



WAVES

7 Tepees Marine Science Internship

With the school board making cuts to every program offered to our city's students, from art classes to summer school, Seven Tepees has worked diligently to fill this gap by ensuring a safe space that focuses on academics, work internships, and creating lasting friendships for our youth.

This past summer, Seven Tepees partnered with the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Bay Institute to develop a new summer program called WAVES, or Watershed Advocacy Via Environmental Studies. Using a hands-on approach to science, 15 high school youth explored local watersheds and learned about plankton through youth-led outreach and stewardship activities.

Two weeks focused on intensive plankton studies where youth visited official research pier facilities to analyze "plankton tows," collect crab pod specimens, and clean aquatic tanks. The next two weeks involved work internships, where youth cared for marine invertebrates and created interactive displays. Backstage tours of the Aquarium of the Bay and the California Academy of Science gave an extra opportunity for youth to connect what they learned in the field, as well as talk to other marine biologists about their experience.

The final segment of the program took place at Six Rivers National Forest, where WAVES participants created community-building games and led tide pool exploration activities for middle school students during Seven Tepees week-long

camping trip. By facilitating the games themselves, students had the chance to share what they've learned from WAVES, in addition to instilling a peer modeling structure promoting leadership and teamwork.

Not only did students learn about the ocean, they also enjoyed building friendships with other youth, as well as leading activities - some, for the first time. With this growing confidence in each other and themselves, students at Seven Tepees have kicked off an amazing new school year!

Programs like this are made possible through donations and grants from people like you, who want a better future for all young people. To learn more and to make a donation, visit our website at www.7tepees.org

"I didn't know anything about the ocean before. Now I know about tide pools and see that they are alive! I understand the ocean very differently now." - Aldair, 8th grader.

