



QUIENES SOMOS - ABOUT US



Defensores de la Cuenca (Watershed Defenders) is a Latino-led 501(c)(3) non-profit that connects Latin@s and Spanish-speakers to nature through shared experiences and opportunities to preserve and defend the Chesapeake Bay watershed for a healthier mind, body, and soul.

We are building a network of Latin@/e leaders who are taking action to support Madre Tierra, our Mother Earth.

We create family friendly events that are welcoming and inviting to ensure the Latin@/e participants have fun and make positive connections to nature. We share information about the many ways the environment impacts us and how we impact the environment.



Our approach: Defensores's team of Latin@ leaders uses our community connections, cultural competency, native language, and lived experiences to engage a hard-to-reach audience.

Our engagements take a step ladder approach, always cognizant of the barriers that keep many from the Latino community from participating. We create welcoming and inviting experiences in community for all and invite them to continue in our programs.

We are building programs that connect, create community, build a foundation of knowledge, develop leadership skills and experiences, and provide workforce opportunities: **Defensores Youth Corps** engages youth and their families to earn service learning hours through service and leadership in the community. **La Academia de Defensores** is a paid adult training program that builds the capacity of participants around watershed-related issues through workshops, hands-on activities, and participant-led capstone projects. We are working to establish **Sembrando el Futuro**, a seed-to-tree nursery which will provide workforce development, family-sustaining wage jobs, and Spanish language education programs. This will establish an independent revenue source for our organization to allow self-sufficiency and financial independence as we build capacity at the community level.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES



INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Communities of Color are most impacted by climate change/severe weather. We live in areas with low tree canopy coverage, lots of impervious surfaces, limited access to green space, and poor air and water quality. These co-determinants of health lead to negative health outcomes which impact educational attainment and long-term economic opportunities for the community.

Defensores de la Cuenca is working to reverse this through our holistic and inclusive programs.

By supporting Defensores de la Cuenca, you are advancing environmental justice, supporting an under-resourced and historically marginalized community, and supporting Latin@/e leadership development.