BYTE Bay-to-Border

Immersion

Happy summer, BYTE friends!

While we normally highlight major initiatives and accomplishments across all BYTE sites, this newsletter will focus on the culmination of our intensive Bay to Border immersion program. Over 5-months, BYTE conducted a multistate, multinational youth exchange to connect high schoolers from San Francisco California, Nogales Arizona, and Nogales Sonora (MX). The cross-border service program provided the basics of 10-

group visit to the border to put skills into practice and meet international colleagues in-person. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this unique inaugural initiative. Your generosity allows BYTE to

under tennis instruction, trauma-informed community

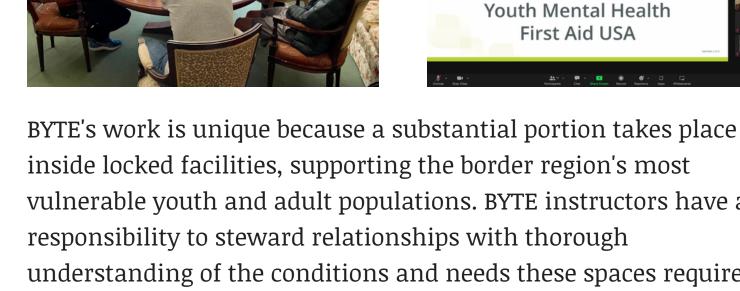
coaching, and international NGO management, finishing with a

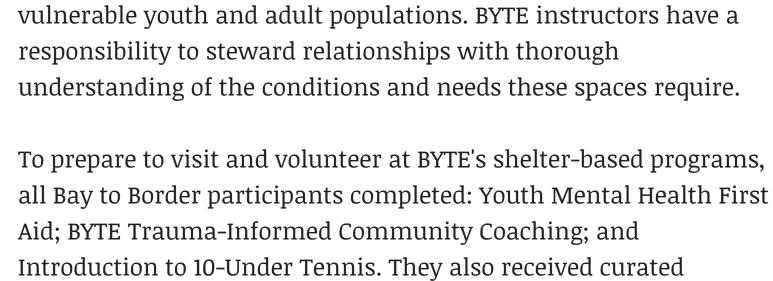
build international bridges and innovate to support its communities. DONATE

Sport & Public Health

Education

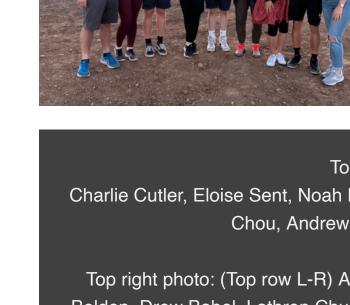
Youth Mental Health First Aid USA



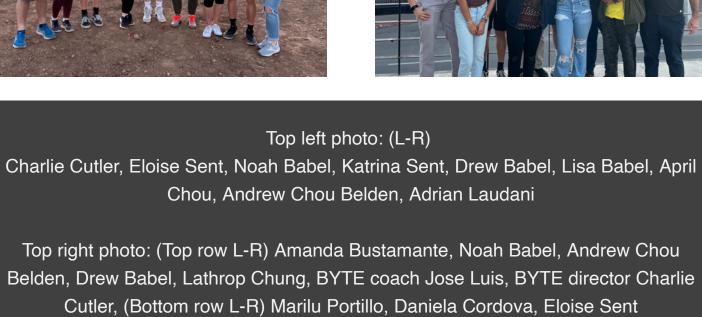


and International NGO management. **Meet the Cohorts**

introductions to US/Mexico Border Issues; Asylum Adjudication;



Sonora (MX).



school student-athletes representing 9 separate high schools. 6 student-athletes participated from the San Francisco Bay Area, alongside 5 from Nogales Sonora (MX), and 3 from Nogales Arizona. Represented high schools included: Marin Academy (CA), University High School (CA), Stuart Hall (CA), Lick-Wilmderding (CA), Menlo School (CA), Nogales High School (AZ), Pedro de Gante (MX), Colegio de Bachilleres del estado de Sonora

