

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: Upper Delaware
Preservation Coalition for the
Delaware River Sojourn
www.delawareriversojourn.com

2018 Delaware River Sojourn - Youth Scholarships

SUMMARY

In 2018, the Delaware River Sojourn continued its focus on engaging youth organizations in the Lehigh Valley by expanding our scholarships for youth participation. The Delaware River Sojourn hosted 8 days of paddling in 2018, providing scholarships to 65 youth and 13 leaders made possible thanks to the funding provided by the Lehigh Valley Greenways program. In 2018, the Sojourn celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic River Act, expanded partnerships with more agencies and non-profit organizations, and notably welcomed PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn to join us on the river and for remarks for a new trail system opened in Upper Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania.

2018 Sojourners at Foul Rift Rapid



CHALLENGE

Engaging the next generation of paddlers, river enthusiasts, and conservationists in the Lehigh Valley is the challenge that the Sojourn sought to address. For the past three years, the sojourn has offered scholarships to youth participants and their leader(s). The assistance of the Lehigh Valley Greenways mini-grant has allowed the Delaware River Sojourn to focus outreach efforts in the Lehigh Valley and to engage a broader audience of youth groups and participants. The Sojourn continues to partner with PA DCNR's environmental education arm; Lehigh Gap Nature Center; and with the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, all of whom can help grow our youth program in 2019 and beyond. Our outreach efforts are led by a small volunteer group and our financial support is limited. We look forward to continuing to offer and support our Youth Paddling Program and scholarships moving forward.

FUNDING

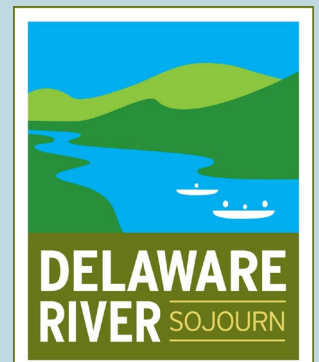
Grant Award:
\$2,250.00

Match:
\$27,647

Total Project Cost:
\$29,897

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Delaware River Greenway Partnership; National Park Service; PA DCNR, State Parks; D&L National Heritage Corridor; Brodhead Watershed Association; Delaware Highlands Conservancy; Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association; Delaware River Basin Commission; Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed; Friends of the Delaware Water Gap NRA



SOLUTION

The Delaware River Sojourn hosted eight days of programming in 2018, offering youth scholarships not to exceed twelve youth group participants each day. The opportunity to provide scholarships to these twelve youth and their chaperones has allowed the Delaware River Sojourn to meaningfully engage our next generation of river paddlers and conservation minded community members.

In 2019, the Sojourn will continue to build on its youth scholarship program and is already coordinating closely with partners across the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

RESULTS

Our 2018 participant survey included a question about youth participants on the river, responses included:

- “I thought having the young folks was a great idea.”
- “Loved seeing the kids on the water. The Girl Scouts were fantastic and well behaved.”
- “I think it’s great, they gave me inspiration and it really helps their confidence. They were fun.”
- “I think it’s great to have more young people on the trip. Young people need to be exposed to these experiences so they value these natural resources and hopefully become regular paddlers themselves one day.”

In 2018, school/youth groups included:

- Girl Scout Troup 50968
- Roberto Clemente School
- Sullivan West School
- Stroudsburg Area High School
- Milford Scout Troop 71
- Bordentown Regional Middle and High School
- Mercer County Nature Center

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

Claire Sadler, Dir. Trails & Conservation

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage
Corridor

2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
Easton, PA 18042

610-923-3548 ext. 226

Claire@delawareandlehigh.org

www.delawareandlehigh.org

Diane Kripas, Division Chief

PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and
Conservation

717-772-1282

dkripas@pa.gov

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov>

