



# ATOD Youth Leadership Academy VI: September 2013

**N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 3**

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# Description of respondents

Feedback on the Academy was collected from participating students, parents, and other adults who chaperoned the event, as well as P&I grantees and Youth Group Leaders. RPC grantees did not provide feedback for the academy.

## Youth

A total of 122 youth provided feedback about the YLA weekend, for a response rate of approximately 98 percent. The majority (80%) were in high school (21% in 9th grade, 26% in 10th grade, 20% in 11th grade, and 13% in 12th grade), while 20 percent were in middle school (4% in 7th grade and 16% in 8th grade). All youth (100%) said they will continue to participate in their youth group next year, excluding those who said it was not applicable (12th grade students).

## Parents and other adults

A total of 17 adults provided feedback about the weekend, for a response rate of approximately 63 percent. Thirty-three percent of the adult chaperones identified as parents or guardians with the remaining 67% identifying as an adult chaperone with no relation to the youth.

The forms indicate that eight P&I coordinators and two Youth Group Leaders provided feedback about the YLA conference. P&I coordinators may also be Youth Group Leaders.

# Results

## Overall participant satisfaction

### *General satisfaction with the Academy*

Overall, satisfaction with the Academy was very high. All participants, including youth, adult chaperones, and P&Is/ Youth Group Leaders “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the conference was useful (100%) and that the activities were well organized (100%). All youth felt that the information they learned will help them be a more effective youth leader (100%). All adult chaperones said they felt included in the conference activities and agreed that the youth had an opportunity to personally contribute to the discussions (100%; Figure 1).

Most of the participants (98% to 100%) provided positive feedback on the resort and accommodations. Nearly all youth and all adult chaperones would consider attending YLA in the future (99% and 100%, respectively) and youth, specifically, felt that the small interactive group activities helped them learn the information (99%). The majority of youth (99%) said they would recommend the conference to their friends. Most participants (88% to 100%) felt the poster session was useful.

### 1. Overall satisfaction

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”		
	Youth (N=121-122)	Adult chaperone (N=17)	P&Is/ Youth Group Leaders (N=6-10)
Overall, this conference was useful.	100%	100%	8/8
The activities were well organized.	100%	100%	10/10
The accommodations were comfortable/ I liked the resort.	98%	100%	10/10
I would consider attending the Youth Leadership Academy in the future/next year.	99%	100%	NA
The information I learned will help me be a more effective youth leader.	100%	NA	NA
The small interactive group activities helped me learn the information.	99%	NA	NA
I would recommend the Academy to my friends	99%	NA	NA
The poster session was useful.	94%	88%	10/10
I felt included in the conference activities.	NA	100%	NA

Youth had an opportunity to personally contribute to the discussions.	NA	100%	NA
The Academy met my expectations.	NA	NA	10/10

**Note:** Some items were only asked of certain groups of participants. Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10. Some items were only asked of certain groups of participants.

### ***Participant satisfaction with keynote presenters***

All P&Is/Youth Group Leaders “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the keynote presenters were organized and prepared to teach the information (100%). The majority of P&Is/Youth Group Leaders said the keynote presenters responded well to questions (8 of 9) and presented in a way that was easy to understand (9 of 10). All adult chaperones “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the presenters were knowledgeable (100%; Figure 2).

## **2. Adult response to keynote presenters**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Percent who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”</b>	
	<b>Adult chaperone (N=17)</b>	<b>P&amp;Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=9-10)</b>
The keynote presenters were organized and prepared to teach the information.	NA	10/10
The keynote presenters responded well to questions.	NA	8/9
The keynote was presented in a way that was easy to understand.	NA	9/10
The keynote presenters were knowledgeable.	100%	NA

**Note:** Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10. Some items were only asked of certain groups of participants.

When asked about the keynote presentations, youth reported an increase in overall knowledge. All youth “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the presenters set a positive tone for the academy (100%). The majority of youth said the presenters were fun and engaging (98%). Nearly all youth said they feel better prepared to meet people outside of their community (99%), share their thoughts and feelings (98%), and take risks (98%; Figure 3).

## **3. Youth response to keynote presenters (N=122)**

	Percent who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”
The presenters set a positive tone for the academy.	100%
After the keynote, I feel better prepared to meet people outside of my community.	99%
The presenters were fun and engaging.	98%
After the keynote, I feel better prepared to share my thoughts and feelings.	98%
After the keynote, I feel better prepared to take risks.	98%

### ***P&I and Youth Group Leader perceptions and experiences***

P&Is and Youth Group Leaders were asked more extensively about their participation in the Academy. The majority of respondents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they had an opportunity to personally contribute to the discussions and sessions (9 of 10), adequate time to prepare for the conference and/or recruit youth and parents/chaperones (8 of 10), and an opportunity to provide input into the planning of the Academy (8 of 9; Figure 4).

