



ABOVE: EPI'S CALIFORNIOS VERDES ECO-CLUB AND EPI MEXICO STAFF & INSTRUCTORS: ONE BIG, HAPPY EPI FAMILY



## NURTURE, NATURE, AND THE EPI PATHWAY

By Carlos Trejos, Education Manager (above, second row, far left)

Since its official beginnings in 2000, Ecology Project International (EPI) has catalyzed growth in our students' environmental literacy and in the impact of on-the-ground conservation work. As we look to the future, we're focused on nurturing youth on a robust educational pathway that guides students from their initial EPI field course into lifelong engagement with conservation.

After their EPI courses, many students join EPI Eco-Clubs and initiate activities like river cleanups, community recycling campaigns, reforestation, fundraising, workshops, and environmental awareness campaigns. Alumni opportunities like these allow for vast personal growth and the development of leadership skills. Mexican student Adriana, for example, honed her leadership skills as a member of our Californios Verdes Eco-Club, by supporting the protection of the local Balandra beach and leading the certification of EPI's Mexico campus as a sustainable "Smart School."

With our mentoring, alumni continue down the EPI path to pursue education or careers that enable them to continue making a difference.

Several EPI alumni from Galapagos are proud officers and naturalists for the Galapagos National Park, where just a few years ago they were eager EPI students collecting data on course. In Costa Rica, Dayana is one of several alumni who later raised funds to travel to the U.S. to participate in our

EPI is helping high schools in La Paz, Mexico become certified "Smart Schools" - campuses that integrate practices like composting and water conservation into their operations.

Yellowstone program - engaging with conservation as global citizens. Dayana also recently became a teacher and brings students to EPI's Costa Rica program, leading them on the pathway to start their own journeys.

Often, the path our students take leads them back to their own communities, where they contribute to local conservation efforts. A river cleanup in Costa Rica organized by our Sebali Eco-Club drew dozens of community members who collected hundreds of pounds

Our students are making a difference as they make their way in the world, and it's tremendously inspiring that many of their journeys began with a single EPI course.

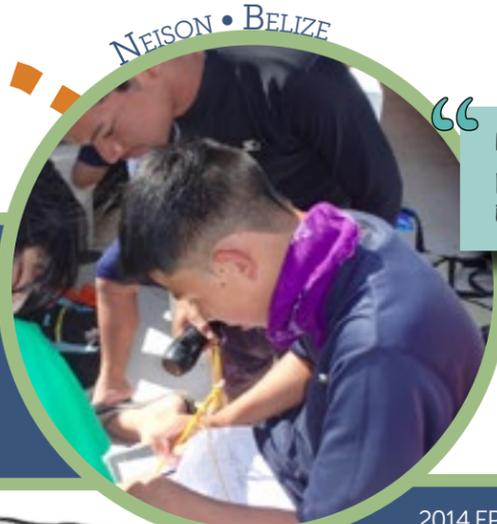
of trash. 2007 EPI alumnus Keylor organizes reforestation campaigns and climate change awareness in urban parks as part of his company's social responsibility program. Our Mola Mola Eco-Club in Galapagos collaborates with local nonprofits and the city council to operate events during environmental holidays. They manage recycling, eco-rallies, and public awareness campaigns.

Stories like this multiply each year as more youth head outside to learn with EPI and join our 20,000+ alumni network. We are proud of our students and the paths they pursue with enthusiasm and respect for the natural world. As these teens determine the mark they will make on the world, we are honored to play a part in nurturing them on their journeys. 🌍

# CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF Conservation Leaders

"EPI's courses are like a handrail, giving youth support and guidance to take an active role in conservation. Here are real-life stories about the leadership journey of just a few of our 20,000+ alumni." ~ Scott Pankratz, Executive Director

Begin Your Conservation Journey Here!



NEISON • BELIZE

My course experience changed my perspective about life and about the impacts people have on nature.

On course and immersed in nature, Neison learned first-hand about the critical issues facing the local ecosystem and now feels more motivated to protect marine life in the Mesoamerican Reef.

More field work, hands-on research, & inspiration - this way!



JORDAN • YELLOWSTONE

Three time alumnus Jordan joined a Yellowstone summer course in 2013, our pilot winter course in 2015, and our Bitterroot Wildlife Internship program this summer. Once a self-described uninspired student, he's now in college continuing his education in and outside of the classroom.

I like knowing that I'm in a group of people who have the same interests and who never tire of fighting to see change in our country.

2014 EPI Leadership Award winner Valeria created a conservation organization to promote environmental stewardship through education, science, and technology. Valeria was awarded \$250 for start-up supplies.



VALERIA • COSTA RICA

Congrats! You're an EPI alum - part of a network 20,000 strong & growing!



YOSELYN • COSTA RICA

EPI Eco-Clubs lead community-based conservation projects throughout the year. EPI Costa Rica alum Yoselyn helped plant trees in Vargas Park in Limón.



WALTER • GALAPAGOS



Contribute to our Collegiate Scholarship Fund to help empower alumni like Walter. Contact Ann Quirk: [Ann@ecologyproject.org](mailto:Ann@ecologyproject.org)

From our Galapagos Program to our Mola Mola Eco-Club, and now to studying Marine Biology in college, Walter wants his conservation journey to last a lifetime. Through the generosity of EPI donors, Walter received the first EPI Collegiate Scholarship to help him pursue his dream of becoming the future director of the Galapagos National Park.



OLIVIA • MEXICO

From Student to Educator: Return to the field!

After two EPI Mexico courses and obtaining a Marine Biology degree, Olivia returned to EPI as an instructor in Mexico and Yellowstone.

Move Ahead! New worlds await after college!



BECKY • U.S.

Inspired by her EPI course, Becky started "My Climate Story," a website where people worldwide can share stories of how their lives have been impacted by climate change.

After her EPI Mexico course, Laura studied at the Teton Science School, then spent a summer interning for EPI's Yellowstone Program. Now she is studying environmental law so she can help catalyze long-term changes in her country's environmental policies.



LAURA • MEXICO

Conservation is about taking care of what we have and what we are about to lose. It's about being less selfish with what has been given to us.

15 A Healthy Planet - Just Ahead!



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Ecology Project International improves and inspires science education and conservation efforts worldwide through field-based student-scientist partnerships.



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### Adopt a Hatchling

Looking for the perfect "green" gift for the conservation lover in your life? Adopt a Hatchling with EPI, and you'll get our new Turtle Defender Booklet, an adoption certificate, turtle photos, & more!

To Adopt a Hatchling Visit:  
[www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org)

## CELEBRATE 15 YEARS WITH US!

### EPI's 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER & AUCTION SAN FRANCISCO, CA

**Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Join us for a festive evening in celebration of 15 years of conservation, education, and youth empowerment.

### BIOCIENCIA FESTIVAL IN LIMON, COSTA RICA

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Celebrate EPI's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary where it all began! Come and be inspired by the contribution Costa Rican teens are making to conservation.

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