



# United States Biosphere Network Youth Board

*Building community stewardship through innovative solutions to address environmental challenges.*



## The Power of Youth

The **United States Biosphere Reserve Youth Board (USBN-YB)** is a youth-led organization that works in cooperation with the US Biosphere Network Working Group to further the goals of the USBN, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and the United Nations Operational Strategy on Youth.

Youth Boards throughout the world have become a tool to increase youth participation in the visioning and decision-making of biosphere regions.

## Our Time

Since **January 2024**, the team has provided **nearly 500 hours of in-kind support** towards grant writing, recruitment, professional trainings & workshops, presentations, and network building.

Based on the **2023 value of a volunteer hour at \$33.49 (Independent Sector)** our team has committed **over \$16,000 in value to the USBN-YB in the last six months.**



**JENELLE BOOKER**

Jenelle has strong roots in the Deep South, but her professional pursuits have branched towards the Adirondacks for the Graduate Program of Environmental Science at SUNY ESF. Bioregionalism, network building, and Rights of Nature is the heart of her professional studies.



**AIDAN LYDE**

Aidan grew up near the Rocky Mountain Biosphere Region, and his professional interests encompass water-related issues in the western US. He is currently pursuing a Master of Environmental Management at Yale School of the Environment.



**MANAR TALAB**

Manar is from metro-Detroit and recently completed climate change adaptation and partnership building work with the Ottawa-Biosphere Region. She is now pursuing a masters degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan.

For more information about the USBN Youth Board, email [USBNYouth@gmail.com](mailto:USBNYouth@gmail.com)



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Our Mission

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## Our Projects

### Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly meetings are dedicated to **knowledge exchange**, **open dialogue**, and **professional development** within the USBN Network. Previous meetings have hosted **grant writers**, discussed **UNESCO toolkits**, and shared **youth-led initiatives** within biosphere regions.

### Local Youth Boards

Our mission is to create **site-based Youth Boards** across all 28 U.S. Biosphere Regions. Regional YBs foster **youth leadership** and **collaboration** between First Nations **emerging Elders**, youth of color, young environmental professionals, and students.

### NABYS

The **2025 North American Biosphere Youth Summit** is an opportunity to celebrate the **influential role of young people** in furthering the missions and goals of the MAB Programme **across the continent**. The primary purpose of NABYS is to produce a **Youth Integration Agreement and Framework** and **North American Youth Board**.

### EuroMAB 2026

EuroMAB is a **biennial conference** for stakeholders from UNESCO biosphere reserves across Europe and North America and will be **hosted in Mount Arrowsmith in 2026**. We have **connected** with the Canadian Commission and **offered support** in the planning and facilitation of **EuroMAB 2026 Youth Conference**.

## Our Future

With more support, USBN-YB hopes to build off our current momentum with the projects above. With funding, Youth Board members will have a greater capacity to push forward with these projects and dedicate more time to solidifying youth engagement in the United States Biosphere Network and beyond.