

Trails Youth Initiatives encourages people to get outside and support vulnerable youth

More than 20 teams have raised \$50,000 for the Get Outside Challenge

TORONTO, May 5, 2021 - Trails Youth Initiatives (Trails), a Toronto outdoor educational charity, is encouraging Canadians to embrace the outdoors and have fun this spring, all in support of vulnerable Toronto youth who are part of the Trails program. The Get Outside Challenge is a virtual fundraising event taking place from May 8 to 16, asking families and chosen teams to spend at least eight hours outside and raise needed funds.

Trails challenges, equips and empowers vulnerable youth from high-risk neighbourhoods in Toronto to become contributing members of their communities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person programming was permitted, Trails provided outdoor-only activities for their participants – both at the Trails Lakeside property and in Toronto’s urban wild parks. Participants played games, ate meals and snacks, participated in educational programming...all outside. Their resilience inspired Trails’ first-ever virtual fundraising event which celebrates all that can be accomplished when you spend time outdoors.

Participants in the Get Outside Challenge are encouraged to make the most of their time outside and document their journey. Hiking, walking, playing a sport, doing a scavenger hunt, going for a bike ride or getting their garden ready for spring - all activities are counted during the Get Outside Challenge. The aim is simply to spend the time outside, celebrate the outdoors, and connect with family.

There is still time to [register and participate in the Get Outside Challenge](#). The event will kick off with an online Opening Ceremony on Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. and teams have 9 days to log their hours on the Get Outside Challenge website. In addition, the charity is hosting an [online auction](#) for the duration of the event with incredible experiences and items up for bid.

To learn more about the program and see how Trails participants are making the most of this summer, please follow @TrailsYouth on Instagram. More information, including how to donate, can be found at www.trails.ca.

About Trails Youth Initiatives

Trails Youth Initiatives has a mission to challenge and equip vulnerable youth from at-risk areas of Toronto to become contributing members of the community. The “Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life” program represents experiential education at its best. In our long-term, consistent and preventative program, youth are building confidence and enhancing their well-being by facing and overcoming challenges. Through outdoor skills development, high school credits, bursaries, mentorship and job opportunities, Trails is helping to break the cycle of poverty and systemic racism. 100% of Trails participants graduate from high school and 72% of alumni enter post-secondary school, with tuition costs covered by Trails. Trails relies on the generosity of non-government donations from companies, foundations and individuals to provide life-changing experiences for its participants. www.trails.ca.

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