#### **4. P&I/Youth Group Leader experiences (N=9-10)**

Item	Percent who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”
I had adequate time to prepare for the conference and/or recruit youth and parents/chaperones.	8/10
I had an opportunity to personally contribute to the discussions and sessions.	9/10
I had an opportunity to provide input into the planning of the Academy.	8/9

**Note:** Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

### **Participant learning**

All P&Is/Youth Group Leaders felt youth were engaged during the Academy and learned something new as a result of the Academy (Figure 5).

#### **5. P&I/Youth Group Leader perceptions of youth learning (N=10)**

	Percent who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”
Youth were engaged during the Academy.	100%
Youth learned something new as a result of the Academy.	100%

Five of the 17 adult chaperones identified as a parent of a student who was attending YLA. All five parents said they have a better understanding of their child’s role in the youth group, have a new appreciation for their child’s leadership abilities, and can better support their child as a leader as a result of the Academy (Figure 6).

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## 6. Parent learning (N=5)

	Number who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”
I have a better understanding of my child’s role in the youth group.	5/5
I have a new appreciation for my child’s leadership abilities.	5/5
I know how I can better support my child as a leader.	5/5

**Note:** Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

When asked what was the most helpful thing they learned at the Youth Leadership Academy, youth most often mentioned: specific leadership skills, how to take risks, how to make community change, that they are not alone, confidence, how to be open, and the opportunity to network and learn from other communities. Adult chaperones mentioned strategic planning and activity ideas for youth groups meetings. The P&Is/Youth Group Leaders said they found the poster session and Youth Group Advisor breakout session most helpful. A full list of participant comments is included in the appendix.

### *Youth group outcomes*

Youth and the P&Is/Youth Group Leaders also reported on the ways in which their youth groups will benefit from participating in the Academy. In particular, questions focused on youth group member cohesion and connections between groups.

In general, respondents felt that youth were able to make connections with one another. All of the P&Is/Youth Group Leaders responding to the survey reported that most of the youth attending YLA also attended the youth group meetings. All of the P&Is/Youth Group Leaders also said that youth had opportunities to spend time with the other youth from their group and youth from other youth groups. Youth tended to agree. Most youth said they felt more connected to the others in their own youth group (98%) and youth in other youth groups (96%) after the Academy (Figure 7).

This year, youth were not formally asked to collect contact information from youth from other youth groups throughout the Academy, like they were in 2012. When asked if they got the names and contact information of youth from outside their youth group, forty percent said

“yes.” Five out of seven P&Is/Youth Group Leaders also said they plan to connect with other youth groups after this weekend (Figure 8).

## 7. Youth group outcomes

Item	Percent who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”	
	Youth (N=122)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=8-10)
Most of our youth who attended YLA have also attended our youth group meetings.	NA	8/8
Youth had opportunities to spend time with youth from <b>their own group</b> .	NA	10/10
Youth had opportunities to spend time with youth from <b>other groups</b> .	NA	10/10
It was useful to mix students from our group with students from other groups.	NA	10/10
I feel more connected to the other youth in <b>my own</b> group after participating in this conference.	98%	NA
I feel more connected to the other youth in <b>other</b> youth groups after participating in this conference.	96%	NA

**Note:** Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10. Some items were only asked of certain groups of participants.

## 8. Youth group connections

Item	Percent who replied “Yes”	
	Youth	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders
Did you get the names & contact information of youth from outside your youth group? (N=112)	40%	NA
Do you plan to connect with other youth groups after this weekend? (N=7)	NA	5/7

**Note:** Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10. Some items were only asked of certain groups of participants.

# Breakout sessions

## Changes in knowledge

All participants were asked to complete breakout-specific evaluations at the end of each session. There were three sessions that all participants had an opportunity to attend (Photovoice, environmental strategies, and leadership 101). There was also a fourth session for Youth Group Leaders which the youth and adult chaperones did not attend.

### *Photovoice*

The breakout session on Photovoice introduced the method and reviewed how Photovoice can be used as an environmental strategy in each local community. All participants who attended the Photovoice breakout session said they understand what kinds of photos they need to do Photovoice in their communities (100%). Most participants said they have a better understanding of Photovoice (94% to 100%) and they know how to build an environmental strategy based on Photovoice (93% to 100%; Figure 9).

