

7 Montessori Adolescent Summits 2017



April 5-8, 2017

Houston, TX

Host School:

School of the Woods

Age Old Roots:

**Tackling Agriculture &
Urban Design Challenges with
Polyculture Systems**

What Are the Seven Montessori Adolescent Summits?

An invitation to the Montessori Adolescent

Adolescents are uniquely suited to address the critical issues of the world. Only by directly experiencing the complexities of society and working in a global community will adolescents develop an authentic understanding of the human condition as their social and moral selves evolve. To encourage hope and positive action for the future, the adolescent needs to feel that they are part of the solution by their efforts to solve one problem at a time. When a group of Montessori students from different parts of the world collaborate, they become advocates for what is true human progress. This is their developmental task.

At each summit, adolescents will apply these skills, acquired in their Montessori experience, to global realities:

- an understanding of complexity applied to a particular issue
- an ability to identify the significant components of a problem
- a capacity to focus and concentrate on an issue
- an ability to ask essential questions about a problem
- a habit of conscious conversation in a problem solving capacity
- a desire to engage in dialogue that builds trust and innovation, and
- a hope to construct bridges across local, national, and international sectors.¹

¹Fisher & Ury. (1991). *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York.



Questions? Contact Julia Richards, julia@montessori-namta.org
www.montessori-namta.org

Montessori Institute
for the
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Join Montessori adolescents from around the world in tackling major global issues. Our areas of focus are based on the interdependent elements: water, air, land, plants, animals, humans, and energy. All summit locations are home to a dynamic project related to their theme. Each summit will focus on one of these themes. The work can be thought of in three parts. First, participants explore the theme as is relevant to their local community. They then travel to the summit to connect and deepen their knowledge with other Montessori adolescents. Finally, they return home and enact a project born out of their research. The seven summits will culminate at the 2017 AMI Congress in Prague, where adolescents will present their summit work to highlight the interdependence of the issues at hand and the mission to work towards change for the future.



April 5-8, 2017

Topic: Plants

Houston, TX

Host School:

School of the Woods

Age Old Roots: Tackling Agriculture & Urban Design Challenges with Polyculture Systems

As cities expand and populations grow, there is increasing need to renew the relationship we have with one of our furthest genetic cousins: plants. Every year new information is published proving the importance of plants in human life; everything from phycolgy to nutrition. However, despite new research agriculture is still billowing towards bedrock, and urban design still treats natural spaces like a canvas for highways and shopping centers. Whether through farming or local parks, we must make it a mission to reintegrate plants into our communities.

Blackwood Educational Land Institute is a nonprofit with exactly that mission. Since 1990 they have been pioneering nature and agriculture education for the greater Houston area. Blackwood is a thirty-three-acre sustainable agriculture campus located in Hempstead, Texas. Their property supports four different ecosystems and a small flock of livestock. One of Blackwood's goals is to prove the viability of resilient mid-sized farming, and thus they resist big ag's obsession with fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.



America's current farm and urban design policy is easy: simply discount the future. As Wes Jackson, the founder of the Land Institute, puts it, "It is well known that current dollar costs indicate little about the long-term costs to civilization. An economics which discounts the future is inherent in the environmental problem."

As an example, topsoil, which is rich in organic matter, is a primary raw material for plant growth. In one year, across the North American continent, we lose one sixteenth of the available top soil. One sixteenth might not sound like much, but if we tried to imagine just how much soil that is, using train cars filled to the brim with topsoil, that would be a train 633,000 miles long; stretching to the moon and back...and then towards the moon again. In just one year! It is a painful reality then that on average we have been at this rate of soil loss since 1934. On a continent made famous by its abundance of rich fertile soil, our ancestors are certainly rolling in their grave.

This gargantuan soil loss can almost entirely be attributed to poor understanding and execution of natural plant systems; and it is just one of the many problems related to plants we face today. Blackwood, and several other organizations that work closely with plants, have identified that polyculture plant systems are one of our best answers. But even then, the issues we face are complex and are tied tightly to economics, government, and local communities.

Note for Adult Chaperons:
Each group of adolescents should be accompanied by an adult facilitator who is willing to oversee student preparation, to supervise students during the summit, and to assist in student implementation of their action plan upon returning to their home communities.

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Preparation:

- Research, analyze, and prepare a short paper and story to share at the Summit
- Choose one local and one international institution (organization, business, program, etc.) to interview/research and analyze to serve as case studies.
- Optional: Submit a photograph/photographs which captures an air issue for our photo exhibit

During the Summit:

- Break into sub-groups to present research and conduct interviews with experts
- Subgroups develop and present guidelines for improving air quality and create concrete action plans for local implementation
- Explore the plant photo exhibition and share plant stories

Follow Up:

- Post updates (written, video or photos) of local action implementation on the PeaceX blog
- Contribute feedback to improve the Summit

Schedule

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Registration	
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Welcome	
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Session 1: Interconnected web existence and plants	Keynote (20 minutes); Q & A
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Tour of Blackwood	45 minutes
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Potluck at Blackwood	

