



Each workshop has maximum 6 youth with two adult mentors.

Currently Outdoor Empowerment provides mini-workshops that are 2 to 4 hours and day long workshop that are 8 hours long.

Outdoor Empowerment a nonprofit agency established in 2005, became a project of **Save the Kids** organization in 2009. OE is dedicated to providing inclusive alternatives to violence, group-building, environmental awareness, and empowerment skills in an outdoor setting for urban youth no matter their ability in New York. OE takes adventure outings one step further and focuses on the process of the 3 Es – experience, education, and environment during our outings/workshops. The foundation of OE's mission and its activities is rooted in five educational approaches:

- 1) **Ecopedagogy**, rooted in the work of Paulo Freire, brings environmental and ecological education and peace and social justice together.
- 2) **Eco-Ability**, rooted in the field of inclusion and disability studies, believes everyone and everything is different and should be respect for their unique abilities.
- 3) **Outdoor Recreation** rooted in developing skills in climbing, boating, hiking, swimming, and more.
- 4) **Environmental Justice**, rooted in green criminology addresses issue of ecological destruction and crimes.

Save the Kids (STK) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009 dedicated to reintegrate youth from incarceration to their community in New York state.

STK is a nonprofit organizations based in Syracuse, New York. STK is a full-volunteer collaborative organization that provides youth empowerment, leadership, group-building, nonviolence, mentoring, and reintegration based programs for youth ages of **10 to 16 years** old in New York.

STK is one of the first mentor based youth re-entry programs in the US. STK located at Hillbrook Youth Detention Center, collaborates with SUNY Cortland, Center for Community Alternatives, Syracuse University, Le Moyne College, Onondaga Community College, American Friends Service Community, GEAR Up, and many other organizations and agencies in-order to achieve our goals. We are always looking to work with more agencies, nonprofits, and scholars.



Save the Kids

c/o Outdoor Empowerment

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Save the Kids server youth 10 to 16 years old in New York.

*Bridging the Gap
Between Inner
City and Outer
Limits*



EcoPedagogy. EcoAbility. EcoSkills. EcoJustice.

OUTDOOR EMPOWERMENT IS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSION, LIFE SKILLS, AND ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS.

Outdoor Empowerment is always looking for free personal and corporate gear, equipment, and donations.

5Ss of Outdoor Empowerment

- Safety
- Simplicity
- Sustainability
- Service
- Social Justice

Empowerment Program

The Empowerment Program provides the essential workshops and skills necessary for strengthening group dynamics and sharing knowledge. Empowerment is based on uplifting the talents and knowledge of all members in the group to a respectful and equal level. This program will encourage participants to become dependent on one another in order to achieve goals set during the weekend. This program is suggested to groups that have not worked on projects prior and those that have difficulty in delegating different tasks to members of an existing group.

Conflict Transformation

Based out of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP) from AFSC model, which started in Greenhaven prison, in New York in 1971 by prisoners and Quakers, this program is directed to people wanting to develop skills needed to handle conflict in a more constructive and empowering manner. Unlike conflict management, which merely strives to control conflict, or conflict resolution, which strives to establish an agreement, conflict transformation transcends goals, interests, and intention in hopes to create a new ending and beginning for all involved in the conflict.

Nonviolence Program

This program is directed to street-line peacemakers and nonviolent activists wanting to expand their repertoire of skills for positive social change. Participants will learn a wide range of tactics that can be used in the struggle for social justice. This program will be provided by highly experienced and knowledgeable people with a vast amount of activist and peacemaking experience. While we would like to provide such skills for free, we believe that activists should take their education seriously and provide an economic investment and interest in it.

Leadership Program

Unlike empowerment, which stresses group dynamics and interdependence, the leadership program focuses on individual roles and responsibilities. Participants will all be charged with leadership roles in some aspect of the trip. This program is suggested for groups and individuals who already possess well-rounded bases of knowledge and want to develop the people skills necessary to successfully lead their own groups.



Wilderness Program

It is incredibly easy to spot areas where humans have been. Their wake of destruction is quite plain to see. But this need not be the case. Leaving as small a footprint as possible is the name of the game in this program. Participants will learn techniques such as building shelters, mapping, compass skills, first aid, and making fires. It is our hope that by the end of the trip, all will have developed an admiration and respect for the environment that goes beyond the simple “how to” and the “why” of low-impact techniques.

Problem-Solving Program

With all well-rounded educational organizations and institutions, there exists a program that provides education on the process of solving simple and complex problems, from daily chores to negotiating one's responsibilities at work. Unlike conflict transformation, which is among people and/or groups, problem-solving is based on one individual's relationship to a situation and/or process. Therefore, in this program we stress being creative and using one's emotions and intelligence in order to have a positive outcome. What better place to be creative and take on personal challenges than the outdoors, with natural obstacles from cooking a meal to climbing a mountain?

We provide all the basic camping gear, technical equipment, and workshop supplies for our participants to use during our outings and workshops. What makes Outdoor Empowerment so unique is that we offer all of our programs absolutely FREE OF CHARGE to participants!

We will pick you up from your home!

Parents or Guardians must complete application, liability release, permission, and medical release forms.

OE's Uniqueness: There are three distinct characteristics that make us unique from the rest of the outdoor educational organizations.

1. Our instructors have a commitment to social justice and empowerment for our participants.
2. Our instructors have a formal environmental and conflict studies education background.
3. Our instructors all are highly skilled outdoors-people.