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## 9. Breakout session knowledge: Photovoice

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=137)
	Youth (N=118)	Adult chaperone (N=4)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=15)	
I have a better understanding of Photovoice.	97%	4/4	94%	97%
I know how to build an environmental strategy based on Photovoice.	94%	4/4	93%	96%
I understand what kinds of photos I need to do Photovoice in my community.	100%	4/4	100%	100%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

### *Environmental strategies*

The environmental strategies breakout session presented the difference between environmental strategies and individual strategies, how to choose which environmental strategies to use for different community problems, and what resources are available to help implement these strategies. Nearly all youth (96-98%) and all adult chaperones and P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (100%) said they understand the difference between

environmental strategies and individual strategies, they know how to find environmental strategies to fit their community’s problems, and they know how to access resources to help implement an environmental strategy (Figure 10).

### 10. Breakout session knowledge: Environmental strategies

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=131)
	Youth (N=113)	Adult chaperone (N=6)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=12)	
I understand the difference between environmental strategies and individual strategies.	98%	6/6	100%	98%
I know how to find an environmental strategy that fits with my community’s problem(s).	98%	6/6	100%	98%
I know how to access resources to help implement an environmental strategy.	96%	6/6	100%	97%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

### Leadership 101

The breakout session on leadership explored what it means to be an effective leader, including what values or attributes of leadership participants currently possess and can build on. All participants reported that they could identify at least five characteristics of effective leadership (100%). Nearly all youth (99%) and all adult chaperones and P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (100%) said they know one attribute or value of leadership which they need to improve upon. The majority of youth (98%) and P&I/Youth Group Leaders (92%) and all adult chaperones (100%) said they know at least two attributes or values of leadership that they currently practice (Figure 11).

### 11. Breakout session knowledge: Leadership 101

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=137)
	Youth (N=118)	Adult chaperone (N=6)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=13)	
I can identify at least five characteristics of effective leadership.	100%	6/6	100%	100%

I know at least two attributes or values of leadership that I currently practice.	98%	6/6	92%	98%
I know one attribute or value of leadership which I need to improve upon.	99%	6/6	100%	99%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

### ***Youth group advisors***

There was a fourth breakout session specifically developed for Youth Group Advisors. This session focused on building the advisors’ leadership skills in recruiting and engaging youth as well as sharing new ideas for activities the youth groups could do in the schools and communities. All P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (100%) said they have a better understanding of how to recruit youth to their youth groups and engage youth in their youth group meetings. Slightly fewer said they have activity ideas for their youth group to do in their schools and communities (83%; Figure 12).

## **12. Breakout session knowledge: Youth Group Advisor**

<b>Item</b>	<b>P&amp;Is/Youth Group Leaders* (N=12)</b>
I have a better understanding of how to recruit youth for our youth group.	100%
I have a better understanding of how to engage youth in our youth group meetings.	100%
I have activity ideas for our youth group to do within the school and the community.	83%

\* Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”

## Breakout Satisfaction

Nearly all participants were satisfied with each of the breakout sessions. The majority of respondents felt that overall they were satisfied with each session (95%-100%), the information was presented in a way that was easy to learn (95%- 100%), and the presenters listened well and had good answers to questions (97%- 100%; Figures 13 to 16). There were also many positive comments for each of the breakout sessions noting the interesting topics and fun activities. A full list of participant comments is included in the appendix.

### 13. Breakout session satisfaction: Photovoice

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=137)
	Youth (N=118)	Adult chaperone (N=4)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=15)	
Overall, I was satisfied with this session.	98%	4/4	100%	98%
The information was presented in a way that was easy for me to learn.	100%	4/4	100%	100%
The presenters listened well and had good answers to questions.	97%	4/4	100%	98%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

### 14. Breakout session satisfaction: Environmental strategies

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=131)
	Youth (N=113)	Adult chaperone (N=6)	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders (N=12)	
Overall, I was satisfied with this session.	95%	6/6	100%	96%
The information was presented in a way that was easy for me to learn.	95%	6/6	100%	95%
The presenters listened well and had good answers to questions.	97%	6/6	100%	97%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

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### 15. Breakout session satisfaction: Leadership 101

Item	Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”			Total (N=137)
	Youth (N=118)	Adult chaperone (N=6)	P&Is/ Youth Group Leaders (N=13)	
Overall, I was satisfied with this session.	100%	6/6	100%	100%
The information was presented in a way that was easy for me to learn.	100%	6/6	100%	100%
The presenters listened well and had good answers to questions.	99%	5/6	100%	99%

Note: Results are reported in counts rather than percentages when N<10.

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### 16. Breakout session satisfaction: Youth Group Advisor

Item	P&Is/Youth Group Leaders* (N=12)
Overall, I was satisfied with this session.	100%
The information was presented in a way that was easy for me to learn.	100%
The presenters listened well and had good answers to questions.	100%

\* Percent of participants who “strongly agreed” or “agreed”

## Suggestions for improving the Academy

Although many of the participants noted how much they enjoyed the Academy overall and did not feel anything needed to be changed, a number of the participants did offer recommendations for improving future academies. Several youth had suggestions to improve activities, including more games and time with other students. Some offered suggestions about scheduling the Academy, including adding more recreation time and more time at the Academy in general. A few adult chaperones suggested ways to better engage youth and more structure around the free time. P&Is/Youth Group Advisors suggested ensuring more time to prepare for the academy, sharing the agenda in advance, or creating a planning checklist.

A full list of participant suggestions is included in the appendix.

# Considerations

Participants were generally satisfied with the Academy. However, based on the evaluation findings, Wilder Research has identified the following considerations for planning future conferences or follow-up in the P&I communities:

- Although the Academy is not targeted toward parents, the parents that attended said they enjoyed the Academy and felt they had a better understanding and appreciation for their child's leadership abilities after the Academy. P&Is may want to identify opportunities to engage parents in similar leadership promotion activities in their communities.
- Youth identified knowing that they are not alone and networking with other students as particular strengths, and they requested additional opportunities to interact with other students as a way to improve the Academy. Future YLA planning teams can continue to ensure there is time for youth to interact with others.
- Many participants suggested changes to the length of the Academy, including making it longer, shortening sessions, and allowing more free time. Organizers can continue to seek a balance in the schedule so there is enough time to cover the material, while allowing free time for socializing.
- Many Youth Group Leaders mentioned the breakout session developed specifically for them was the most helpful aspect of the conference and were highly satisfied with the session. Future Academies can continue to offer a track specifically for this group.

# Appendix

## *Open-end comments*

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### **A1. Open ends: What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy? Adult chaperone responses**

#### **What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy?**

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Better organization for youth meetings – good ideas.

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Better understanding of the direction our youth groups need to go.

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Build a foundation.

---

Creative ideas to pull students out of their shells.

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Great activities for everyone. New & different ideas and games (Gaga Ball).

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How much our children want to change and how they see everyday life.

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Kids need to interact with kids from other schools to get better ideas and opinions.

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More clarity in Photo Voice session.

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Recognizing the good qualities that it takes to be a positive role model.

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Strategic planning.

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Strategies and activities to bring home.

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The hands-on activities and handouts because they can be used back at our school.

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The strategy planning with individual groups gave us lengthy time to get a more detailed plan.

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Time with our group by itself during session time.

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We all have a different rhythm in this fight.

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What other groups are doing.

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**No response (N=1)**

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## **A2. Open ends: What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy? Youth responses**

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### **What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy?**

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#### ***Leadership skills***

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Be responsible, be positive. It's important to be good leaders at our school.

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How to be a leader. (N=2)

---

How to identify negative leaders.

---

I heard a lot of good information on how to be a youth leader.

---

I learned that in order to become a good leader you must take risks.

---

Leadership 101 and what to take home.

---

Leadership strengths, hands-on music.

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Leadership. (N=4)

---

Parts of leadership.

---

Qualities that a leader possesses and how to bring them out.

---

Speaking up, being a strong leader, and teamwork.

---

The things I need to work on as a leader.

---

The traits that make a good leader.

---

To be a better leader.

---

Trust and leadership.

---

Turning into a leader.

---

What makes a leader and how to be one.

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#### ***Risk taking/ Courage***

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Courage, confidence, openness.

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Courage.

---

Helping my courage.

---

I have to take more risks.

---

Just be you. Take a risk.

---

Learning to not be afraid and make a stand.

---

Need to be willing to do things instead of shying away.

---

Someone is always there for you and take risks.

---

Speak out.

---

Step outside of your comfort zone. Take a risk. Make a change.

---

Take a stand.

---

Take risks even if it's not popular.

---

---

Taking risks is good.

---

That I can do anything.

---

That if you put your head to it, it will happen.

---

That our community can take a lot more risks than we do.

---

To feed the courage dog.

---

To have courage.

---

To have more confidence in myself than I did before.

---

To take risks and that you are not alone.

---

To take risks to help our community grow stronger.

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To take risks.

---

Walking across the line.

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***Topics covered at training***

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Hands-on activities.

---

I learned to be a better speaker.

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Learning 101.

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My strengths and my weaknesses.

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Rob and Dan's breakout session.

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Rob's keynote breakouts.

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Strategies to apply at our school.

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The different activities.

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The information about the alcohol issues.

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The Photo Shoot.

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The Photo Voice.

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The three R's.

---

To develop better strategies.

---

What Photo Voice is about.

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***Community change***

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What I can do in my community.

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Be yourself and learning how to impact my community.

---

How to help our community.

---

How to make ourselves known.

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Change your community.

---

How to help my community.

---

How to get our message across to our community.

---

Learning to clean up my community.

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How to put ideas and information into our community.

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How to have fun and encourage non-drinking in my community.

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***Networking/ learning from other communities***

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Being able to get to know new people.

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How many people want to make a change.

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Learning about others, how you're not alone.

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I made lots of friends.

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Meeting new people.

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That I got to meet new people.

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That the negatives from our communities happen in others too.

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That there are lots of the same problems in other communities.

---

The problems of other schools.

---

What other schools are doing and how we can implement them in ours.

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***Never alone***

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Knowing that I'm not the only person with struggles in life.

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Never alone.

---

That everyone has had hard times.

---

That I'm never alone.

---

That I'm not alone.

---

We aren't alone.

---

We're never alone even when it seems like we are.

---

You're never alone. Step out of your comfort zone and help those who need it.

---

You're not alone.

---

You're not alone. Someone else is fighting the same thing you are.

---

***Confidence***

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Confidence.

---

How to stay confident.

---

How to talk to people better and stop being so shy.

---

Stand up for yourself.

---

That we need to be outgoing.

---

That you just gotta speak up for yourself.

---

To be outgoing.

---

To have more confidence and acceptance.

---

To show confidence.

---

***How to be open***

---

Acceptance.

---

Being open.

---

Everyone fits in. Don't be afraid to open up.

---

Not to judge and to care for everyone.

---

Not to judge people.

---

That people are like you. That there are different people.

---

To be open and honest and accepting to others.

---

To open up with people.

---

To open up.

---

***Interpersonal skills***

---

Be trustworthy.

---

Communication.

---

Don't leave anyone behind.

---

How I can help others.

---

How to be friendlier.

---

Teamwork.

---

To relax and keep calm.

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***Other***

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Everything (N=2).

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Everything came together perfect.

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I would say the games were awesome.

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All of the breaks.

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It was good. It was fun filled.

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**A3. Open ends: What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy? P&I/ Youth Group Leader responses**

**What was the most helpful thing you learned at the Youth Leadership Academy?**

Group time.

How to run a meeting.

PhotoVoice. Key note speakers.

Poster session gave students new ideas.

Poster session was great.

Sharing youth group advisors' tips/presentations.

Strategic planning with youth group was very beneficial.

The kids were interested in deeper topics.

Youth advisor session and [presenter's] PhotoVoice.

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**A4. Open ends: Was it helpful having parents of the youth attend the Youth Leadership Academy? Why or why not? P&I/Youth Group Leader responses**

**Was it helpful having parents of the youth attend the Youth Leadership Academy? Why or why not?**

Didn't have any.

My perception is that it was useful because they know students better.

Well, yes, maybe some.

Yes, it has a positive and informative experience with the youth and others.

Yes, to increase awareness and involvement.

No response (N=2)

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**A5. Open ends: If you plan to connect with youth/other youth groups after this weekend: In what ways could this help what you are doing in your own groups? P&I/Youth Group Leader responses**

**If you plan to connect with youth/other youth groups after this weekend: In what ways could this help what you are doing in your own groups?**

No. Except for regional MN Summer Leadership Retreat.

Meet for smaller gathering.

Membership drive.

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## **A6. Open ends: What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy? Youth responses**

### **What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy?**

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#### ***More time with other students***

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A few more activities involving more interaction between other groups.

Being able to get contact info like last year. Don't want to be a creep and ask randoms for their info.

Get to know other schools more.

Have more time with people you don't know.

More activities with other groups.

More breakout sessions but with different groups.

More free time/interaction with other schools.

More interacting with other people.

More meeting new people and interacting with new people.

More time to socialize with other schools.

We could integrate the groups more.

#### ***More games***

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Bring back the games during lunch. Otherwise it seems too slow.

Maybe more getting to know each other games.

More games (N=7)

#### ***More activities***

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A little bit more interactive.

Better small group activities.

Less sitting time.

More activities. (N=2)

More group time.

More interactions.

More interactive activities.

More physical activity.

#### ***Beverages/Snacks***

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Get chocolate milk.

Have milk to drink.

Milk. I don't drink a ton of soda, so definitely milk.

Snacks.

#### ***Make the Academy longer***

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Have it longer like a week.

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Longer than 2 days.

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Longer time frame.

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Longer time.

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Longer.

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More time to be here. More days here.

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More time.

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Nothing, maybe longer.

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***More free time***

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Free time (N=2).

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Freedom.

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I think more free time.

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Make sure things are running on time. More free time. Later dinner.

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More free time (N=8)

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More free time in water park.

---

More free time spread out throughout the 2 days.

---

More free time to hang with new friends.

---

More water park time.

---

***Shorter training***

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Get home earlier on second day.

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Felt like final keynote was a little long.

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Less lecturing time.

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Make the sitting less long.

---

Make the sitting periods less long.

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No breakout.

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Not have as long times for sessions. 2 - 12 hours is a long time.

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Nothing. Shorter lectures.

---

***Structure and logistics***

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A dance.

---

A little more laid back.

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Bathroom break.

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Get more kids here.

---

Have time with towns to discuss what we went through.

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Increase bedtime.

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Later curfew.

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More gifts.

---

More guys. They seem too out-ruled by the girls.

---

More people.

---

More scheduled like NYLA was, "Cadra". More fun aspects.

---

**Other**

---

Be courageous.

---

Being honest.

---

Better listening.

---

Bring Rob and Dan back.

---

Have more energy.

---

Helping others. Courage.

---

I would improve to taking risks.

---

Improving my environment.

---

More fun.

---

No more hugging.

---

The adults didn't seem to trust us.

---

Try to get everyone to listen.

---

**No suggestions**

---

I don't know.

---

I don't know.

---

I don't think it could get better.

---

It was fun.

---

It's perfect.

---

Not sure.

---

Nothing (N=13)

---

Nothing really.

---

Nothing. I loved it.

---

Nothing. It was awesome!

---

Nothing. It was fun.

---

Nothing. It's awesome.

---

Nothing. It's perfect. See you next year.

---

Really honestly nothing. It was great.

---

**No response (N=3)**

---

---

**A7. Open ends: What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy? Adult chaperone responses**

**What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy?**

---

A few more sessions or larger session for Youth Leaders so as to exchange ideas.

---

A little more interaction of students between schools.

---

Awesome improvement vs. Yr. 1 & 2! Thank you.

---

Better communication.

---

Encourage more trainings – to get more students this experience.

---

Everything was wonderful. The speakers were wonderful. Would love to have them back again.

---

If they're given 3 hours of free time where they're restricted from the rooms, organize it more. Gaga Ball Tourney, Arcade competitions, card games, dice games, etc. Inform adults of past problems so we know what to look for or what we can share with our youth.

---

Less pop, more healthy choices.

---

Maybe more structured time in the evening too besides free time.

---

More communication on what is/isn't allowed during free time.

---

More engaging keynote – inspirationally fired up.

---

More time on particular sessions – such as Photo Voice.

---

Would have liked a longer (or more) youth group advisor session.

---

**No response (N=4)**

---

---

**A8. Open ends: What can be done to make preparing for Youth Leadership Academies easier in the future? P&I/Youth Group Leader responses**

**What can be done to make preparing for the Youth Leadership Academy easier in the future?**

---

More time to prepare.

---

September is a difficult time – too early in the school year.

---

Have the agenda in advance (by beginning of school year) to show school admin and coalition and P & I.

---

Forms created to help plan – checklist of what needs to be done.

---

Nothing.

---

**No response (N=4)**

---

---

**A9. Open ends: What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy? P&I/ Youth Group Leader responses**

---

**What could be done to improve the Youth Leadership Academy?**

---

Bathroom breaks! Snack during free-time needs a lot of improvement: fruit, protein.

---

Better keynote.

---

Have an advisor workshop during the keynote instead of breakouts.

---

Have it in late October so we have more time to choose and it wouldn't be during homecoming or sports.

---

Let youth in rooms before 10pm as long as chaperones are in hall or rooms with them.

---

More ice breakers to connect students with students from other schools earlier in the retreat.

---

Time for small groups. More bathroom breaks for youth.

---

**No response (N=2)**

---

---

**A10. Open ends: Other comments Adult chaperone responses**

---

**Other comments**

---

Food was wonderful – accommodations perfect.

---

**No response (N=2)**

---

---

**A11. Open ends: Other comments P&I/Youth Group Leader responses**

---

**Other comments**

---

Free time was too long. Keynote was not real beneficial.

---

Love the bags. The food was a lot better and the program was smoother. Thanks.

---

Well done.

---

**No response (N=6)**

---

---

**A12. Open ends: Comments about the Photovoice breakout session**

---

**Other comments**

---

**Suggestions for improvement**

---

**Youth responses**

---

It was a good session. #Swag.

---

Lots of arguing. I'm a lover not a fighter.

---

Some of the questions were hard to understand.

---

**Positive feedback**

---

**Youth responses**

---

---

Awesome.

---

Fun looking at the photos and the problems each community has.

---

Good.

---

Great job presenting. Really helped make this topic understandable and fun.

---

Great job.

---

Great!

---

Great! I really enjoyed participating in this session.

---

Great.

---

Helped me understand a lot more.

---

I enjoyed the activity where we evaluate our own photos.

---

I feel like the community can become better with studs.

---

I had fun.

---

I learned something new.

---

I learned what I need to take photos of for PhotoVoice.

---

I liked how we discussed in small groups then presented with everyone.

---

I liked how we got to discuss with our group about our community.

---

I liked what we did in this meeting. It felt productive.

---

I loved the session. It was great.

---

I think it was really easy to understand.

---

I think we can all work together to achieve our goals.

---

I thought it was fun to talk about the pictures that we took and how we can change it for the better.

---

I thought this activity was fun and I also learned more about how I can be a better leader.

---

I understand what PhotoVoice is a lot more than before.

---

I understand what to capture with PhotoVoice and how to use it much better now.

---

It really helped come up with some different ideas and ways to look at things.

---

It shows how I can have more of an impact in our community and town.

---

It was awesome.

---

It was educational.

---

It was good.

---

It was highly interesting.

---

It was more interesting than last year.

---

It was very fun.

---

Loved it.

---

More fun than the environmental strategies.

---

Overall the session was good.

---

---

Productive.

---

Thank you (N=3).

---

The instructor was very helpful and great at leading discussion. I like pie.

---

The photos gave a ton to think about and were stimulating.

---

This is where I really have fun and shine.

---

This session was good for me. I felt it helped me understand the idea of PhotoVoice better than I did before.

---

This session was great.

---

This session was very beneficial for me to understand what PhotoVoice is.

---

This was great. Keep doing your fantastic skills! Thanks for making things clear.

---

Thumbs up.

---

Very good.

---

Very well presented.

---

Was fun and informational.

---

Was good.

---

We will try and take this back to our community and enforce it.

---

Well done.

---

You did a good job and I learned about other people's towns and what's good and bad about them.

---

**P&Is/Youth Group Leader responses**

---

Students really seemed empowered and realized how much they can take on.

---

This was great for the youth – get the ball rolling.

---

[Presenter] is a wealth of information.

---

Very well done. Thanks.

---

Great job [presenter]! Really presented in a user-friendly format.

---

Great job.

---

[Presenter's] enthusiasm and knowledge of PhotoVoice was awesome.

---

Good.

---

Good ideas from other group.

---

Cool.

---

**Adult chaperone responses**

---

I haven't been trained on PhotoVoice but have a better understanding. Looking forward to what our kids will create.

---

Very nice job. Thank you.

---

---

**A13. Open ends: Comments about the Environmental Strategies breakout session**

---

---

**Other comments**

---

**Suggestions for improvement**

---

**Youth responses**

---

Always gets short for passing papers.

I was kind of confused.

I was kinda bored during the presentation.

It was a bit confusing when he explained it. I think it should be taught a bit better to make it easier to understand.

It was kind of hard for me to relate to this one.

It was rather boring but it got to the point.

No PowerPoint.

Talk more about how. We have ideas now, what do we do?

The beginning of the session was more understanding because everyone got involved in a project or learning lesson like standing without chairs. After that I kinda got lost.

They need coffee in the room.

---

**Positive feedback**

---

**Youth responses**

---

Awesome. (N=3)

Did a good job and made us think about things in our community.

Did a good job teaching us how to prevent drugs and alcohol in our community.

Fun talking about the problems we have in the schools.

Good job.

Great job, [presenter]. I learned some good ways to make change in [my community].

He did a good job explaining.

He is easy to understand but can't count well.

I feel like I understand what I can do to make my town better and safer for me and others.

I had fun.

I know way more about environmental strategies than I did an hour ago.

I learned a lot from [presenter].

I learned new tools that I think will help my community.

I like this but it could use some more activities.

I liked the chair thing in the beginning.

I liked the discussion.

I think you're a good teacher who responds with your students.

It was fairly fun.

It was very good and [presenter] was very helpful with questions and made things easier to understand.

---

---

[Presenter] is awesome. (N=3)

---

[Presenter] rocks.

---

Really good.

---

Thank you.

---

The session really helped me to brainstorm and explore new ideas to solve problems.

---

Very good.

---

Very great.

---

Very happy with it. Thank you.

---

We talked good and it was interesting.

---

Well done.

---

Well presented.

