OUR MISSION
The SYTA Youth Foundation’s (SYF) mission is to provide travel experiences for youth and students who would otherwise not have the resources to participate in those enriching and life changing opportunities.

OUR VISION
We believe that **TRAVEL CHANGES YOUNG LIVES FOR GOOD**, and to that end, the SYTA Youth Foundation strives to provide access to travel opportunities for the maximum number of young people that would otherwise be unavailable due to family hardship, budget cuts in school systems, or simply lack of the access to or education about travel as a learning experience.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Impact a large number of youth and students with our programs**

- **Raise sufficient funds to ensure the sustainability of our organization and increase the reach of our programs**

- **Increase awareness of our missions and programs**

HELP CHANGE YOUNG LIVES THROUGH TRAVEL

CASE STATEMENT
**Learn more about the students**

Learn more about the students the SYTA Youth Foundation has impacted by visiting [sytayouthfoundation.org](http://sytayouthfoundation.org)

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**Brianha Ruth**

Brianha received an **SYF Road Scholarship** for her trip to the East Coast with her middle school. “It felt impossible to come up with the amount of money for this trip. I found out that there was a scholarship available and I jumped at the shot for it.”

**Daniel Khalaf**

Since participating in the **SYF Next Generation Program** in April 2016, Daniel Khalaf has made several changes in his life and has new purpose. Immediately upon returning to Minnesota from the trip, Daniel put all of his focus and energy into school, making up credits he needed to graduate. Graduation was something Daniel was not sure he would accomplish, but his travel experience inspired him to complete high school and focus on his post-secondary options.

**Hahner Family**

You gave a scholarship to both my son and my daughter for their 8th grade DC/NY trips. Your help made it possible - and both kids are better for it! They both benefited from the experience of travel - helping them be prepared for challenges in high school, college and the real world beyond that. They caught the bug and will pursue goodness of mind-expanding travel all their lives!

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**THE SYTA YOUTH FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND**

is designed to provide an ongoing resource for programs and scholarships. The SYTA Youth Foundation contributes a percentage of its donations annually to this fund and with your help it can continue to grow.

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The SYTA Youth Foundation impacts the lives of students through the following scholarships:

**“WORLD IS A CLASSROOM” ESSAY CONTEST**

was created for secondary school students (grades 9-12) who wish to share a special travel experience in the form of a written article or speech. The winning author receives a $1,500 cash scholarship and the four runners-up receive a $1,000 cash scholarship. All winning authors have the opportunity to have their essay published in **Teach & Travel - The Official Publication of SYTA**.

**THE ROAD SCHOLARSHIP**

grants up to $1,000 to an eligible student or up to $5,000 for an eligible group of five or more students, for education, performance or service related travel with their class or youth group. SYF has awarded over $1 million to over 2,700 deserving students since the program was established.

**FOUNDATION GRANTS**

SYF actively seeks partnerships that support students and youth through travel. These grants are awarded to organizations for students who would otherwise not be able to travel.

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**Student Stories**

**The PROGRAMS**

**That Make It all POSsible!**
Learn more about our impact and how you can help us support more kids.
Visit sytayouthfoundation.org

It wasn’t until a few years ago that I realized there are multiple ways to learn. I was 14 and completely centered on academics and grades, as if they determined everything when it comes to learning.

Then: Heat on my skin. My lungs breathing in the fresh air. My eyes looking at a beautiful, blue, clear sky. The Chichén Itzá ruins dominating the view. There was nothing quite like it, I couldn’t have ever imagined that I would witness history with my five senses, in person. Some things can’t be learned by reading a textbook, and what I learned through this breathtaking experience was one of them.

If I hadn’t been there, having a conversation with the tour guide, I wouldn’t have learned that his ancestors were Mayan and that his family only spoke their native language. His culture was fascinating!

A relatively short interaction and a one-day experience in Mexico is all it took to make my knowledge from a class at school more significant and long-lasting. Travelling gives you this opportunity, in which every experience can become an outstanding memory, a turning point in life. Travel helps you learn by feeling, by interacting with diverse and unique people. Travelling truly makes the world your classroom.

Get INVOLVED!

» DONATE TODAY! www.sytayouthfoundation.org/donate
» PROVIDE in-kind services for SYF programs and events
» VOLUNTEER your time and serve on the board, a committee or help with a SYF program
» SPONSOR a SYF program or fundraising event
» CONTACT SYF to see about how you can become involved:
  info@sytayouthfoundation.org
  (703) 610-1263

Research documents are available for download at: syta.org/student-travel-research/

Impact as of November 2021.
Thank YOU! The SYTA Youth Foundation would like to thank the 2021 Donors, Supporters and Partners.