



TRY for the Environment



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

TRY consists of five program content areas. You decide which program you want to teach! (More on back.)

→ Each content area consists of 6 different one-hour lessons that are fun, hands-on, and easy to teach!



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 need to protect our soil, seeds, pollinators and climate. Grades 2-4

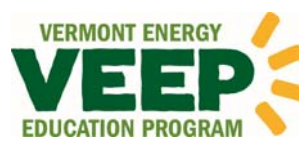


Forests & Trees investigates the basic concepts of forest & tree stewardship. Grades 2-4



4-H₂O examines the water cycle, watersheds, water quality and health, and aquatic life. Grades 3-4.

These programs are offered in partnership with the following organizations:



www.uvm.edu/extension/youth



TRY for the Environment



YES! I want to be a TRY teen teacher.

Getting your TRY team started is easy:

1. Read the [Position Description](#) and decide that you want to be a TRY Teen Teacher.
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. Make sure they read the Adult Mentor Position Description.
4. Each member of your team and your adult mentor must submit an application by **November 9, 2018**.
5. If accepted, your team must be able to attend a training as scheduled below.

	Energy FUNdamentals	TRY 4-H ₂ O	Forests & Trees	Climate Change / Waste Solutions	Food Systems
Training Date (snowdate)	Nov. 29, 2018 (Dec. 7 or 14, 2018)	Dec. 4, 2018 (Dec. 5 or 7, 2018)	Dec. 6, 2018 (Dec. 7 or 14, 2018)	Dec. 11, 2018 (Dec. 14 or 18, 2018)	Dec. 13, 2018 (Dec. 14 or 18, 2018)

Go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements 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 9, 2018 so we may assist you.



www.uvm.edu/extension/youth

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Position Description: TRY Teen Teacher

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

Time Commitment:

- Up to a 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 the full-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 the full 6-lesson program to two different groups of at least 15 youth.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Attend at least one Zoom “office hours” check-in session with the TRY Coordinator.
- Meet all deadlines and expectations.
- Meet regularly with your TRY Team and Mentor to prepare and practice lessons before teaching.
- Complete the Teaching Notification Form for each group at least 2 weeks prior to start date. (One per team)
- Complete the Participant Assessment Tally Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Complete the TRY Volunteer Hours Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Complete the TRY Reflection Questions at the end of the program. (One to be completed by each team member.)
- Be a positive role model to your students.
- Keep track of all TRY activity supplies. Make sure your teaching kit is organized and packed neatly before return.
- All teaching must be finished by May 24, 2019.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Be in grades 7-12 with a strong interest in learning and teaching about environmental issues. It’s even okay if you don’t have any knowledge of the issues or know how to teach. We will train you!
- Motivation and desire to take a leadership role in your school/community.
- Strong commitment to the 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 and educational 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.
- Certificate of Completion for your Personalized Learning Plan.

Position Description: TRY Adult Mentor

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

Time Commitment:

- Up to 6 month commitment which includes: TRY Mentor webinar (1 hour), a full-day training (8 hours), approximately 15 hours of program logistics, preparation and evaluation, and up to 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 and assist your TRY team in meeting all TRY program deadlines and expectations.
- Help your TRY team practice each lesson 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.
- Make sure that your TRY team completes required TRY Forms on time.
- Assist your TRY team in keeping track of all activity supplies and organizing their teaching kit before returning.
- 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.

Teen Application 2018-2019

**** Due no later than November 9, 2018 ****

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

___ Energy FUNdamentals ___ Climate Change / Waste Solutions ___ Food Systems ___ Forests & Trees ___ TRY 4-H₂O

Name _____ Gender _____

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

Race (*please check*) ___ White ___ Black ___ American Indian ___ Asian ___ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

___ Decline to Answer Other/Explain: _____

Ethnic Background (*please check*) ___ Non Hispanic ___ Hispanic ___ Decline to Answer

List other TRY team members: (1) _____

(2) _____ (3) _____

TRY team adult 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 a teen teacher for TRY for the Environment?
2. TRY requires team members to make a significant commitment to 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 and/or be a role model.
4. What skills do you possess that will help you and your team be successful?

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 29, 2018 Energy FUNdamentals; December 4, 2018 TRY 4-H₂O; December 6, 2018 Forests & Trees; December 11, 2018 Climate Change/Waste Solutions; December 13, 2018 Food Systems or the scheduled snow dates.

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

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

Check Here: ☐ My parents/legal guardian give permission that the University of Vermont Extension 4-H Program may use my image in print, electronic, and/or video format for publishing in promotional material. They release all claims against the University with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to the use of the materials.

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 9, 2018.

RETURN YOUR APPLICATION NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 9th 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 2018-2019

**** Due no later than November 9, 2018 ****

Please rank 1-5, with 1 being your first choice and 5 being your last. We try to match everyone with their first choice but this is not always possible. 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) Jan 7, 4:00-5:00 pm Jan 8, 7:30-8:30 pm Jan 9, 7:00-8:00 pm Jan 10, 3:30-4:30 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 29, 2018 Energy FUNdamental; December 4, 2018 TRY 4-H₂O; December 6, 2018 Forests & Trees; December 11, 2018 Climate Change/Waste Solutions; December 13, 2018 Food Systems or the scheduled snow dates.

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 9, 2018.

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