



# Youth Symposium

- Year Two -

**Culture, Equity & Leadership Team**

## Youth Symposium Overview

This 2-week Summer Youth Symposium serves as a growth opportunity for diverse students entering grades 6, 7, or 8 to engage, explore, and learn from high school youth leaders about a shared topic of interest. Skilled, racially and culturally-diverse high schoolers will follow a peer mentor model to co-develop and co-facilitate programs for middle school student cohorts. The YS is rooted in the district's commitment to equity, including our DPS Equity Statement, and in district transition priorities on student experience and achievement.

## Youth Symposium Goals

This summer's YS seeks to expand its reach through the increased recruitment of racially and culturally-diverse high school youth leaders and diverse middle grade student cohort participants. Diverse students will learn from high school youth leaders who share common interests, experiences, and/or identities. The YS aims to be an explorative, advocative, and leadership-building opportunity where students receive affirming and supportive mentorship from high school student youth leaders who listen, respect, and encourage their student's curiosities, choices, and voices.

## Program Topics & Areas of Interest

- **Arts/Creative**
- **Entrepreneurship/Product Development**
- **Activism/Social Justice**
- **Technology/Digital Marketing/Social Media**

## Participants will

- **Receive customized, small group exposure to a topic of choice!**
- **Produce a topic or idea!**
- **Earn a certificate of completion and a cool swag bag of goodies!**
- **Have opportunities to receive giveaways!**
- **Build relationships with peers!**
- **Have fun!**



### Summer 2022 Schedule

The Youth Symposium will run as an in-person summer program at Denver School of the Arts.

This 2-week program will take place June 7th through June 17th, 2022.

Tuesday-Friday:  
from 10am-12:30 pm

The YS will be closed on Mondays





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### FAQs

- **What is the drop-off/pick-up schedule?**

- Students will need to be dropped off between 9:45 - 9:55 am
- Students will need to be picked up/depart the building at 12:30 pm; except on Fridays for those choosing to stay for a pizza lunch.
  - Fridays only: all YS participants are expected to depart from the building no later than 1:15 pm.
- Families with transportation challenges are encouraged to reach out directly to [ashlea\\_skiles@dpsk12.net](mailto:ashlea_skiles@dpsk12.net), and indicate their transportation needs on the Google form. (The YS is closed on Mondays).

- **Will lunch be provided?**

- Yes. Students will receive a sack lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays prior to their 12:30 pm dismissal.
- Every Friday will be "Pizza Party Friday" from 12:30 - 1:00 pm for socializing amongst highschool youth leaders and student peers. (Option for students to bring their own lunch if preferred).

- **How many student cohorts are anticipated?**

- We anticipate 4- topic cohorts of 10- students each, and 2- highschool student leaders assigned to each topic cohort.
- We hope to recruit a total of 40- diverse students and 8- diverse highschool student leaders (with at least one- adult teacher/adult mentor assigned a topic cohort classroom for the duration of the program).
- Student participants should be entering grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 in the Fall of 2022.

- **How will student participants be selected for the YS?**

- Student participants are asked to complete the Google interest form ranking their topic of interest: arts/creative, entrepreneurship/product development, activism/social justice, technology/digital marketing/social media; including a description of why they want to participate.
- Student participants will ideally commit to the entire 2-week summer program.

- **What precautions & considerations are being made for Covid-19?**

- We will continue following our DPS 5.
- We will follow state guidelines, any updated district guidance, and flex into synchronous, remote learning if necessary.