(MX), Preparatoria Municipal Omar Osvaldo Romo Covarrubias

While each student brought individual goals to the program,

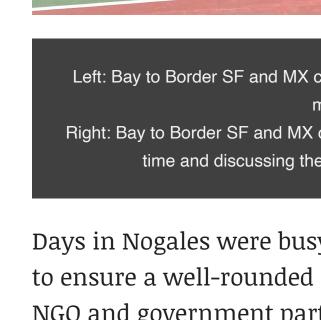
(MX), and Colegio de Educación Profesional Técnica del Estado de

The Bay to Border Exchange program brought together 14 high

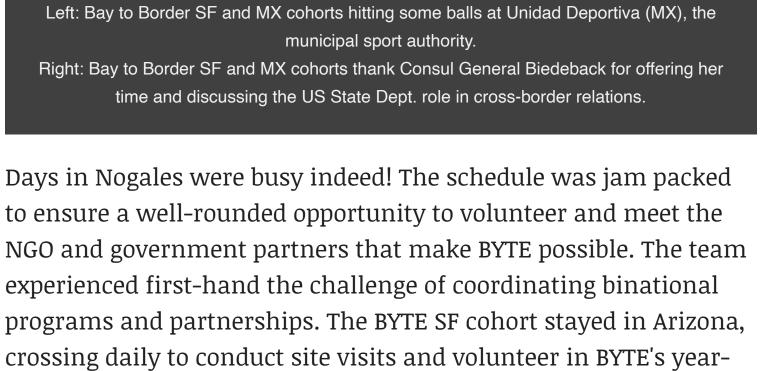
everyone was connected by competitive junior tennis, a history attending and/or working for BYTE, and an interest in public health and geopolitics. As an added bonus, a group of dedicated Bay Area moms accompanied their children as the group learned about the Nogales non-profit sector and volunteered at BYTE's community and refugee sites.

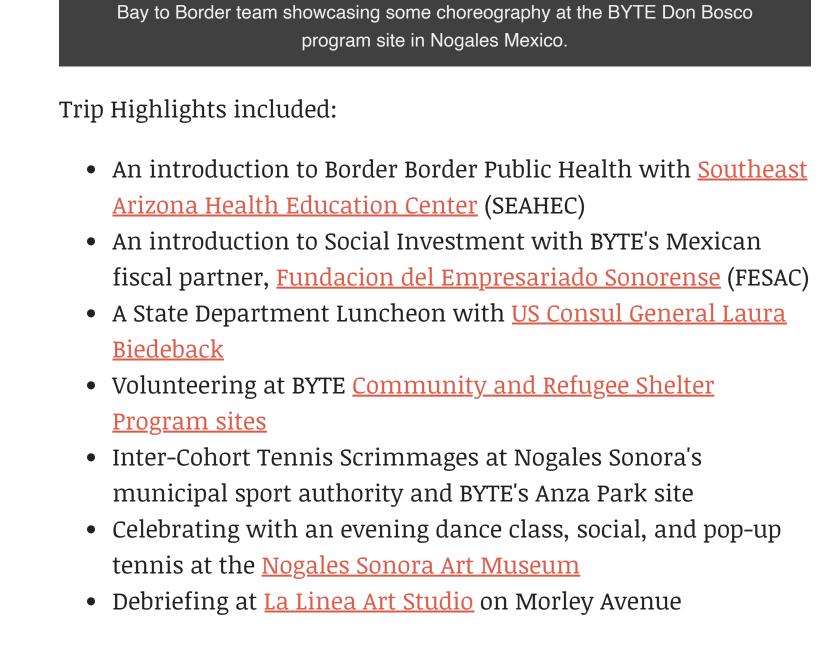
DONATE

3-Day Itinerary



round youth operations.