Thursday, April 6, 2017

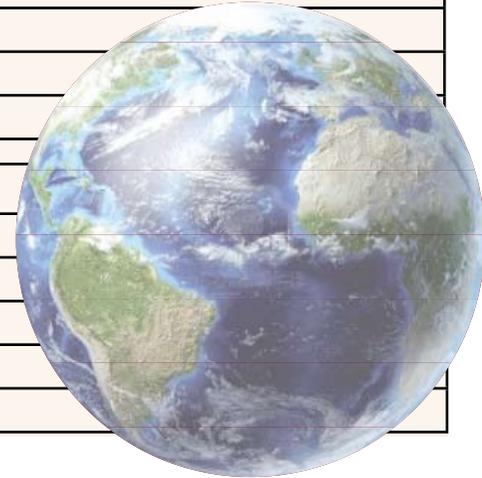
8:30 am-9:30am	Travel to Conferences Site (Blackwood)	
9:30a - 10:15a	Welcome/Warm Up/Recap	
10:15a-11:25a	Session 2: Experts on GMOs, monocultures and biomimicry	Two Keynotes (30min); Q&A
11:30a-1:00p	Service Learning	
1:00p-2:00p	Lunch	
2:00p-2:30p	Breakout Session Subfocus (30 minutes)	1. General fascination with plants 2. Explore where food comes from
2:45p-3:5p	Breakout Session Subfocus (30 minutes)	1. Soil, yeah! 2. Seeds! Yeah!
3:15p-3:50p	Small Group Interview Question Formulation	Blackwood Educators provide assistance
4:30p-5:30p	Small Group Discussions (Snack served)	1. Biomimichry 2. Farming 3. Blackwood expert
5:30p-6:30p	Travel from Conference Site (Blackwood)	

Friday, April 7, 2017

9:00a-10:30a	Urban Design Field Trip 1	Discovery Green, Medical Center or Buffalo Bayou
9:00a-10:30a	Polyculture Field Trip 2	Katy Prairie, Arboritum, or Plant It Forward
10:30a-11:30a	Travel to Conferences Site (Blackwood)	
11:30a-12:00p	Experts on perennial crops	Keynote (30min); Q&A
12:00p-12:30p	Breakout Session Subfocus (30 minutes)	1. Farmer Becca on what's happening at Blackwood 2. Restaurants using farm to table
12:30p-1:15p	Lunch & Panel Discussion	Panel discussion on how climate change is impacting plants
1:45p-3:30p	Small Group Discussions (Snack served)	1. Blackwood Farmer 2. Chef 3. Expert on climate change and plants
3:00p-3:30p	Small Group Action Plans	
3:45p-4:30p	Manifesto Preparation	
4:30p-5:30p	Blackwood Games/Yoga/Plant Literature	
5:30p-6:30p	Travel from Conference Site (Blackwood)	

Saturday, April 8, 2017

10:00a-10:15a	Welcome	
10:15a-11:15a	Action Plan Presentations	
11:15a-11:30p	Reading of Conference Manifesto	
11:30p-12:00p	Closing Ceremony	
12:00p-1:00p	Feast & Fun!	



Adolescent Summit Registration

Please complete one form for each student and adult attending from your school.

Registration fee: \$145 per person (\$185 per person after February 24, 2017)

Registrations will not be accepted after March 17, 2017.

Name: _____ adult student

Name of Your School: _____

Phone : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Payment Options:

Check or money order enclosed. *Must be payable in U.S. currency & drawn on a U.S. bank.*

Bank wire transfer. *Must be payable in U.S. currency.*

Credit card: (Circle one) Visa; MasterCard; AmEx; Discover

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _____
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

April 5-8, 2017

Topic: Plants

Houston, Texas

Host School:

School of the Woods



Mail, fax, or e-mail the registration form at the end of this document to:

Montessori Institute for the
Science of Peace c/o NAMTA

10916 Magnolia Drive

Cleveland, OH 44106

Fax: 440-834-4016

E-mail: julia@montessori-namta.org

Registration fee of \$145 does not include transportation costs to and from the summit location. Summit registration cost includes:

- All conference proceedings
- Breaks and Lunches
- Transportation for Conference Events

Accommodations:

Students will stay with host families provided by the school.

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March 1-4, 2017
Topic: Air
Cagayan de Oro,
Philippines
Host School:
The Abba's Orchard



March 22-25, 2017
Topic: Land
Chihuahua, Mexico
Host School:
Colegio Montessori
de Chihuahua



April 5-8, 2017
Topic: Plants
Houston, Texas
Host School:
School of the Woods



April 19-22, 2017
Topic: Humans
Dundas, Ontario,
Canada
Host School:
Dundas Valley
Montessori School/
Strata

*Alternate date for
Humans topic
May 17-20, 2017*

Topic: Humans
Vienna, Austria
Host School:
Montessori Campus
Wien Hüttendorf



May 8-11, 2017
Topic: Energy
Huntsburg, Ohio
Host School:
Hershey Montessori
School



May 22-28, 2017
Topic: Water
Brittany, France
Host School:
Collège Montessori
Amerique



May 26-June 1, 2017
Topic: Animals
Costa Rica
Host School:
MISP and Natural
Solutions' Peace and
Biodiversity Program

Registration open!
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Primary Health
United Nations



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