

# Increasing Diversity in Environmental Organizations and Agencies



**Eric Dolaway**  
Executive Director  
Urban Blazers



**Tarsha Scovens**  
Founder & Director of Programming  
Let's Go Outdoors



**Lamar Gore**  
Refuge Manager  
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge



# **Engaging Urban Schools & Developing Lifelong Park Users**

Eric Dolaway, Executive Director  
Urban Blazers Foundation

# Engaging Urban Schools & Youth Programs

## Establish Expectations

How can the school help you achieve your goals?  
How can you help the school achieve its goals?

## Establish Trust

Administrators  
Teachers  
Students



# Establishing Vision/Trust

## **Administrators**

- Value vs Loss of Instruction Time
- Will Students Be Safe?
- Monetary Cost
- Value vs. Ease of Traditional Field Trip Options
- Dealing w/ Parent Concerns
- Will Staff Buy-In?

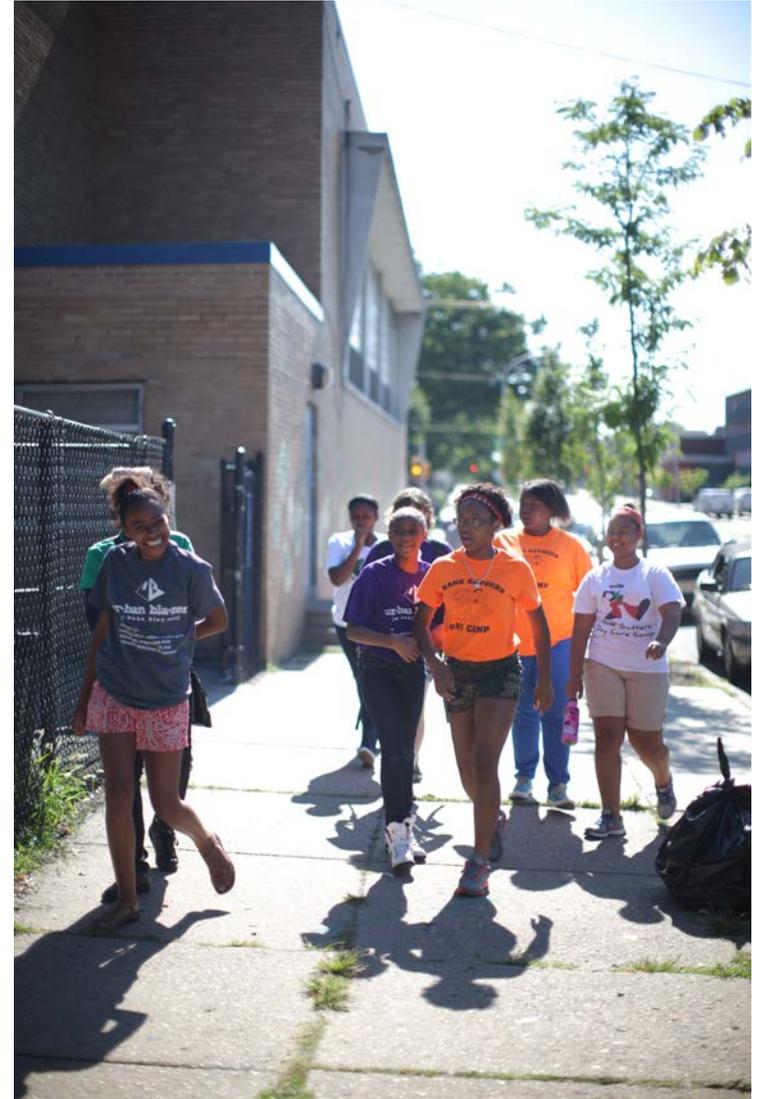
## **Teachers**

- Value vs Loss of Instruction Time
- Will Students Be Safe?
- Will your staff be engaging & able to manage student behavior?
- Will this add significantly to their work load/stress level?
- Will Students Buy-In?

# Establishing Vision/Trust

## Students

- Will I be safe?
- Will I be respected?
- Will it be fun?
- Will I look bad in front of my classmates if . . .
- Why should I trust you?
- Do I really need to listen to you?



# Developing Life Long Park Users

## Questions to Consider

- How am I establishing an environment that helps kids feel safe and comfortable in nature?
- How am I making it possible for kids to replicate this experience?
- Does this feel like school?
- What did I love about nature when I was a kid?