BYTE Bay to Border student-athletes enjoying pop-up tennis on the roof of the

Nogales Sonora Art Museum during the Bay to Border Social

Left: BYTE Bay Area cohort enjoying a beautiful Spring evening at the Nogales Art Right: Bay to Border SF cohort squares off with the top AZ high school tennis players in Nogales. After scrimmaging, they teamed up to host a youth festival at BYTE's Anza Park year-round program. DONATE Post-Trip Reflections

Here's what participants had to say about their experience: San Francisco Cohort: "As a tennis player myself,

Left: Debriefing at the La Linea Art Studio on Morley Ave (AZ)

Right: Checking out the murals at the Casa de la Misericordia migrant shelter (MX)

BYTE's goal for the program was to provide its visiting student-

athletes an educational and multi-faceted look at border

value to their communities together while

demystifying stereotypes about the border region.

communities through the lens of tennis, public health, and

human rights. Also, to create opportunities for cross-border

exchange between engaged young adults who can learn to add

to lessen the weight of burdens. At every shelter we visited I saw this in action. Also, talking with the high school students from Nogales....we talked about everything from school and family dynamics to popular music. I am so grateful for the bonds I made and happy to still be in touch on social media." -Eloise Sent

seeing the ways sport can ease

opening. In Nogales, I saw how

trauma was extremely eye-

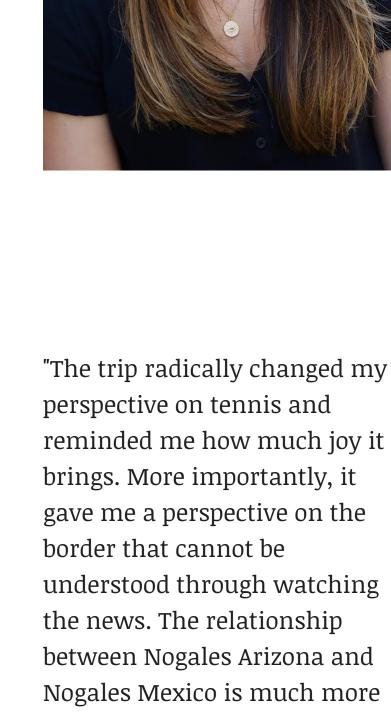
tennis extends beyond just a

game. It can be used to bring

people together to connect and

volunteering at migrant shelters was the joy that children expressed even amidst trauma and adverse experiences. This was a sharp contrast to narratives we hear. I also came out of the trip with a very different understanding of border communities. I was under the impression border towns used to be porous but are less so now. Visiting Nogales helped me see the liveliness of a border city where people cross back and forth each day." -Andrew Chou-Belden

