



TulalipCares.org

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** The Seattle Aquarium Society

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2017 Q2

**ADDRESS:** 1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59, Seattle, WA 98101

**CONTACT:** (206) 693-6283, <https://www.seattleaquarium.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards support of their administration and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from The Seattle Aquarium Society.



# SEATTLE AQUARIUM

## Grant Report for Tulalip Cares Charitable Giving September 15, 2018 Q2 2017 14.2

**Organization:** Seattle Aquarium  
1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59, Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 368-4300  
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**Program Title:** Youth Ocean Advocate

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In 2017, the Seattle Aquarium received a generous gift of [REDACTED] from Tulalip Charitable Giving in support of our education and youth engagement program **Youth Ocean Advocate**. We are pleased to provide this grant report on the impact of these programs in inspiring environmental stewardship and marine conservation among youth and adults throughout Puget Sound.

### Youth Ocean Advocate Program

Our Youth Ocean Advocate (YOA) program is designed to inspire and empower teens as future conservation leaders. We began a basic youth volunteer interpretation program in 1994. Since that time, we have developed and enhanced a variety of opportunities, so that today our Youth Ocean Advocates can engage in one or more of four tracks: Interpretation, Youth Advocacy, Field Conservation or Youth Philanthropy. Through their work across these projects, Youth Ocean Advocates gain valuable skills and experience to become the next generation of science-literate stewards and advocates for conservation of our marine environment. All participants receive training, mentoring and guidance to pursue their personal interest in marine conservation.

More than 2,000 youth have graduated from the program since 1994 and have gone on to advance the field of marine science and policy in various roles and institutions. At YOA Alumni Lightning Talks in 2017, former volunteers shared five-minute talks about what they are working on now either for school or employment. Topics presented included ocean policy development in the Washington Governor's office, conducting a sea lion census in Alaska using drones, puffin breeding during exhibit construction at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, diversity and inclusion in marine science, and molecular ecology and coral reef health in Bermuda and Honduras. This list is only a handful of projects that youth volunteers have undertaken after graduating from the Youth Ocean Advocate program. Our youth volunteers are changing the world!

In 2017-2018, Youth Ocean Advocates had another great year. YOA has two sessions: one for the school year, which runs from September to June and then another over the summer from June to August. Since our last grant report, the program achieved all the following results:

- School year session, September 2017-June 2018
  - 170 Youth Ocean Advocates
  - 15,719 hours
  - 16 conservation events: beach cleanups, habitat restoration and tree planting
  - 12 continuing education classes
- Summer session, June-August 2018
  - 163 Youth Ocean Advocates during Summer 2018
  - 9,425 hours through August 7, 2018
  - 11 conservation events: beach cleanups, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, kayak cleanup
  - 9 continuing education courses

From September 1, 2017 through August 1, 2018, our youth volunteers performed 25,144 hours of service, surpassing hours tallied in the same time as last year. Also, in the 2017-2018 program year, Aquarium staff implemented a “badging” program, like other merit badge programs, that will result in college credit for a 100-level science class for the youth volunteers who gain the requisite number of badges for their activities. This program is in partnership with UW-Bothell and we expect two to three youth volunteers to complete the program and be eligible for college credit by the end of 2018 and between four and seven others in 2019.

One of the most moving success stories from the past session is of Youth Ocean Advocate, Aiyana. Aiyana joined the Seattle Aquarium’s Youth Ocean Advocate volunteer program in the Spring of 2017 after a presentation from Aquarium staff at Washington MESA, an out-of-school time science program she participates in. Since joining the YOA program just over a year ago, she has become one of our most enthusiastic advocates, recording over 400 hours of volunteer service. Based upon her work ethic and passion, we asked Aiyana to speak about her experience as a Youth Ocean Advocate at *Splash!*, the Aquarium’s largest fundraising event. Aiyana is also a participant in the Aquarium’s Badging for College Credit program (described above) and will be the first to complete all the requirements to earn college credit from the University of Washington. This link will take you to a video produced for and shown at *Splash!*, about Aiyana’s story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qE7hCpR94g4&feature=youtu.be>.

The Seattle Aquarium is grateful to the Tulalip Tribe and your charitable giving program for investing the future stewards of the ocean. Thank you for your grant of \$2,000 in support of the Youth Ocean Advocate program.

## Youth Ocean Advocates in Action

2017-18 Program Photos

Prepared for the Tulalip Cares – September 2018

*“Everything that I have done with the program has been new and educational for me. This has been such a great experience for me to learn about the environment and what it’s like to have a volunteer job. It also helped me to gain confidence with speaking to people.” –Audrey Herrin, youth volunteer, 2017*



*Youth Ocean Advocate youth volunteers engage Seattle Aquarium visitors in discussion about six-gill sharks. Learning how to share information effectively is a cornerstone of YOA training.*



*Field trips are an essential part of Youth Ocean Advocate experience. Each year youth volunteers can select to attend a variety of trips including whale watching and University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Labs.*



*Youth volunteers perform a dissection to better understand fish anatomy. Hands-on marine science activities give youth volunteers many experiences to draw upon when engaging the public. They also further the individuals' STEM education.*



*Field science activities take place throughout the year. Youth Ocean Advocates participate in restoration events, beach clean-ups and citizen science projects.*