

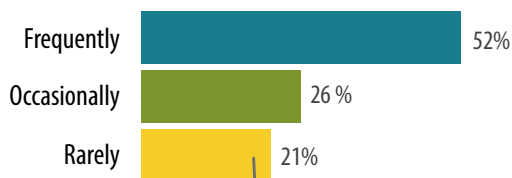
SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH NATURE SURVEY

Findings of a survey conducted February - April 2019 by San Francisco Children & Nature work group members to: 1) establish a snapshot of youth's nature connection in San Francisco (referred to as youth nature connection throughout this document), 2) create space for youth to share their narratives 3) better understand barriers and opportunities, and 4) influence key policy and decision makers.

626 YOUTH SURVEY RESPONSES

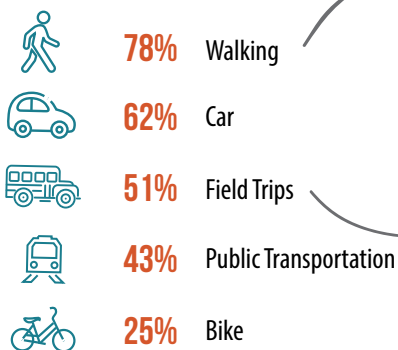
Collected mostly from SF Unified School District Middle and High School classes, as well as youth from a variety of SF Children & Nature partner organizations and independent schools

HOW OFTEN ARE YOU IN NATURE?



1 OUT OF 5
Youth rarely visit nature

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

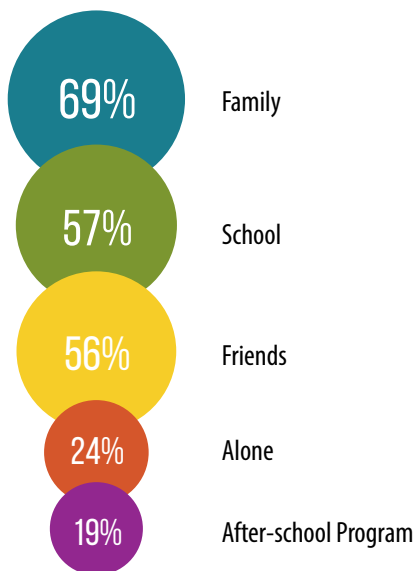


4 OUT OF 5

Youth walk to nature. In 2017, San Francisco became the first in the country to have a park within 10-minutes walking distance from every resident.

Nearly **50%** of students surveyed do not have access to nature with SFUSD-sponsored field trips. Though nature connection can often be met through on-campus green schoolyards, it's the district's goal to provide daily nature connection.

WHO DO YOU GO WITH?



In 2014, San Francisco signed a resolution recognizing the **San Francisco Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**, declaring that every child has the right to a nature rich childhood. How are we doing?

IN THE PAST YEAR:



58% of youth went camping
30% of youth did not and would like to



86% of youth took a walk in nature
9% of youth did not and would like to



76% of youth rode a bike
15% of youth did not and would like to



42% of youth helped care for a local park
38% of youth did not and would like to



63% of youth planted a seed
24% of youth did not and would like to



70% of youth splashed in the ocean or bay
18% of youth did not and would like to

WHAT DOES NATURE MEAN TO YOU?

"NATURE IS TREES, PLANTS, ANIMALS, BEES
SUN, SOIL, MUD."

NATURE IS PART OF MY RELIGION AND
IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
IT MEANS BEAUTY AND LIFE.

NATURE MEANS BEING
OUTDOORS AND BEING
VULNERABLE IN NEW
SURROUNDINGS.

IF YOU WANTED TO CONNECT WITH NATURE MORE OFTEN, WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER?

66%
People to Go With

37%
Transportation

40%
Free Activities

23%
Equipment

40%
Feeling Safe

15%
I am content with the time I already have in nature

WHAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY?


26%
Camp


16%
Hike/
Trail Run


14%
Sports


10%
Bike


7%
Explore
Wildlife


6%
Swim


5%
Visit a Local
Park


4%
Water Sports


3%
Grow Food


3%
Go to the
Beach

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT NATURE?

LIBERTAD!
73%
of youth enjoy being in nature

NATURE MAKES ME HAPPIER

AS A TEENAGE GIRL, NIGHTTIME IN NATURE IN SAN FRANCISCO ISN'T VERY APPEALING.

"I FEEL SAFE IN NATURE WHEN I AM WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON."

I'M AFRAID I'LL GET HURT IN NATURE.

12%
of youth do not feel safe in nature

7%
of youth do not know how to get to nature

SOMETIMES NATURE IS SCARY BUT I STILL LOVE IT

POISONOUS PLANTS LEFT ME TRAUMATIZED

THERE ARE LOTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS SINCE GLOBAL WARMING. I AM NOT SURE [I FEEL SAFE] BECAUSE OF IT.

NATURE IS NONJUDGMENTAL, MAKES ME FEEL FREE.
69%
of youth feel welcome in nature

[I DON'T FEEL WELCOME] BECAUSE I CAN'T USE TECHNOLOGY TO EXPRESS MYSELF.

I HAVE NEVER GOTTEN SERIOUSLY HURT IN NATURE.

"I DON'T FEEL SAFE WITHOUT MY FAMILY."

I FEEL WELCOME. THERE'S NO SECURITY GUARD IN NATURE



SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN & NATURE

NATURE CONNECTION FOR EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY

Supporting equitable access to nature in San Francisco where children and youth of all racial and ethnic identities feel that they belong in the outdoors, and have daily opportunities to play, learn and grow in nature.

Credits

This survey is the result of a collaborative effort from the SF Children & Nature Community & Youth Engagement team with contributions from: California Academy of Sciences, Crissy Field Center, Literacy for Environmental Justice, National Park Service, GGNRA, SF Environment, SF Recreation & Parks, SF Parks Alliance, SF Public Library, SF Unified School District, YMCA of San Francisco, Youth Outside.

Youth from the following programs provided feedback to our pilot survey:

San Francisco Recreation & Park Greenagers Program, California Academy of Sciences TASC and CiS teen groups, YMCA of San Francisco Earth Service Corps

Please send comments or questions to: info@sfchildrennature.org