



## *Growing a Green Generation*

**Sustainable Vocations** prepares youth (ages 15 – 24) for diverse leadership roles that integrate sustainability into their lives and communities. This pioneering program provides a unique, hands-on introduction to the expanding green jobs market while exploring the comprehensive tenets of environmental stewardship and sustainable living. While expansive in scope, timely topics include: ecological design, conservation and restoration, alternative energy systems, sustainable agriculture, natural building, ecological literacy, water harvesting, community regeneration, and nature awareness. Students earn an internationally recognized **Permaculture Design Certification** and graduate with the practical skills to enhance their employment opportunities and life path – all while helping to create a more sustainable future for us all.

To ensure the greatest community impact, Sustainable Vocations also stresses the less tangible qualities of leadership to provide students the confidence for assuming prominent roles within society and the sustainability movement. Interwoven within this objective, the program also highlights the vital importance of interpersonal dynamic skills and relationship-building to facilitate community development. Comprehensively, Sustainable Vocations strives to develop well-equipped, holistic leaders that will influence the emerging generation to better respect our relationship with Nature and each other. This expansive program goal is reflected in the origin of the word *vocation* that refers to one's calling and creates a shift in our social landscape that transcends the standard definition of sustainability.

Developed as a program of Quail Springs Permaculture, Sustainable Vocations achieves its goals by offering a diversity of experiences and perspectives. Led by renowned teacher and worldwide sustainability consultant, Warren Brush, the program's entire staff is comprised of mentors with substantial experience in nature-based education for youth and young adults. In addition, Sustainable Vocations leverages the vast sustainability-based resources of our community. Prominent professionals serve as guest teachers while students also visit local eco-based businesses and projects to witness sustainability in action.

Structurally, Sustainable Vocations is offered as an intensive, 3-week residential program in a nature-based setting. These unique program features create a community framework in which youth are supported and experience the inspirational strength of collective action. This community setting also enables students to further explore the nature of relationships and how they reside at the core of sustainability. In addition to the acquired skills and knowledge, this detachment from familiarity and immersion into a different lifestyle alone can be a life-changing experience for youth. Invariably, Sustainable Vocations plants the seeds of personal sustainability that graduates can cultivate throughout their communities and help grow a Green Generation.

*Permaculture is widely recognized as one of the most effective design methodologies for attaining sustainability worldwide. It represents an integrated design science that provides comprehensive solutions to the basic needs of shelter, food, water and energy. Permaculture's holistic, systems-based principles can be applied to all settings, and being a certified permaculture designer represents a growing profession worldwide.*