TRY stands for Teens Reaching Youth and is an environmental leadership opportunity for students in grades 7-12. It is an environmental education program taught by teens and designed to increase environmental literacy and responsibility in younger youth. TRY for the Environment includes five program areas to connect young people to real-world environmental problems allowing them to be key change agents contributing to real-world solutions.

The Teens Reaching Youth program has allowed our students to become experts on energy and sustainability issues. It has enabled them to become agents of change through education.” - Don Taylor, Main Street Middle School teacher

The TRY program consists of five program content areas:

- **Energy FUNdamentals** highlights wind and sun energy engineering. Grades K-3
- **Climate Change Through Waste Solutions** focuses on the 4Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Grades K-3
- **Food Systems** explores the food system and the need to protect our soil, seeds, pollinators and climate. Grades 2-4
- **Forests & Trees** investigates the basic concepts of forest & tree stewardship. Grades 2-4
- **TRY 4-H2O** examines the water cycle, watersheds, water quality and health, and aquatic life. Grades 2-4

TRY Details….

- TRY lessons are taught by TRY teams consisting of 2-4 teen teachers and an adult mentor who are trained to teach specific lessons to younger students.
- TRY teams teach their program lessons to 2 different groups of at least 15 youth. Teams choose who they teach, and where and when they teach. In-school classes, afterschool programs, vacation camps, youth groups, libraries, etc. are all options! This allows a lot of flexibility in where & when you teach. Overall you can expect to spend 12 hours teaching plus another 15 hours on program logistics, preparation and evaluation.
- All teaching must be finished by May 25, 2018.
- Everything you need to be successful will be given to you, including training, teaching materials and ongoing support.

Who can be a TRY team member?

- Any student in grades 7-12 who has an interest in learning and teaching about environmental issues can be a TRY team member. It’s even okay if you don’t have any knowledge of the issues or know how to teach. We will train you!
- Your team must be able to complete all program expectations. See the Position Descriptions for more information.
- Teams must apply to the program and be selected; see reverse side for details.

You will need a TRY adult mentor. Some ideas of people to ask: Teacher, parent, afterschool instructor, community member, college student (21+ years old), 4-H or Scout leader, or any caring adult who wants to mentor your team!

For more information on how to apply, see page 2.
TRY for the Environment

YES! I want to be a TRY team member.

Getting your TRY team started is easy:

1. Read the Position Descriptions and decide that you want to be a TRY Teen Teacher or Adult Mentor.
2. Organize a team of 2-4 teens. All members must be in grades 7-12. (You do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to apply.)
3. Ask an adult to be your team mentor, or we can help find a mentor for your team.
4. Each member of your team and your adult mentor must submit an application by November 8, 2017.

Go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth to download the application packet.

All trainings will take place at the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (738 Route 15 West, Hyde Park) from 8:30 am—4:00 pm. You will need permission to miss school and you must stay for the entire training. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

For more information contact:
Lauren Traister
4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator
Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu
1-866-260-5603 x402

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 1-866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2017 so we may assist you.

TRY Program Partners:
Position Title: TRY Teen Teacher

Purpose: To give teens the opportunity to practice and improve their transferable skills by teaching elementary students about critical environmental issues facing Vermonters.

Time Commitment:
- 6 month commitment which includes: a full-day training (8 hours), approximately 15 hours of program logistics, preparation and evaluation, and 12 hours of program delivery.

Responsibilities:
- Attend a one-day training for your program area (see information flyer for specific dates & location).
- Work with your TRY team to identify youth to teach and schedule your lessons. You will teach two different groups of at least 15 youth the full 6 lesson program.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Be prepared to meet all deadlines and expectations.
- Prepare and practice your lessons before teaching. Meet regularly with your TRY Team and Mentor.
- Complete the TRY Reflection Questions within one week of the end of each program.
- Complete the TRY Classroom Data Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Complete the TRY Assessment Tally Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Be a positive role model to your students.
- Keep track of all TRY activity supplies.

Qualifications and Skills Required:
- Be in grades 7-12 with a strong interest in learning and teaching about environmental issues.
- Motivation and desire to take a leadership role in your school/community.
- Strong commitment to responsibility of being a TRY Teen Teacher.
- Must be organized, a team player, a strong communicator, and willing to learn new things.

Benefits:
- Develop transferable skills, including leadership, communication, teamwork, problem solving, and others.
- Become a valuable team player in the Vermont environmental community.
- Build your resumé for work, scholarships, and college applications.
- Make a difference by educating younger youth on these important topics.

Resources Provided:
- Training and ongoing support from TRY Coordinator and partner organizations.
- All activity supplies needed to teach lessons.
- TRY t-shirt to wear when teaching.
Position Title: TRY Adult Mentor

Purpose: To help TRY Teen Teachers achieve success by offering guidance, support and assistance.

Time Commitment:
- 6 month commitment which includes: TRY Mentor webinar (30 minutes), a full-day training (8 hours), approximately 15 hours of program logistics, preparation and evaluation, and 12 hours of program delivery. (Hours may vary depending on your team needs.)

Responsibilities:
- Participate in a TRY Mentor Webinar. (See application for dates & times).
- Attend the one-day training for your program area with your TRY team. (See flyer for dates & location).
- Assist your TRY team with identifying places to teach and getting lessons scheduled.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Communicate regularly in person with your TRY team.
- Guide your TRY team to meet all TRY program deadlines and expectations.
- Help your TRY team prepare and practice the lessons before teaching.
- Attend at least two TRY lessons to observe and evaluate teen teachers. (You may need to attend more lessons depending on your TRY team.)
- Complete a TRY Mentor Survey at the end of the program.
- Ensure that your TRY team completes required data sheets and evaluations.
- Assist your TRY team in keeping track of all TRY activity supplies.
- Be a positive role model to your TRY team.

