



1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103



## Dates to Remember...

### WINS I & WINS II

**WINS Night at the Museum** - Friday/Saturday, October 11-12th 6:30pm to 7:00am

**Member's Night** - Friday, October 18th 5:00pm to 9:00pm

**WINS Holiday Party** - Wednesday, December 18th 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### WINS I

**Field Trip! - Hawk Mountain, PA**

Saturday, October 19th 8:00am - 4:00pm

**Field Trip! - Bronx Zoo, NY**

Saturday, November 16th 8:00am-7:00pm

**Field Trip! - American Museum of Natural History, NY**

Saturday, December 7th 8:00am - 7:00pm

### WINS II

**"FASFA and CSS: What are They?" Workshop**

Thursday, October 17th 4:30pm - 6:00pm

**College Tour - Western PA**

Wednesday, November 6th at 4:30pm to Saturday, November 9th at 6:00pm

**"Climate Change in Philadelphia" Workshop**

Thursday, November 21st 4:30pm - 6:00pm

### WINS Newsletter

#### Editors

Betsy Payne  
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#### Contributors

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#### Send your comments or questions to:

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All activities are  
**rain or shine!**

Please let  
Ms. Betsy know  
if you cannot  
make it to an  
activity  
beforehand.



**Women In Natural Sciences (WINS)** is an innovative and successful science enrichment program conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia. Since its founding in 1982, WINS has been providing female public school students with hands-on science classes, scientific literacy and skill-building activities, and opportunities for personal growth in a uniquely nurturing setting.

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# WINS Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2019

## MAYA: Urban Ecology and Climate Change

On August 14 to 17, 2019 the WINS program hosted the Association of Science-Technology Center's (ASTC) *Mid-Atlantic Youth Alive! Youth Summit (MAYA)* at the Academy. This year's theme was "Urban Ecology and Climate Change".

Thirty one high school students and twelve adults participated representing six youth organizations from five states. The groups were: the WINS program; CAUSE, Center for Aquatic Sciences, Camden, NJ; Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, CT; National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD; New England Aquarium, Boston, MA; and EVOLUTION from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, CT.

We focused the summit on local changes to the Mid-Atlantic region, specifically on floods and wetlands, but also on studies of local fauna and flora. While in the Academy we learned about "Urban mammals and what they can teach us" by Ned Gilmore, Collections Manager Vertebrate Zoology; "What's that bug in my fountain?" by Isabelle Bentancourt; curatorial Assistant, Entomology Department; and went on a scavenger hunt in the Academy, led

by Leigh Lightner, School Program Coordinator, looking for organisms that are affected by climate change. For our field section of the summit, we collaborated with the Tookany/Takony-Frankford Watershed Partnership by visiting Tacony Creek Park where we studied macroinvertebrates and water quality, went bird-watching and played a



Michelle Martinez, center with glasses, working with other MAYA participants studying ice cores as part of the Youth Summit.

game about green water infrastructure. Our team building and ice breakers also were designed around the theme: UN Sustainability Goals, floods, and toxic waste issues.

Michelle Martinez, a WINS Senior in Mariana Bracetti Charter School says about her participation and about realizing that funding is no longer available for the summit: "MAYA youth summit 2019 was without a doubt incredible. We had science programs from all over the east coast come and meet at the academy for three days. We explored the effects climate change has on our community and how they differ from theirs. Teens that lived near bodies of water, had different experiences than those that lived in the city. The following days we learned about watersheds and what happens to runoff from the street. We worked together to form ideas that could help our communities with these dilemmas. We made connections with groups of people with different backgrounds and views than we had. MAYA may have had its last year, but it sure was a great way to end things. Hopefully, MAYA will get funding again and teens from all over can experience and explore science."

Thanks to everyone who helped us make the MAYA Youth Summit possible.

Betsy Payne  
WINS Manager



(Above) MAYA participants prioritizing the UN Sustainability Goals as part of an activity where they first had to do it on their own, and later as part of a group. (Right: MAYA participants 2019)



## My DESLA Experience

This summer, through the WINS program, I had the life changing opportunity to attend Drexel Environmental Science Leadership Academy (DESLA) in Lacawac Sanctuary for a week-long environmental field experience. I describe this opportunity as life changing because my experiences there finalized my decision to pursue environmental science as a career.

The scientists were very supportive and enthusiastic about everything that was being taught and I appreciate that because that was translated to an increased interest for me. There were also a lot of first times for me on this trip, such as canoeing at night, navigating through water with a compass, and collecting fish samples by electroshock and seine net. The biggest influence however was the field work because it really changed my perspective on nature. For example, before I would look at a tree and just think about the oxygen it releases instead of the carbon it holds and I never considered the worth of it prior to doing tests and calculations in the woods. Another one was water testing, I would just look at a lake as a body of water but now I think about the different aspects such as turbidity, chlorophyll levels and lake turnover and it all becomes a lively system.

Habibata Sylla collecting organisms from the seine net at Lacawac Sancturay as part of DESLA.

The thing is out there nobody forces you to do anything and pay attention. It was up to me to provide my own motivation and I like that. It's more independent than anything I've done before because it's not in school nor was it with a program with people that I knew already. It really felt like being in the field and I'm grateful I had this opportunity.

Habibata Sylla, WINS II



- July:** 2nd - Aya Mouakkil 7th - Aniyah Lundy 13th - Arianna Alfaro  
24th - Catherine Smith 24th - Alexiyah Rodriguez
- Aug.:** 4th - Kiana Hebrsham 6th - Sanaa Fleet 11th - Donnetta Jordan 5th - Breana Freeman  
18th - Maiya Mangum 19th - Le'Naya White 31st - Diana Escobar
- Sept.:** 1st - Sarah Sabu 7th - Carmen Andrade 14th - Angie Albarouki 22nd - Rachel Barata  
24th - Xiaoya Kang 26th - Ruby Lee 27th - Bianca Mejias-Sosa
- Oct.:** 14th - Autumn Coleman 23rd - Sophia Senh 30th - Charlesity Nelson
- Nov.:** 10th - Habibata Sylla 17th - Joanne Li 23rd - Hannah Sor  
26th - Britney Gil-Jimenez 26th - Stephanie Vegas
- Dec.:** 1st - Allison Laumeister 12th - Sedonia Hamilton  
26th - Laysa Torres-Fernandez 31st - Thuy Le



## A "WINS & ROOTS" Reunion

In 2015 the WINS program of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University and the ROOTS program of the National Museum of Mongolia collaborated in a project called "Cultural Repercussions of Climate Change in Two Communities: A Teenage Viewpoint". Fifteen girls from each museum participated in this year-long partnership. Participation in Museums Connect was made possible by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and was administered by the American Alliance of Museums. One of the goals of the program was to build global connections - below is an update.

My name is Ti'anna Cooper and in 2015 I never knew a bond could form from 6,434 miles away. Over 4 years ago I participated in the WINS & ROOTS program connecting the Academy of Natural sciences with the National Museum of Mongolia. During that time I was paired with a Mongolian student named Ulemj and we grew to know one another over the internet. Our bond grew stronger when we got a chance to meet twice! She was privileged to travel all the way here to Philadelphia to study climate change and have a little sightseeing, and I to Mongolia. We promised each other we would stay in touch and if one of us were to come back we had to see one another again.



WINS & ROOTS alumnae Ti'anna Cooper and Harleen Gonzalez reuniting with Ulemj Baasanjav in Philadelphia in August 2019.

She kept our promise! On June 11, 2019 she had a chance to come to Philadelphia while she studies in Washington, DC. We were so excited to see each other again it was like we never left each other's side. We spent a great deal of our time catching up on the past 4 years; how our lives changed so much since we



Ti'anna Cooper and Harleen Gonzales on left both with glasses, and Ulemj Baasanjav far right front, along with the rest of the WINS & ROOTS group during our travels in Mongolia in July 2015

saw each other last, and so did Philadelphia, so we went into town. As we made our way through love park to see City Hall's new look we realized it was lunchtime and without hesitation Reading Terminal came to our minds. During her first visit we all came for a class, now we went for pleasure. Our visit ended with the pure joy of each other's company, donuts, chocolate chip cookies and a bond growing stronger with time. Forever my friend, forever my sister, forever in my heart.

Ti'anna Cooper, WINS Alumna 2012-2016



WINS & ROOTS participants at the Mandal Camp in Mongolia on July 2015.