"My biggest takeaway



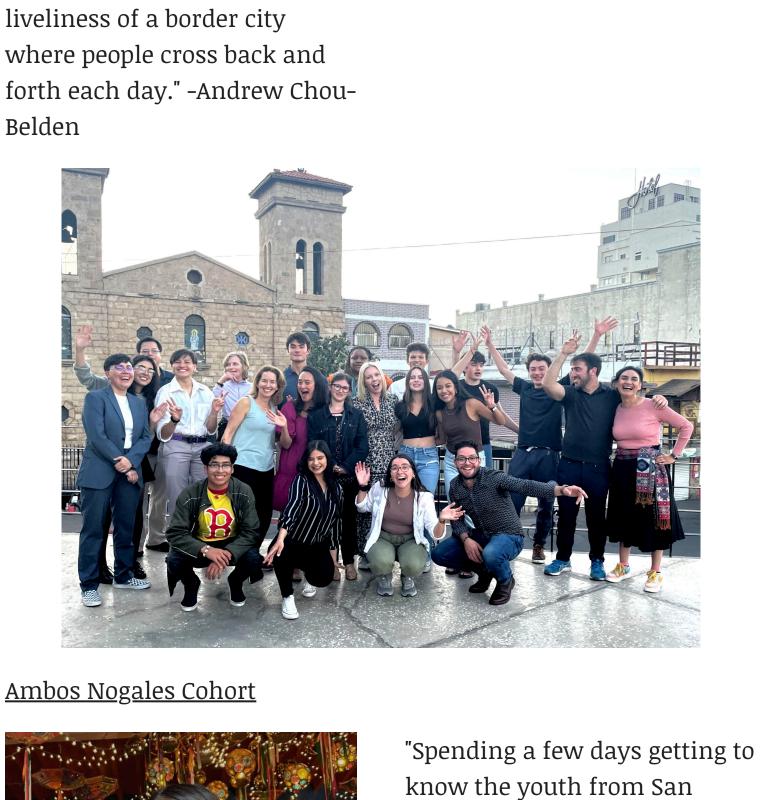
nuanced than I thought it

more like an intricate

would be. The cities are much

ecosystem than I would have

imagined." -Lathrop Chung



"The meeting and sharing of

what made this exchange so

views from different sides of

favorite parts, as well as the

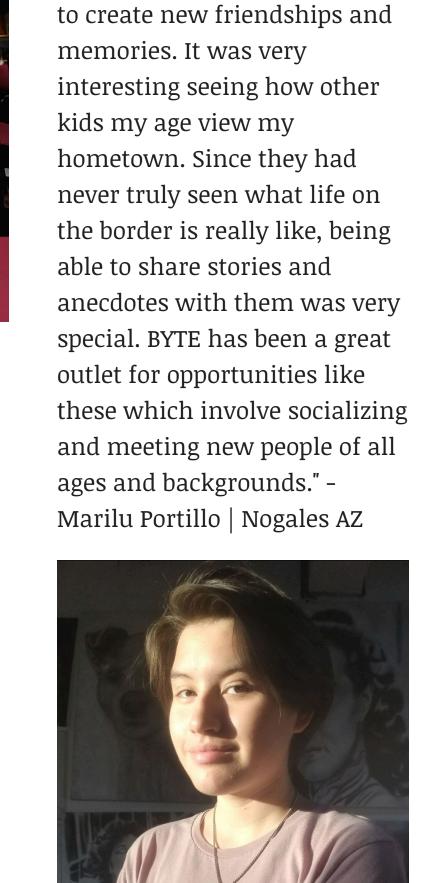
interesting. The sharing of

the border was one of my

experiences with our San

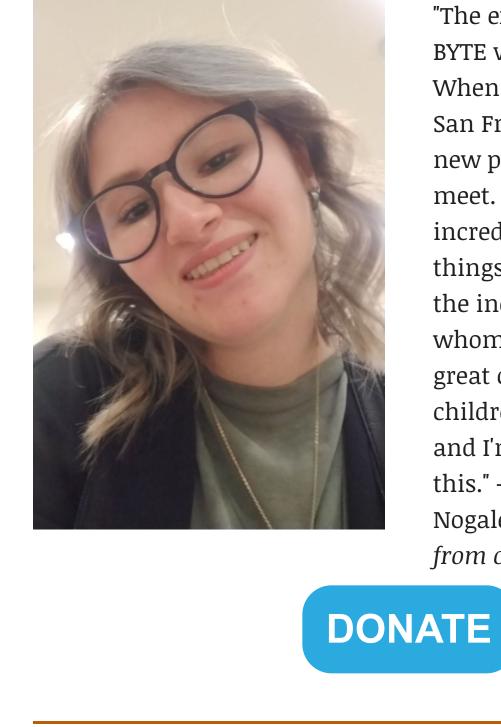
Francisco classmates was

cultural differences we faced and the places we came from. It was new and fun, and something I would love to repeat." -Amanda Bustamante | Nogales Sonora (translated from original Spanish)



Francisco and sharing

experiences gave us a chance



new people I never expected to meet. The experience was incredible. I learned new things with the children and the incredible BYTE staff with whom we interacted. BYTE is a great organization that helps children. I had a great time and I'm very grateful for all this." -Daniela Cordova | Nogales Sonora (translated from original Spanish) Thank you to those who participated in BYTE's first ever immersion! We hope you all enjoyed your experiences, and are grateful for your continued support. Stay tuned for more on BYTE's immersions programs. BYTE wishes you a

"The experience that I had with

BYTE was a very cool one.

When the group came from

San Francisco, I got to meet

BYTE is able to offer free summer programming thanks to generous support from its sponsors.

joyful start to the summer season!

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS for Southern Arizona



#HalfMyDAF

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