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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



PHOTO BY: ZAKIYAH, age 10
Real Options for City Kids



PHOTO BY: DONIS, age 10
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PHOTO BY: DAMANI, age 12
Real Options for City Kids

FOUR R.O.C.K. PARTICIPANTS FEATURED ARTISTS IN NEW PARKS IN FOCUS PHOTO EXHIBITION AT SFO AIRPORT

SAN FRANCISCO [December 4, 2017] – The San Francisco International Airport's SFO Museum is currently exhibiting a collection of Yosemite-inspired nature photographs, taken by 11 Bay Area youth, who participated in the Udall Foundation's 2017 Parks in Focus® programs to Yosemite National Park. Four of the featured artists are from Real Options for City Kids (R.O.C.K.).

Parks in Focus® is a program of the Udall Foundation that connects middle school youth from underserved communities to nature and our National Parks through photography and outdoor learning. Each summer since 2010, the program has teamed up with Yosemite National Park and other partners to facilitate opportunities for Bay Area youth to visit, explore, and photograph Yosemite for the first time.

The Udall Foundation partnered with R.O.C.K. for the first time in 2017. The highlight of the program was a five-day camping trip to Yosemite for 11 R.O.C.K. participants, ages 9 to 12. During the trip, participants learned about Yosemite's natural and cultural history as well as the importance of our National Parks. They met and worked alongside park rangers, professional photographers, and staff from the Udall Foundation, to sharpen their photography skills while hiking and taking in stunning views of Half Dome, El Capitan, and Yosemite Falls.

"I am proud of our partnership with Parks in Focus® as our youth rarely get the opportunity to experience our national parks," said Curt Yagi, Executive Director of Real Options for City Kids. "This program has done an outstanding job of increasing their appreciation for nature and art while providing them with a lifetime of memories."

Inspired by the wonders of Yosemite's outdoor classroom, participants captured incredible images of the adventures they had and of the people, places, plants, and animals they met along the way. The photographs will be on display in the C-5 Student Art Gallery, located pre-security in Terminal 1 through Jan. 23, 2018.

The Parks in Focus® program at Yosemite is a collaboration of the Udall Foundation, Yosemite National Park, Real Options for City Kids, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, the Sequoia YMCA, and the Ansel

Adams Gallery. The program is made possible by generous and passionate supporters of the Yosemite Conservancy.

About the Udall Foundation

The Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency of the Executive Branch established by Congress to honor the legacies of Representatives Morris K. Udall [1922-1998] and Stewart L. Udall [1920-2010]. The Udall Foundation's education programs include undergraduate scholarships, internships, and the Stewart L. Udall Parks in Focus® program. The Udall Foundation also operates the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, which assists agencies in resolving environmental disputes involving the federal government. Learn more at www.udall.gov or call 520.901.8500.

About Real Options for City Kids

Real Options for City Kids (R.O.C.K.) is dedicated to nurturing the healthy development of children by listening attentively to their needs and by providing opportunities to those who might not otherwise have access. R.O.C.K. aims to promote the positive development and long-term success of the youth that it serves through a combination of in-school and after school learning enrichment, sports and fitness, leadership training, outdoor adventure, and summer camp opportunities. R.O.C.K.'s programs are designed to serve girls and boys, ages 6-17, who live in or attend school in San Francisco's Visitacion Valley. Please visit www.rocksf.org for more information.

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