

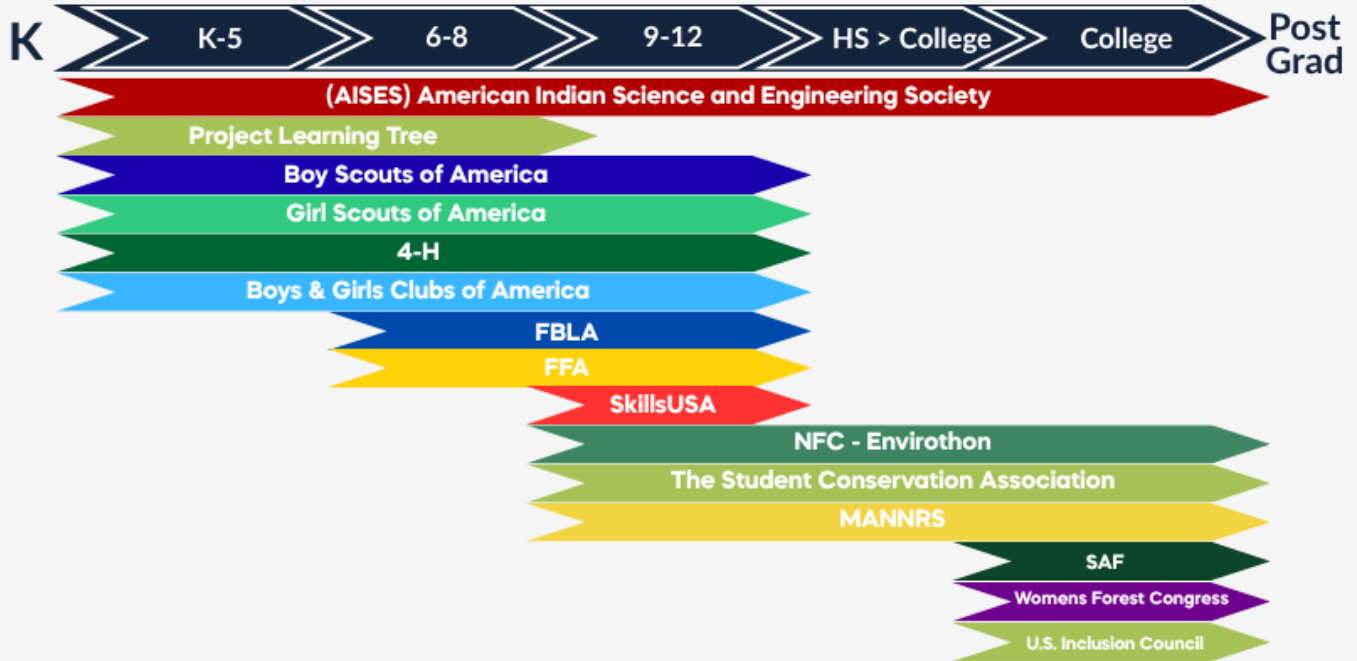
NATIONAL SCALE ORGANIZATIONS CONNECTING YOUTH & FORESTRY

**OPPORTUNITIES AND POTENTIAL
BENEFITS FOR THE FOREST AND
WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR**

**U.S. Forest and Wood Products Inclusion Council
JANUARY 2026**

[Visit the Project Story Map Here!](#)

[Read the Research That Shaped This Project Here!](#)



For more information on the National Scale Organizations Connecting Youth & Forestry Project visit the [Project StoryMap](#)

This project draws on insights from Bullard, Walker and Burger's *Enhancing Diversity in Undergraduate Degree Programs in Forestry and Related Natural Resources: A Brief Review of Critical Issues and Promising Actions*

The National Scale Organizations Connecting Youth & Forestry project brings together programs and organizations that engage young people in forestry and natural resources. Our goal is to shine a light on the pathways that take students from early exposure in K–12 settings all the way to undergraduate programs and beyond. By showing what opportunities already exist, the project helps educators, community leaders, students, and other stakeholders see how youth can get involved, build skills, and explore careers in forestry and related fields.

This work draws heavily on the research from *Enhancing Diversity in Undergraduate Degree Programs in Forestry and Related Natural Resources: a Brief Review of Critical Issues and Promising Actions* by Steven H. Bullard, T. J. Walker, and Leslie Burger. That study points out the ongoing under-representation of women and historically excluded groups in forestry programs, and it highlights practical ways to improve diversity from early outreach and mentoring to creating more inclusive academic environments and offering financial support. These insights guided our approach, helping us connect youth to programs and opportunities that can make a real difference in their education and career paths.

By combining research with a clear, visual map of programs and organizations, this project makes it easy for anyone to find ways to get involved, collaborate, or support youth in forestry. The ultimate aim is to help build a more diverse, inclusive, and engaged workforce in forestry and natural resources, while giving young people the tools and connections they need to succeed.