



Fiver Children's Foundation - Theory of Change

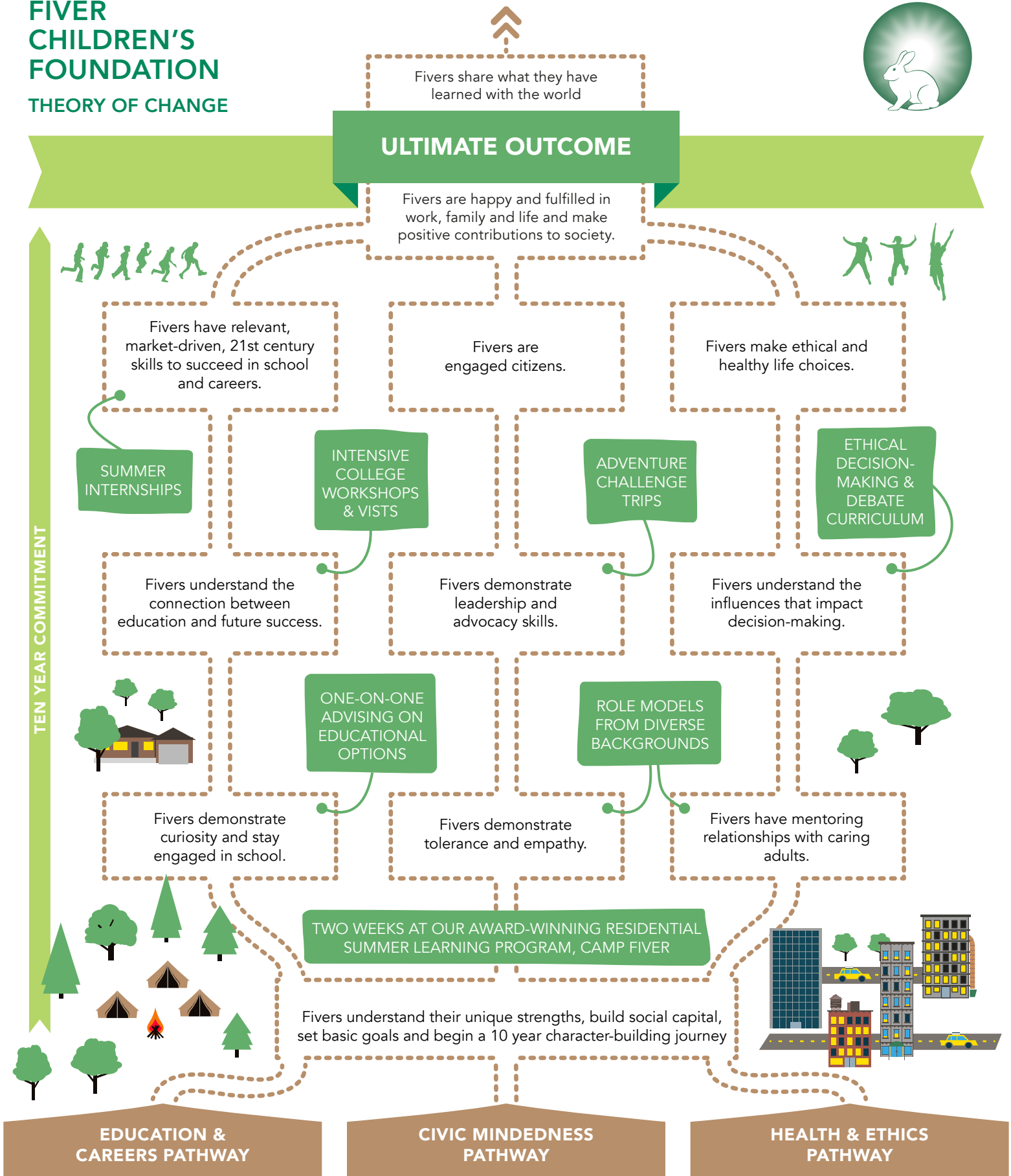
Vision: Ultimately, we want for the Fiver kids what all parents want for their children, for them to grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life. We want them to have the courage to strive for their dreams, and if they come up short, the resilience to try again. Then, we want them to take what they have learned at Fiver, and share it with the world.

Three Pathways to Success: Program participants grow and develop along three pathways, representing the journey they take in our program. Fiver believes that all three pathways, Civic Mindedness, Healthy and Ethical Life Choices, and Education and Career Success, are necessary to a fulfilled life. Children need to develop as members of groups—as members of a student body, as residents of a community, as citizens of a world.

Building a Strong Foundation: The foundation of all three pathways involves establishing a sense of self-worth. Once children believe that they are important people and are deserving of success in life, we delve into deeper character cultivation and skill-building. Fivers are continuously encouraged to try new things and take healthy risks. Children and their parents become familiar with the language and norms that make up Fiver culture and they begin to visualize a path to success for themselves.

<p>Civic Mindedness Pathway: Fiver works to build positive concepts of civic-mindedness and citizenship to contradict the messages that tempt young people to become egocentric. Programs are aimed at teaching children to work in teams, to demonstrate tolerance and empathy, to develop leadership skills and to become positive agents of change. Fivers graduate with an understanding that they have a responsibility to share what they have learned with others.</p>	<p>Healthy and Ethical Life Choices Pathway: Equally important, Fiver seeks to bring out and reinforce children's inherent resilience and adaptability, supporting them in making rational, ethical, and healthy choices all along the way; counteracting pervasive messages tempting children to engage in risky behavior. Fivers develop mentoring relationships that offer support and constructive criticism. They negotiate conflict among their peers and develop an understanding that their decisions have consequences. During the high school years, Fivers debate social issues and learn a framework for ethical decision-making.</p>	<p>Education and Career Pathway: To the first two pathways we add an education and career pathway, which is critical to success and fulfillment in today's society. Programs focus on preparing Fivers for the critical transitions into middle school, into high school, into college and into careers. The foundational building block of this pathway involves understanding the importance of education to future success in life. Without the developmental outcomes in the health-ethics and civic-social pathways, we believe children could not attain the education and career outcomes.</p>
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Long-Term Outcomes: The pathways culminate in three long-term outcomes: Fivers possess 21st century skills to succeed in school and careers; Fivers are engaged citizens; and Fivers make ethical and healthy life choices. If these long-term outcomes are achieved, Fiver will have made an important contribution to achieving our ultimate vision and ending the cycle of poverty in Fiver families. Fiver's 10-year commitment and holistic approach outlined on the next page is designed to prepare our Fivers to succeed.



In addition to coming from economically disadvantaged circumstances, Fivers face other daunting and complex challenges of poverty. More than half are being raised by single parents and many have had to learn English as a second language and acclimate to a new culture. Most of our kids come from groups under-represented in higher education and professional careers, have few examples of academic persistence and are hoping to be the first in their family to attend college.