



# Washington Trails Association

## Mission

To preserve, enhance, and promote hiking opportunities in Washington state through collaboration, education, advocacy and volunteer trail maintenance.



## **Outdoor Leadership Training Program**

**To help connect the next generation to the outdoors by supporting schools and community organizations that want to provide youth with outdoor experiences.**



## **Framework for Trip Planning**

**What are the goals for my outing? Then, what's the least complex outdoor activity and venue that's going to allow the group to meet those goals?**



# Framework for Risk Management

What could harm my group on this outing? More, what am I going to do about it? And at the end of the day, do we celebrate mitigation as much as any other measure?



## Challenges

- Engaging our target audience, especially teachers
- Control over outings led by trip leaders
- Risk management and liability



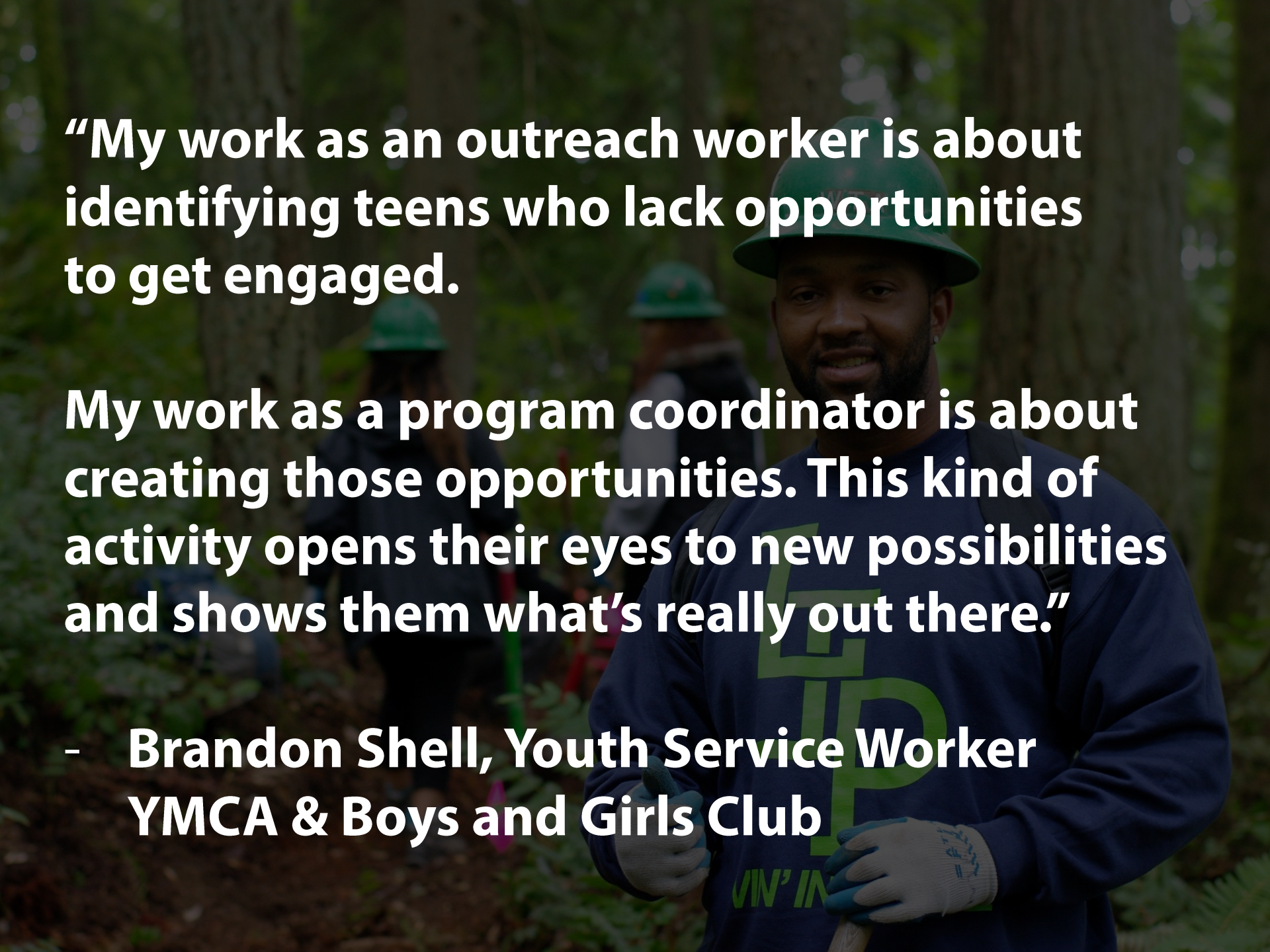
## 2015 Successes

- Trained 70+ leaders and supported
- Supported over 50+ outings with 1,000+ participants
- Hired a part-time program assistant

**Many students had never seen the Pacific Ocean and enjoyed looking for starfish and crabs. Most of the group had never been backpacking and they loved it.**

**Students were glowing about the trip saying,  
"This is the best trip I've ever been on"  
"I wish I learned this much in school"  
"Can we just stay one more day?"**

**- Sara, Environmental Science Teacher  
Highline High School**



**“My work as an outreach worker is about identifying teens who lack opportunities to get engaged.**

**My work as a program coordinator is about creating those opportunities. This kind of activity opens their eyes to new possibilities and shows them what’s really out there.”**

**- Brandon Shell, Youth Service Worker  
YMCA & Boys and Girls Club**





JOEL MANDOLINA

## THE WILD IS CALLING



Going for a hike is something many of us take for granted, but it's not so easy for young people lacking resources and encouragement. The Washington Trails Association's Outdoor Leadership Training program aims to change that. Coordinator Andrew Pringle (center) helps teachers and volunteers lead hikes and camping expeditions, but the association's best idea is the gear library, a Seattle storefront with enough equipment to outfit a class of 30. Borrowing from the library is free—the trip's leader just has to complete one of Pringle's workshops first. [wta.org](http://wta.org).



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## Connect

WEBSITE: [wta.org/olt](http://wta.org/olt)

TWITTER: [@wta\\_hikers](https://twitter.com/wta_hikers)

INSTAGRAM: [@washingtontrails](https://www.instagram.com/washingtontrails)

FACEBOOK: [/washingtontrails](https://www.facebook.com/washingtontrails)

FB GROUP: [/groups/wtaolt](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wtaolt)

## Contact

Andrew Pringle

Program Coordinator

[andrew@wta.org](mailto:andrew@wta.org)