The Environmental Literacy Initiative

**Initiative Overview:**
Vision: School communities and leaders who advocate for and prioritize environmental literacy and sustainability for all students.
Mission: SMCOE equips school communities with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to bring forward an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically thriving existence.

**Environmental Youth Leadership Network (EYLN)**

**Purpose:** Bring together youth leaders (7th-12th grade) from across San Mateo County (SMC) who are interested in making a positive environmental impact in their communities.
- Three yearly summits: fall, winter, and spring
- Each summit features inspirational guest speakers, strategic planning for community impact projects, skill building, and networking opportunities.

**Summit Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2019</td>
<td>30</td>
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**Projects Continued**

**Outreach**
Purpose: Inform all faculty and students in SMC, about the opportunities we have available to them.
- 1,603+ Mailed Letters
- 3,000+ Emails
- 10+ Events/Presentations

**Curriculum Building**
I helped with the development of curriculum for SMCOE's Safe Routes Program. I presented on several of the learning segments and activities I helped to develop.

**Lessons Learned & Fellowship Experience**

**Successful Strategies:**
1. **Outreach to youth:** repetition, pictures/gifs, and youthful language helped
2. **Outreach to adults:** repetition, various outlets, and minimal text helped
3. **Events for youth:** made sure all participants were being included and heard.
4. **Curriculum:** making harder design challenges as simple as possible

**Recommendations for Improvement / Program Expansion:**
- Utilize all outreach outlets (i.e. mail, email, & phone), and develop new tactics to get more people involved with the initiative.
- Strengthen social media presence for youth programs (EYLN)

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I graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Natural Resources Management and Conservation. Before starting my second fellowship term, I worked as a gymnastics and cheerleading coach at Gold Star Gymnastics, and as a Naturist at YMCA Camp Campbell. I enjoy working with youth, and hope to become an environmental educator who directly connects youth to the natural environment through experience-based nature and conservation learning projects. In fall 2019, I will be starting the M.S. Environmental Studies Program at San Jose State University, focusing on Environmental Education.

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**Alycia Ellington**

I want to thank my site supervisors, Andrea Yeghiche, for this wonderful opportunity to learn about the education system and environmental literacy within schools. Thank you to SMCOE and the wonderful staff that embraced me with open arms and kind words. Thank you to all the school staff, district leaders, and community partners I got to work with, and a Big TiJi9901502 to Bailey Hall, for giving me another amazing opportunity to serve as an AmeriCorps Fellow.

**Acknowledgements:**