgent movement.

***Sustainability is our touchstone --
Building a sustainable future from the ground up.***

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The Institute's Methodology: The Institute's Summit is based on three essential questions for each youth: *What is your dream for your life? What is your dream for your community? What is your dream for your world?* During the Summit, they learn tools and strategies so they can achieve these dreams.

Summit Faculty: The Institute's Train-the-Trainer Youth Empowerment Model features youth graduates from previous Summits. They are invested in passing along Dr. King's legacy of "Each one, teach one" – that creates a powerful multiplier effect. Young people, who are trained, become Emerging Leaders who train other youth. If scaled up, this model has significant long-term impact on marginalized communities around the world, especially to reverse the "brain drain" and inspire a whole new generation.

Nomination Process: Young people are nominated by their communities to serve as Summit delegates. This approach encourages people to look for youth with promise, and encourages them to see youth as a new generation of leaders. The Institute invites outstanding youth from other communities to make presentations.

The Institute's Performance Metrics measures adaptability, communication, critical-thinking, conflict-resolution, teamwork, project management, and problem solving. These essential skills are indicative of success as leaders and of individual's potential for success in life in the 21st century job market.

Youth Led Sustainability-In-Action Projects

- **Mobile Hydroponics Unit:** youth-led Aquaponics and Zero Waste workshops in Hawaii;
- **Puerto Rico's Refugees from Hurricane Maria:** warm clothing drive with video;
- **School Garden Projects** benefitting 100's schools throughout Puerto Rico.
- **Sustainable Vision for 2020 Reports: Vieques, Puerto Rico and Martha's Vineyard**
- **Sustainability is Fun:** connects young and emerging leaders with blue-green jobs and career pathways in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. www.sustainabilityisfun.com
- **Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit APP**
Developed in partnership with youth, educators, business, community and government leaders and Hawaii's Department of Economic Development & Tourism, this online toolkit provides free resources for best practice research based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, learning tools, videos and green jobs to enable everyone to build a sustainable Hawaii. www.sustainablehawaii toolkit.org
- **Sustainable Virtual Field Station: Martha's Vineyard**
Designed as a web-based education and research tool with maps, tools and sites, this is an invaluable resource connecting young people with real-life science applications; increased youth success with local/state Science Fairs; blue-green field trips, internships, and jobs. www.virtualfieldstation.org

The Institute's Training for 21st Century Skills

The Institute's Summit is the foundation for our yearlong youth leadership initiatives that accelerates the development of "21st Century Skills" vital for jobs. The Institute's bi-lingual educational curriculum is based on the book, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. **The Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform** features innovative learning tools, online curriculum, and programs like the **Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day**. Our personalized workforce development trains youth in "soft skills" and real-world situations to be powerful communicators, able to lead and work on teams, adaptable to the demands of various settings, able to problem solve, to think critically about issues, to resolve conflicts and utilize project management skills to get work done. Taking initiative in one's life is especially critical for systematically disenfranchised communities in inner cities, rural areas and in island communities. The Institute is committed to bridging the cultural and economic divide so all people can succeed. With the Institute's guidance, these too often-marginalized youth overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to achieve their goals of graduating from college, landing dream jobs and bettering their communities. The Institute's graduates are now successful entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, doctors and health care professionals, and immigration lawyers. Our goal is to help build a pipeline for the green/blue workforce and a sustainable economy.

Lighting the Way for a Sustainable Tomorrow

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