

'Amazing' teen girls repair Troutdale bridge

4-week internship teaches skills and life lessons

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A group of 10 teenage girls are working together to repair a Troutdale bridge damaged in the high water late last year, July 26, 2016 (KOIN)

TROUTDALE, Ore. (KOIN) — A group of 10 teenage girls are working together to repair a Troutdale bridge damaged in the high water late last year — and learning life lessons along the way.

The group started a 4-week internship through [Northwest Youth Community Corps](http://www.nwyouthcorps.org/m/) (<http://www.nwyouthcorps.org/m/>) and [Girls Inc.](http://girlsincpnw.org/) (<http://girlsincpnw.org/>) and the City of Troutdale to remove and rebuild stairs and a 20-year-old bridge.

"It's amazing what 14- and 15-year-old girls can do," said Craig Lichtenthaler with the Troutdale Parks Department.

Hannah Yindra with the Northwest Youth Community Corps said, "We do really, really hard work for long hours and it's hot. The nature of our work creates community because it is so difficult."

The teens understand what they're gaining.

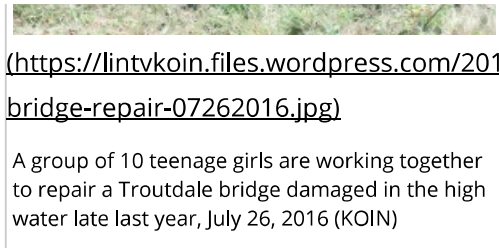
"It's another experience and option to have," said Amaya Gustov. "The educational part is really cool, too, so after you do the work you learn what you did and summarize what you did."



Alison Bautista-Morales said she really likes the hands-on experience “because you never forget and you know how to do it at home or wherever you are. It’s a good experience.”

At the end, the bridge will be repaired the girls will have something they can always take with them.

“Just creating really strong and bold girls to go out in the community” is a great feeling, said Girls Inc. leader Alaynah Cato.



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