

Youth Leadership for Secondary and University Students



ark eden

ARK EDEN

**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**

ARK EDEN'S YOUTH PROGRAMME

At Ark Eden, we believe deeply in the capacity of our youth. We offer 'youth leadership' internships for our Holiday Camp programmes for our 14-18 year olds, and internships and apprenticeships for young adults aged 18-22. We especially value deepening our relationship with the Lantau youth, and take pride in being a space where they can come to learn and eventually work with us in the outdoor education space whilst also learning how to conserve Lantau, and adopt sustainable lifestyle choices.



INTRODUCTION



TESTIMONIALS



Jamie Chan

Yale University, Class of 2023

"Interning at Ark Eden was a step outside of my comfort zone. Growing up in the city I hardly stepped into HK's beautiful countryside and here I was asked to lead outdoor education workshops and instruct children to not be scared of critters and bugs--even though I myself was not fully comfortable with them yet. Ark Eden was a place where I had to get familiar with new environments quickly, and I am so grateful to have done so with the wonderful support system here that helped me find confidence as an educator, a nature-lover, a facilitator, and as a young adult re-learning the joys and fun of play."





Taylor Chung

Baylor University, Class of 2025

"Hi! My name is Taylor, I began interning at Ark Eden after knowing Jenny for 5 years and collaborating on environmental projects across Hong Kong! While interning, I worked with Jenny to bring students into the outdoors, design leadership camps and draft environmental policies that achieve our dream of a green future! I loved interning at Ark Eden because of the chance it gave me to enjoy the outdoors while getting to know myself as a leader. Ark Eden also gave me a unique opportunity to grow as an educator because no day in the outdoors is ever the same. Since interning at Ark Eden I have interned with and received offers to intern with the U.S. government and multiple Fortune 500 companies. Ark Eden equipped me to lead in these unfamiliar environments and I am incredibly grateful for the time I spent interning with Jenny and leading camps in the outdoors!"

TESTIMONIALS



TESTIMONIALS



Izzy Snow

University of Sydney, Class of 2024

"Being a Lantau kid, I grew up wandering the forests and wetlands behind Mui Wo, so it was a dream to work at Ark Eden within the vibrant valley it calls home. My journey at Ark Eden started first as a volunteer, then as a leader, and finally a coordinator. In these roles, I led fulfilling nature based activities such as planting and crafting, and fun team building exercises such as obstacle courses and scavenger hunts. I also designed itineraries of camp days, and supervised overnight camps.

Leading at Ark Eden ensured that my journey into young adulthood was filled with the opportunity to gain three important life resources - self-confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of community all against a stunning mountainous backdrop. I was encouraged to step into responsibility, to learn crucial communication and time management skills, all while supported by my mentors and peers. Reconnecting with nature inspired and enriched my artistic/photographic practise when I moved to Sydney to complete art school, where I now work and live. Ultimately, nurturing my creativity whilst also helping children become comfortable and confident among the trees and rivers was to me what makes Ark Eden so unique - its community, values and magical world is why I feel so lucky to call it a second home!"

TESTIMONIALS



Logan So

*Queensland Conservatorium
Griffith University, Class of 2024*

"I started volunteering as a leader at Ark Eden when I was 16 and after a few seasons, I began my seasonal employment. Not only has Ark Eden given me a beautiful community of generous, giving and sincere people, but my time here has largely shaped my coming of age. Working here connected me with people of many different backgrounds and through the different circumstances we were all put under, I discovered my sense of self and developed my independence and capacity to give. I experienced what it meant to be a diligent, committed and passionate member of the team, but more importantly, how to be someone that others could depend on, especially for the children, and the bugs. Being surrounded by so much joy, sensitivity and care for the Earth has influenced me to always listen, and that will always be invaluable to me."



CURRENT YOUTH LEADERS



Tomas Cope came to Ark Eden through the Mui Wo grapevine at age 16 as an intern and volunteer. After three years working with us, he has transformed into one of our most capable leaders having completed multiple leader trainings including a special Play for Peace training. One of his biggest takeaways of working at Ark Eden is that Ark Eden helped him to find his voice and confidence to communicate and lead a group of people while working within a team.

Mika Millward's first taste of Ark Eden was in fact when she was about 7-8 years old when she attended our Holiday Camps. Since then she has returned to Ark Eden as a teenager to volunteer and intern as a youth leader for the same very Holiday Camps she attended. Mika has grown into one of our most treasured leaders - especially with the younger kids who love her playful nature. She is currently interning at Ark Eden full time, as she is taking a gap year before university.