Qualifications and Skills Required:
- Age 21 or older with a strong interest in working with teens.
- Be able to help teens prepare lessons, gain skills, stay organized and meet program expectations.
- Must be organized, a team player, a strong communicator, and willing to learn new things.
- Background check required unless currently approved to work with youth.

Benefits:
- Become a valuable team player in the Vermont environmental and educational community.
- Help teens develop transferable skills and see the growth in their learning.
- Support the TRY program and help continue its success.

Resources Provided:
- Training and ongoing support from TRY Coordinator and partner organizations.
- All activity supplies needed to teach lessons.
- TRY t-shirt to wear when teaching.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.
Teen Application 2017-2018

** Due no later than November 8, 2017 **

Which program area is your team applying? We try to match everyone with their first choice but this is not always possible. Please rank 1-5, with 1 being your first choice and 5 being your last. Only rank those that you are willing to teach.

___ Energy FUNdamentals ___Climate Change / Waste Solutions ___Food Systems ___Forests & Trees ___ TRY 4-H₂O

Name______________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address__________________________________________________________________________________

City______________________________________   State_____ Zip_____________________

Email_______________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone_____________________________________   Cell Phone_____________________________________

Do you text? (Circle one)  Yes   No                                    Grade (Circle one)   7     8      9    10    11    12

School (full name, no abbreviations):_____________________________________________________________

Date of Birth________________________          T-shirt Size (Circle one)   Adult SM   MED   LG   XL   XXL

List other TRY team members: (1)________________________________________________________________

(2)___________________________________________ (3)___________________________________________

TRY team adult advisor:________________________________________________________________________

(Write “HELP” if you need help finding a advisor.)

< Turn Page Over for More of the Application >
On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be involved in TRY for the Environment?
2. TRY for the Environment requires team members to make a commitment to teaching the program. Describe a time when you had to make a commitment and how you honored that commitment.
3. TRY requires you to learn your program’s curriculum, teach lessons, take initiative, and be a positive role model. Tell us about a time when you had to learn something new, teach others, take initiative or be a role model.
4. Why should we pick your team be one of the TRY teams?

Check Here: ☐ I have included a letter from my school indicating that they are aware that I will need to miss school on either November 28, 2017 Energy FUNdamentals; December 7, 2017 Climate Change/Waste Solutions; December 12, 2017 Food Systems; December 15, 2017 Forests & Trees; January 16, 2018 TRY 4-H2O or the scheduled snowdate.

Check Here: ☐ I understand that the TRY training runs from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and that I must stay for the entire training.

Check Here: ☐ My parents understand that I will miss a full-day of school for the TRY training as well as I may miss some class time if my TRY team decides to teach our lessons during the school day. Options for teaching your lessons include in-school classrooms, afterschool programs, youth groups, vacation camps, library programs, and more.

Check Here: ☐ Both my parents and I have read the TRY Teen Teacher Position Description and understand the commitment I am making if chosen for the TRY program.

I have discussed the responsibilities of TRY with my parents and am prepared to fulfill all of the commitments.

Your Signature___________________________________________________________ Date____________________

Parent/Guardian Signature________________________________________________ Date____________________

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2017.

RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:
UVM Extension
attn: TRY for the Environment
29 Sunset Drive #2
Morrisville, VT 05661

or scan your documents and email to Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu
Adult Mentor Application 2017-2018
** Due no later than November 8, 2017 **

Which program area is your team applying? We try to match everyone with their first choice but this is not always possible. Please rank 1-5, with 1 being your first choice and 5 being your last. Only rank those that you are willing to teach.

___ Energy FUNdamentals ___Climate Change / Waste Solutions ___Food Systems ___Forests & Trees ___ TRY 4-H2O

Name__________________________________________________________

Mailing Address_________________________________________________

City___________________________________________________________   State_____ Zip_______________

Email__________________________________________________________

Home Phone_____________________________________   Cell Phone_______________________________

Do you text? (Circle one)  Yes   No                           T-shirt Size (Circle one)   Adult SM   MED   LG   XL   XXL

List other TRY team members: (1)____________________________________(2)____________________________________
   (3)____________________________________(4)____________________________________

What is your occupation?_________________________________________

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:
   1. Why do you want to be a mentor for a TRY team?

< Turn Page Over for More of the Application >
Do you currently work in a school or have you completed a background check to work/run programs in a school? (Circle one) Yes  No

**Check One:**
- ☐ I have included a letter from my school or school district indicating that I have completed a background check to work with youth.
- ☐ I do not currently have clearance to work with youth and am submitting the 4-H Volunteer Application so that I may work with a TRY Team.

**Check Here:** ☐ I understand that I need to attend a TRY Adult Mentor Webinar and I plan to attend:

(circle one)  Nov 15, 7:00-7:30 pm  Nov 30, 3:00-3:30 pm  Dec 4, 7:00-7:30 pm  Dec 5, 4:00-4:30 pm

**Check Here:** ☐ I am aware that I will need to attend the one-day TRY for the Environment training for my chosen program area with my team on either November 28, 2017 Energy FUNdamental; December 7, 2017 Climate Change/Waste Solutions; December 12, 2017 Food Systems; December 15, 2017 Forests & Trees; January 16, 2018 TRY 4-H₂O or the scheduled snowdate.

**Check Here:** ☐ I have read the TRY Adult Mentor Position Description and understand the commitment I am making if chosen for the TRY program.

Your Signature_________________________________________ Date______________

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2017.

**RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:**
UVM Extension
attn: TRY for the Environment
29 Sunset Drive #2
Morrisville, VT 05661

or scan your documents and email to
Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu