



Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA)

www.aedamn.org | 422 University Ave W, Ste 14, St. Paul, MN 55103

Asian Youth Citizen Environmental Stewardship

The Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA) aims to launch the **Asian Youth Citizen Environmental Stewardship Initiative**, a culturally responsive outdoor learning and leadership program for Southeast Asian youth (ages 14–18).

This initiative connects underserved youth to nature through environmental education, ancestral storytelling, outdoor recreation, and citizen science projects that promote health and sustainability.

Project activities include:

- Hiring environmental educators with SEA cultural skills and experience and SEA cultural bearers to lead workshops and outdoor activities.
 - Hosting nature-based field trips that include hiking, fishing, camping, kayaking, and water quality testing.
 - Engaging youth in citizen science projects and the creation of multilingual educational materials.
 - Integrating cultural knowledge with modern environmental practices to deepen youth understanding and leadership.
 - Developing a public showcase where participants present findings and advocate for sustainability.
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Expected outcomes:

- **Youth:** Increased knowledge of environmental issues and stewardship, enhanced leadership and communication skills, hands-on experience in outdoor recreation and citizen science, and greater awareness of environmental career pathways.
- **AEDA:** Strengthened youth engagement programming and expanded integration of environmental education into economic development and small business initiatives.
- **Small Businesses:** Access to multilingual sustainability resources and technical assistance to adopt environmentally friendly practices like water conservation, composting, recycling, and reduced or no usage of deicing winter salts.
- **Communities & Neighborhoods:** Improved access to environmental education, stronger intergenerational cultural connections, and increased community engagement in sustainability efforts.
- **Natural Resources** Enhanced local natural resources stewardship through youth-led environmental testing, education, and advocacy, contributing to healthier ecosystems and more sustainable behaviors in immigrant and low-income neighborhoods.