Garfield County

Needs
- Affordable higher education
- Being valued as youth in their communities
- Affordable healthcare
- Opportunities for minority populations
- Wilderness/environmental protection

Likes
- Outdoors
- Beauty of area
- Environment
- Calm/quite

Dislikes
- Expensive
- Lack of opportunities

Mesa County

Needs
- Job opportunities
- Increased mental health access & support
- Recreation center
- Less polarization / more kindness
- Environmental protection

Likes
- Outdoors
- Outdoor recreation
- Hunting/fishing

Dislikes
- Weather
- Lack of retail/restaurants
- Too small

Montrose County

Needs
- Affordable higher education
- Job opportunities
- Increased mental health support
- Road improvements
- Activities for youth
- Suicide prevention
- Community connection

Likes
- Outdoors
- Small town
- Beauty of area
- Calm/quite

Dislikes
- No activities
- Drug addiction
- Mean people

Top Issues
School / Community safety • Climate change
- Affordable healthcare

"I would like to see more care towards younger people in the community, like holding more events for teens." -11th Grade

"I would like to see more support for the environment. We have access to many outdoor opportunities but we don't always support our environment politically." -12th Grade

"Changes that would help me is maybe more mental health support for people like me going through tough things." -11th Grade

"They don't plan to stay citing lack of opportunity and a desire to experience new places as their main reasons for leaving"

51%
of all students surveyed said their favorite reason for living in Western Colorado was access to the outdoors.

378 students surveyed by their peers

2019-2020 West Slope Youth Priorities

BIGGEST NEEDS
- More activities for youth
- Access to affordable higher education
- Better job opportunities
- Mental health support
- Community connection

WEST SLOPE YOUTH VCE Presents

WEST SLOPE YOUTH VCE Voices