

Northland Foundation

Youth In Philanthropy Program

Inspiring young people to embrace their potential and support positive action in their communities

The Youth In Philanthropy Program connects young people with the responsibilities and rewards of volunteer service and grant-making. With opportunities to get involved and give back, children and youth discover they can make a meaningful difference in their schools, towns, and beyond!

25 Years and Growing

Since this program began in 2000, **110 youth board members** have made **620 grants** totaling **\$510,598**. Their funding decisions have helped thousands more students plan and participate in a rich array of school- and community-based projects.

By and for Young People

Students are the grant-makers *and* the grant recipients. Whether awarding or applying, young people discover firsthand how small groups of people working together can accomplish big things.

A youth-powered board of middle and high school students reviews grant requests and votes to approve funding. They take their board duties seriously while having fun and building experience with philanthropy, leadership, board service, and working across differences.

Adult representatives amplify the youth members' voices, encouraging them to be curious, consider different perspectives, think critically, and reach their own conclusions.

Young grant applicants, with help from adult advisors, learn about project planning and budgets, how to seek funding, volunteers, and in-kind donations, cooperation, and seeing things through from idea to completion.

Communities learn that kids are genuinely excited to help others, and the community benefits not just today but long-term as engaged young people become invested adults.



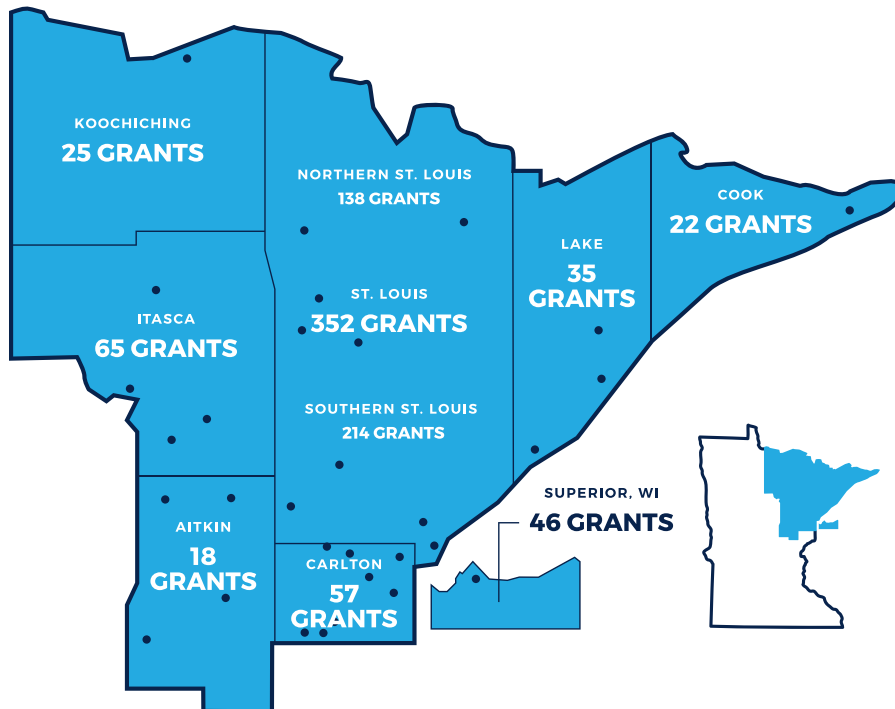
**NORTHLAND
FOUNDATION**

Youth In Philanthropy

Engagement Across Rural Northeast Minnesota

620 grants totaling \$510,598 spread across seven rural counties

• Awarded over 25 years by 110 youth board members and 21 adult mentors from 32 communities



Regional Facts

Northeast Minnesota covers nearly one-quarter of the state. It is very rural with a population density of just 18 people per square mile.

- **18,185 square miles** includes **7 counties** and all or parts of **5 Tribal nations**
 - **325,716** total residents
 - **19%** are under age 18
- **13% live below the federal poverty level**, with poverty rates up to 30% in pockets of the region
- **1 urban hub of 86,238 people** and 67 smaller towns with populations of 16,000 or less

Program At-a-Glance

The board consists of 12 to 15 middle school and high school students from rural northeast Minnesota and the border city of Superior, Wisconsin. The program year includes a September orientation and retreat and board meetings in October, January, and April to award funding, followed by a celebration event.

- **Youth** board members are entering grades 7-12. Community partners identify candidates, focusing on kids who are new to leadership opportunities.
- **Adult** representatives are voting members but primarily are there to guide and encourage, prompt discussion, and model board etiquette.
- **Applications** must be prepared by young people aged 8-18 with an adult advisor. Fiscal agents may be schools/school districts or youth-serving nonprofits.
- **Grants** are up to \$1,000. Applications may receive full, partial, or no funding based on board decisions.
- **Projects** have included peer support, environmental and outdoor learning, STEM enrichment, anti-bullying efforts, health or fun fairs, and much more.
- **Support** has come from individual donors, corporate giving, and grants from foundations.