---

You are a great teacher. Your information is sound and is very thorough. You make it fun to learn the information which is something I value very much. Thanks for the presentation.

---

You did a nice job presenting the topic.

---

You did awesome.

---

You did great.

---

**P&Is/Youth Group Leader responses**

---

Great interaction with the kids. Very informative.

---

Great job.

---

Thank you.

---

[Presenter] is awesome.

---

**Adult chaperone responses**

---

Nice job.

---

Good stuff.

---

Got kids thinking and moving forward with a plan.

---

Groups were quiet and took time to get rolling. Good job.

---

**A14. Open ends: Comments about the Leadership 101 breakout session**

---

**Other comments**

---

***Suggestions for improvement***

---

**Youth responses**

---

I wish I was more honest during the experiment.

---

I wish I would've been more honest.

---

It was scary standing alone on one side.

---

With the question one, most people could have lied. I know I did on my one, but it was not to be judged. That was the only thing I found odd about this.

---

**P&Is/Youth Group Leader responses**

---

I was scared that I was all by myself.

---

**Adult chaperone responses**

---

Difficult to be honest enough to cross the line in front of my own kids.

---

**Positive feedback**

---

**Youth responses**

---

Amazing job! Very powerful activities that are fun and important. Wouldn't change a thing.

---

Awesome! (N=3)

---

Did a really good job and helped us learn about other people and how they feel about things.

---

Favorite one so far.

---

Felt confident on stuff I'm normally not confident about.

---

Fun activities!

---

Fun and encouraging.

---

Fun times!

---

Fun, good songs.

---

Fun. (N=2)

---

Good job!

---

Had a great time. Thank you.

---

He did a good job at explaining everything and making it is fun.

---

I had a lot of fun.

---

I had fun.

---

I know this session will help me be a better person and I understand things I didn't before.

---

I like that we get to move around.

---

I liked how the session was made into a game.

---

I liked how there was fun in the lesson because then we can remember more.

---

I liked how we did games to help us learn. I thought we were just going to sit and listen but it really helped me learn from the way that we did it. Thank you!

---

I liked the jump rope thing.

---

I love how I could have so much empathy with everybody.

---

I love it!

---

I really enjoyed my experience in this session. It helped a lot with my problems.

---

I really enjoyed this session.

---

I really liked it. (N=2)

---

I really liked this session. Being involved in taking risks really helped me to learn what leadership is.

---

I really respect everyone with how they handle situations.

---

I think it made people trust more.

---

---

I thought it was the best so far.

---

I thought the sick to the team was fun and encouraging.

---

It was a lot of fun and the last two activities were eye opening.

---

It was an experience I will never forget. I knew my true self.

---

It was fun and honest.

---

It was fun playing the games.

---

It was great! Fun!

---

It was really fun.

---

Learned to work as a team and have fun. Also learned to trust each other.

---

Love of the rope.

---

Loved it! It was fun! Learn more about people.

---

Loved it. Was able to learn it's okay to be vulnerable.

---

Loved the activities. Made it really fun and interesting. Thanks for having us.

---

Loved this session!

---

More popsicles on the popsicle sticks. Just kidding, it was great.

---

None.

---

Really eye opening.

---

Really great session! Hands-on and fun! Very connective with self and others.

---

Thank you for coming [presenter]!

---

The whole YLA experience was really fun. Thank you.

---

This has opened my eyes more and has taught me things I'm sure I'll carry through life with me.  
This was a great session and activities. Thanks for the opportunity.

---

This is my favorite activity of all; it really touched home to me.

---

This was the best. Keep it up. I learned a lot.

---

Very entertaining with still getting the point across.

---

Very helpful.

---

Very safe environment and open!

---

Was awesome.

---

Was interesting to see how everyone has stuff they are going through.

---

#### **P&Is/Youth Group Leader responses**

---

Great hands-on and effective leadership activities – great way for adults and youth to become an effective leader.

---

I really liked the support I got. It made me feel really good.

---

Good.

---

#### **Adult chaperone responses**

---

Very well done. Masterful approach to engaging the group. Wow!

---

---

Great!

---

Great, engaging session!

---

Very nice job.

---

**No response (N=1)**

---

---

### **A15. Open ends: Comments about the Youth Group Advisor breakout session**

---

#### **Other comments**

---

Excellent – great ideas.

---

Great handouts. Always helpful.

---

Keep sharing the ideas.

---

Practical fun ideas.

---

Thank you for sharing.

---

Three presenters were very knowledgeable about youth group ideas and recruiting. Very well done.

---

Very good, thanks.

---

Very useful session. Great resources and ideas.

---